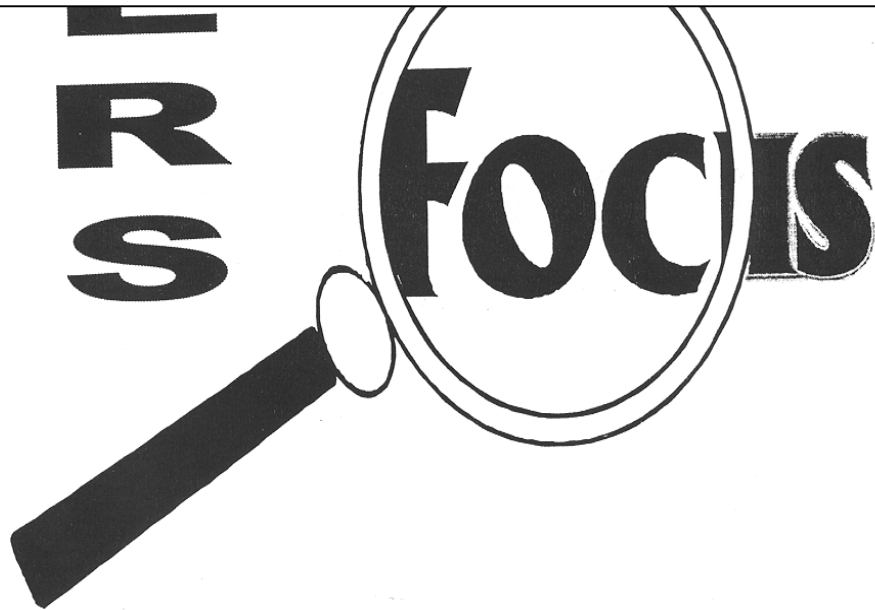


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*Members' Focus is available on-line at www.braintree.gov.uk
- Choose "Council & Democracy" from the menu on the left,
then "Members Focus".*

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Focus

June 2007

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MEMBERS' FOCUS

AREA: Community Safety and Development

Date: 11th June 2007

CORPORATE THEME HEADING: Meeting Community Needs

SUBJECT: Being Safe Project	CONTACT OFFICER: Janet Peatling Community Safety & Development Officer
TEL/EMAIL No.: Ext 2344 janpe@braintree.gov.uk	BACKGROUND PAPERS: Briefing Paper November 06 by Helena Goodwin
<p>INFORMATION:</p> <p>The Being Safe project is being developed and coordinated by the Braintree District Community Safety Partnership (CDRP). The project was piloted at the Ramsey School in Halstead on 6th March 2007, as this is where other interlinking CDRP projects have been piloted.</p> <p>Aim – To raise and address diversity issues in Schools.</p> <p>The target audience is year 8 students, and will compliment the citizenship element of the curriculum and also PHSE and RE. The programme consists of one day of intensive workshops delivered to 140 students covering the four themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Anti-bullying• Homophobia• Racism• Anti-social Behaviour <p>Consistent messages are continually re-enforced throughout the day.</p> <p>Project leads: Calum Leys Deputy Head Teacher, Ramsey School Diane LeCount – Teacher in Charge, Central Behavioural Support (Secondary) Lindsay Pattle – Central Behavioural Support (Secondary) Tone Skeet – Action for Men Team Clive Mardner – Hate Crime Panel Chair Helena Goodwin – CDRP & BDC</p> <p>Out line of workshops</p> <p><u>Anti-social Behaviour</u></p> <p>‘I have a choice’ workshop</p> <p>Aim: To create a greater understanding of anti-social behaviour in order to equip young people with the information enabling them to make their own choices.</p>	

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MEMBERS' FOCUS

- Develop their own definition of anti-social behaviour (ASB)
- Raise awareness and understanding of ASB contracts. Explore the range of agencies available to support them with specific needs for example: Essex Youth Service, Youth Offending Team etc
- Raise awareness and understanding of the roles of the various agencies in dealing with and addressing anti-social behaviour and the extent of information sharing across agencies.

Homophobia

'Gender, Sexuality and Homophobia' workshop

Aim: To raise awareness of the gender differences, sexual identities, and homophobia.

Our objectives are:

- To illustrate how “gender” can play an important role in gender violence and separation between males and females.
- To outline different forms of gender behaviour and forms of expressing sexuality.
- To raise awareness of how gender behaviour and sexual identities can be linked to homophobic abuse.
- To illustrate the repercussions on young people of homophobic abuse and to give alternatives to prevent and to confront it.

Anti-Racism

Racial Discrimination' - workshop

Aim: understanding racial discrimination

- What is Racial Discrimination -understanding the meaning of racial discrimination.
- The effects of racial discrimination. How racial discrimination occurs and help to give all students support.
- How to challenge racism, focus on responsibilities of all to ensure that racial discrimination is challenged and what the law says.

MEMBERS' FOCUS

Anti-bullying

“I’m OK you’re OK” workshop

Aim: To stop bullying and stay safe

- Through discussion and experiential learning develop an understanding of feelings associated with bullying.
- Revision of the different roles people play in bullying (Perpetrator, Bystander and Target).
- Equip students with strategies and solutions for the role of bystander.
- Raise awareness of the Support Group Approach as a strategy for stopping bullying.

The pilot was well received by Ramsey College and workshop outcomes were achieved. The project will therefore be offered out to all 8 secondary schools across the Braintree District during the academic year 07/08. Ramsey College have agreed to provide a letter of recommendation for the project.

Consideration of developing a supporting information pack including DVD to be provided to the pupils after they have completed the workshops. (Funding to be sought)

MEMBERS' FOCUS

AREA: Braintree district

CORPORATE THEME HEADING: THE ENVIRONMENT

SUBJECT: Dog wardens	CONTACT OFFICER: Andrew potter
TEL/EMAIL No.: 552525 ext 2217	BACKGROUND PAPERS: NONE
INFORMATION. During the month of June the dog wardens so far have attended I fete and I have arranged and we have carried out a further dog microchipping day in Witham on the 9 th June at a discounted price as part of national microchipping month. The dog wardens have a further 3 school and village fetes to attend this month. Also I have arranged a canine aggression seminar at the discovery centre, on the 25 th June with a guest speaker, with councils from all over the country attending as well as from B.DC	

MEMBERS' FOCUS

AREA: All Wards

CORPORATE THEME HEADING: Feeling Safe and Well

<p>SUBJECT: Equality Legislation update</p>	<p>CONTACT OFFICER: SHEILA COOK, POLICY OFFICER (EQUITY AND ACCESS), PUBLIC PROTECTION AND HEALTHY LIVING SECTION</p>
<p>TEL/EMAIL No.: ext 2322 sheila.cook@braintree.gov.uk</p>	<p>BACKGROUND PAPERS: Equality Act 2006</p>
<p>Introduction The following is a summary of recent changes to equality legislation under the Equality Act 2006.</p> <p>THE GENDER EQUALITY DUTY Along with the existing statutory duties to promote race and disability equality, public organisations, including local government, now have a statutory duty to promote gender equality and produce a gender equality scheme that shows how this will be achieved. The gender equality duty has been introduced to strengthen existing sex discrimination legislation, which relied too much on individuals taking action to challenge discrimination. The duty requires us to: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • promote gender equality • eliminate discrimination on the grounds of gender <p>The Council's gender equality scheme and action plan for 2007 – 2010 is available on the website or can be requested in an alternate format.</p> <p>Along with other public organisations, local government Members and officers are expected to take a lead in promoting race, disability and gender equality and consider the implications of this in the day to day work of policy making, service delivery, employment and other functions.</p> <p>The Religion and Belief/Sexual Orientation Regulations New legislation has come into force that provides protection from sexual orientation discrimination and discrimination on the grounds of religion or belief in line with that already provided on the grounds of race, disability and gender.</p> <p>The aim of this legislation is to make sure that when accessing goods, services and facilities, everyone is treated with respect, no matter what their sexual orientation, religion or belief.</p> <p>The regulations mean that service providers must not :-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refuse to supply their normal service to someone or treat 	

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them less well than others, on grounds of their actual or presumed sexual orientation, or that of someone with whom they are associated or on the grounds of their religion or belief (or lack of religion or belief)

- Apply provisions, criteria or practices which put, or would put, people of a particular sexual orientation or people of a particular religion or belief at a disadvantage compared to others
- Treat civil partners on an unequal basis to those who are married on the grounds of their sexual orientation
- Treat same sex unmarried couples on an unequal basis to mixed-sex unmarried couples, on the grounds of their sexual orientation
- Treat someone less well because they have been involved in making, or supporting, a complaint about discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation or religion/belief, unless they were acting maliciously in knowingly making a false complaint
- Advertise in a way which indicates an intention to discriminate unlawfully or get someone else to do any of these things

MEMBERS' FOCUS

News

Landmark sculpture stolen

A giant steel and aluminium sculpture of a kestrel has been stolen from a flagship country park in Essex.

The bird of prey has dominated the skyline at the Discovery Centre in Great Notley since its installation in 2000.

East Anglian-based sculptor Jonathan Clark was commissioned to create the work in a partnership between developers Countryside Properties and Braintree District Council.

Through a selection process involving a number of gifted artists he was chosen to produce an inspirational piece of work which embodied the spirit of freedom, wildness, adventure and excitement which is the hallmark of the nearby Discovery Centre and 100 acre country park.

The bird gazes down from the top of a natural amphitheatre and with a height of more than five metres and a wingspan in the region of four metres the sculpture has become a major new landmark for Essex, visible from the A120 and A131.

A spokesman for Braintree District Council said: "We are extremely saddened that someone should want to steal such an iconic feature for Braintree. We are dealing with people who have absolutely no respect for their local community and environment. Also the scrap value of £500 to £600 bears no relation to the cost, which was £20,000 in 2000."

ENDS

NOTES: The eco-friendly Discovery Centre was originally funded by Countryside Properties as part of the development of Great Notley garden village.

It has become a showcase for renewable energy and recycling with its solar panels, recycled rainwater and underground air conditioning.

Just a couple of weeks ago Essex County Council approved an investment of more than £1 million to fund a new environmentally sustainable home at the site for its field archaeology unit.

The £1.05m building will be integrated with the existing centre and will provide the "public face" for archaeology in Essex, with a public viewing gallery and space for workshops and educational facilities.

The scheme is just one of a number of proposals being developed by the Essex County and Braintree District councils to develop an outstanding countryside recreational facility.

ENDS

Issued by Braintree DC PR 21 May 2007

June 2007

MEMBERS' FOCUS

News

Recycling roadshows

World Environment Day on June 5 marks the start of a series of roadshows at which residents across the district can find out more about recycling.

Roadshows will visit areas covered in the last roll-out of the council's wheeled bin scheme and regular town centre venues such as George Yard in Braintree. The events will give an ideal opportunity for residents to ask any questions and for recycling staff to gather feedback now that customers have got used to the new collection arrangements.

Council staff will also be able to tell people exactly what can be recycled in the new plastic packaging collection. This was introduced at the end of March in response to popular demand and has greatly increased the range of plastics which can be collected.

As well as information on all forms of recycling there will be various giveaways as an incentive to residents.

The second roadshow of the series, in George Yard Shopping Centre, Braintree, on June 6 is part of Recycle Now Week, a national campaign being run by WRAP, the Waste and Resources Action Programme.

This year its message is Transform Something Today in which residents are being asked to do three things. Firstly, to discover how household waste can be transformed into an array of objects from clothes to furniture.

Secondly, to transform behaviour by committing to recycle more and more often and lastly to transform their household, school, office or street into a recycling hotspot.

Councillor Roger Walters, cabinet member for environment and sustainability, said: "The most important message to get across is the three Rs – Reduce, Re-use, Recycle – and in that order. We want recycling to be the last stage with reduction and re-use the targets.

"These roadshows are an ideal chance for people to clear up any recycling queries and find out how they can do more to cut down on the waste they produce. Residents in the Braintree District are already setting high standards but there is always more each one of us can do."

ROADSHOW VENUES

- Tuesday June 5, Weavers Park, Braintree.
- Wednesday June 6, George Yard, Braintree
- Saturday June 16, Terling Primary School
- Saturday July 7, Great Notley Fete
- Saturday July 14, Witham Carnival
- Saturday July 21 Coggeshall Carnival
- Saturday August 11, Four Colnes Show
- Sunday August 19, Halstead League of Friends Fete

ENDS

For more information contact Ros Alam on 01376 551414.

Issued by Braintree DC PR 23 May 2007

News

Community safety roadshow winners

Page 1 of 1

A group of youngsters are being presented with prizes after coming out tops in two competitions.

They took part in a colouring competition and teen quiz at a series of special roadshows on community safety and anti-social behaviour. These were held during the Easter holidays in Braintree, Witham and Halstead by the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership and offered advice and guidance on the issues.

The colouring competition for two age groups – up to five and six to ten – had six winners, one from each age group at all three venues. All winners will receive a family ticket for Number 10 Bowling in Braintree.

There was also a teen quiz and the winner of that will receive a family ticket to Cineworld in Braintree.

PHOTO OPPORTUNITY: The youngsters will be presented with their prizes by the Chairman of Braintree District Council Lady Patricia Newton at 4.30pm on Tuesday June 26 in the committee area at Causeway House in Bocking End, Braintree. Photographers welcome.

ENDS

For more information contact Janet Peatling on 01376 551414.

Issued by Braintree DC PR 12 June 2007

MEMBERS' FOCUS

News

Olympic bid for council and MOD Police & Guarding Agency

Page 1 of 1

Braintree District Council has teamed up with the MOD Police and Guarding Agency to explore opportunities to bring business from the London 2012 Olympics and Paralympics to the area.

They hope their efforts will benefit the local community and everyone involved with, or working in, the two organisations.

At a graduation ceremony for newly trained MOD police officers at their Wethersfield headquarters, the arrangement was signed by MOD Police and Guarding Agency (MDPGA) Chief Executive and Chief Constable Steve Love and Chairman Councillor David Finch.

The arrangement will also form the basis for any future collaborative working. The immediate focus is on exploring the potential for Olympic and Paralympics training in the run-up to 2012.

David Finch comments: "The Wethersfield HQ has a very demanding and vital role to play in today's world. It's important that we understand the constraints and pressures faced by people working there and requires us to find new and appropriate ways of working together.

This arrangement signals a new relationship, which I firmly believe will be in everyone's interests, including the local community."

Steve Love said: "As the Chief of a large organisation and employer in the district, and as a Braintree resident myself, I am delighted to be able to strike up this close working relationship with Braintree District Council. I look forward to seeing what we can now do working together."

Olympic sports training which may become possible at the Wethersfield HQ could include cycling, shooting and Paralympics rugby.

ENDS

For more press information, contact:

Steve Partridge (MDPGA) 01371 854416 or Chris Trim (BDC) 01376 557752

Notes: The Ministry of Defence Police and Guarding Agency has its national headquarters at Wethersfield, near Braintree. The Agency includes both the MOD Police and the MOD Guard Service organisations. They are responsible for the policing and guarding of defence assets at sites throughout the United Kingdom. The MOD Police also provide many officers for international policing duties, particularly in Kosovo.

Issued by: Braintree DC PR 14 May 2007

MEMBERS' FOCUS

News

Stubbing out the habit

Page 1 of 1

A series of special roadshows are being laid on for businesses to help them to get to grips with new smoking legislation designed to protect employees and the public from secondhand smoke.

From July 1 there will be a total ban on smoking in enclosed places, which means all workplaces will be smoke-free as well as pubs, clubs, nightclubs and restaurants. It also applies to public and work vehicles.

Employers will be responsible for putting up signs and ensuring no-one smokes on the premises. Failure to do this could lead to a fixed penalty or fine.

To help employers through the Smokefree legislation four roadshows have been set up to offer information, advice and support. They are:

- Tuesday 12 June, Halstead
Butler Road Car Park 10:00am –12noon
Bluebridge Industrial Park 12:30pm – 2.00pm
- Thursday 14 June, Braintree
Springwood Industrial Estate 10:00am –2:00pm
- Sunday 17th June, Braintree
Race for Life, Discovery Centre 9:00am – 1:00pm
- Wednesday 20 June, Braintree
George Yard Shopping Centre 9:00am –5:00pm
- Thursday June 28, Witham
Freebournes Road 10:00am–12:00pm
Crittall Road 12:30pm – 2:00pm

An NHS representative , Braintree District Council environmental health officer and promotions staff will all be on hand at each of the roadshows.

ENDS

For more information contact Jenny Nice on 01376 551414

Issued by Braintree DC PR 5 June 2007

MEMBERS' FOCUS

News

Streamlined planning system announced at council AGM

Page 1 of 1

The new council at Braintree has decided to simplify and streamline the local planning decision process, by proposing a single new Planning Committee, to take all planning decisions.

Council Leader Graham Butland proposed the change and said: "In future there will be just one committee to determine all planning applications and decisions, meeting fortnightly. We will have a better trained and more knowledgeable committee, offering swifter and more consistent decision making."

Separately, new local committees will replace the existing area committees, which previously also dealt with planning applications. The local committees will have direct access to funding for local projects, with £2,500 available per member, per committee.

Cllr Butland added: "I hope that councillors in their community champion role will be thinking about how the money might best be used to benefit their local community. The new local committees will play a significant role in determining the allocation of funds from the Rural development Fund."

Cllr Butland expects that local committees will evolve to suit their local areas and chairs of local committees will be invited to attend Cabinet, to represent local opinions and views.

Councillors estimate that while only a very small proportion of people submit planning applications, these nevertheless take up 90% of the former area committees' time. (ie a disproportionate amount of council business is taken up by a minority of people and the results are not always consistent.)

Local committees will offer the opportunity for residents and councillors to consider genuinely local issues, whereas currently there is no real forum.

ENDS

Note: Other speakers in the debate included Cllrs Harley, Gyford and Evans
For more information contact Chris Trim (01376) 557752
Issued by Braintree DC PR 22 May 2007

MEMBERS' FOCUS

AREA: DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

CORPORATE THEME HEADING: PLANNING

SUBJECT: Planning Appeals	CONTACT OFFICER: Linda Brown
TEL/EMAIL No.: 01376 551414 Ext. 2604 linda.brown@braintree.gov.uk	BACKGROUND PAPERS: Nil
INFORMATION: To provide details of recently lodged planning appeals and appeal decisions.	

INFORMATION: APPEALS LODGED

Appellant: Mr A J Hobdell & Miss G Brown
Site: 2 Britten Crescent, Witham
Development: Erection of 1.8 metre close panel fencing
Application No. 06/02446/FUL
Start Date 23rd April 2007

Appellant: Mr I Shaw
Site: The Old Smithy, Beazley End, Wethersfield
Development: Replacement of mobile home and linked building with dwelling (bungalow)
Application No. 06/02017/OUT
Start Date 2nd May 2007

Appellant: Mr & Mrs T Unwin
Site: Olivers Farm Barn, Great Yeldham Road, Toppesfield
Development: Change of use of barn to dwelling, installation of doors, windows, partitions and stairs and rebuild "lost" part of single storey building
Application No. 06/01537/FUL & 06/01538/LBC
Start Date 2nd May 2007

Appellant: Mr D White
Site: Land rear of Willow Cottage, Fuller Street, Fairstead
Development: Change of use of land from agricultural to garden
Application No. 06/01989/COU
Start Date 15th May 2007

Appellant: Karen Finch
Site: 27 Butlers Way, Great Yeldham
Development: Change of use of outbuilding from storage/playhouse to hairdressing salon run from home
Application No. 07/00211/COU
Start Date 22nd May 2007

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Appellant: Brand Developments (Essex) Ltd
Site: 16 St Peter's Road, Coggeshall
Development: Erection of four terraced dwellings
Application No. 07/00442/FUL
Start Date 23rd May 2007

Appellant: Mr J Draper
Site: Marcle Farm, Long Green, Cressing
Development: Change of use of two holiday let units to provide single dwelling
Application No. 06/01932/COU
Start Date 29th May 2007

Appellant: Mr T Mohan
Site: Land west of 1 to 4 Blake End, Dunmow Road, Great Saling
Development: Proposed agricultural storage barn
Application No. 07/00366/FUL
Start Date 14th May 2007

INFORMATION: APPEAL DECISIONS

Appellant: Paul Robert Developments Ltd
Site: Land to rear of 37 Broad Road, Braintree
Development: Erection of detached dwelling and garage
Application No. 06/01853/FUL
Decision and Date: DIMISSED – 25th May 2007

Appellant: Mr & Mrs R Doodall
Site: Rose Cottage, 2 Sportsmans Lane, Nounsley Green, Hatfield
Peveler
Development: Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of a replacement house
Application No. 06/00685/FUL
Decision and Date: DIMISSED – 17th May 2007

MEMBERS' FOCUS

AREA: CORPORATE

CORPORATE THEME HEADING: IMPROVE PERFORMANCE AND DELIVER BETTER VALUE

<p>SUBJECT: Revised Code of Conduct – Training for Members</p>	<p>CONTACT OFFICER: P J Dempsey Monitoring Officer</p>
<p>TEL/EMAIL No.: Ext. 2620 patrick.dempsey@braintree.gov.uk</p>	<p>BACKGROUND PAPERS: The Local Authorities (Model Code of Conduct) Order 2007 – SI2007 No.1159</p>
<p>INFORMATION:</p> <p>The remaining training sessions on the Code of Conduct are to be held as follows:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 21st June – Forest Road Community Hall, Witham commencing at 7 pm ➤ 2nd July - Causeway House, Braintree commencing at 2 pm ➤ 11th July - Causeway House, Braintree commencing at 7pm. <p>The first two sessions are aimed primarily for the benefit of town and parish councillors but all aspects of the Code will be covered. The final session will cover the whole ethical framework, including the revised Code of Conduct, and is for District councillors only.</p> <p>The above will be of particular interest to those Members on the Planning and Licensing Committees as the effect of Council policy means that if you have not received training on the Code of Conduct by 3rd August 2007, you cannot participate in the consideration of any planning or licensing application unless and until you have received such training (<i>Minute 75(2) of Council meeting held on 19th February 2007</i>)</p>	

MEMBERS' FOCUS

AREA: All

CORPORATE THEME HEADING:

SUBJECT: Scrutiny Bulletin	CONTACT OFFICER: Linda Morgan
TEL/EMAIL No.: 01376 551414	BACKGROUND PAPERS:
INFORMATION:	
<p>The Work Programme for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and it's four Task and Finish Groups has been agreed. These will be:</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Overview and Scrutiny Committee</u></p>	
<p>(1) Police and Justices Act 2006/Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill. To look at the processes and structures required to enable the overview and scrutiny function at Braintree to implement the requirements of this new legislation. To include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• defining the link between Ward Members, the community, overview and scrutiny and the new proposed community committees,• training and development needs of members.	
<p>This item would form the main part of the committee's work. Although guidance is not yet available it was felt there is sufficient information available to make a start on this project.</p>	
<p>(2) Allocation of Digital Hearing Aids. To revisit the review of the inequalities in the allocation of hearing aids and in particular the considerable variations that existed in waiting times depending upon where you live in the Braintree District/the County. This would complete a promise made to Essex County Council and agreed by the Scrutiny Panel during the last Civic Year.</p>	
<p>(3) Licensing Enforcement Investigation – Module 3. To complete the final module of this study into enforcement at Braintree District Council.</p>	
<p>(4) To receive responses from Cabinet regarding the outstanding matters arising from the work of the Policy Development Groups.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Task and Finish Groups</u></p>	
<p>(1) Allotment Services Provision: To undertake a study of the Council's Allotment services provision: The key issues here were (1) encouraging residents to grow their own produce to reduce the carbon footprint of the area, and (2) allotment security. The key questions were: How can we encourage residents to rent</p>	

MEMBERS' FOCUS

allotments and how can the Council help ensure that allotments are not subject to vandalism? The outcome is expected to be recommendations which would improve the take-up of allotments in the District.

- (2) **Rural Isolation, local facilities and service provision to vulnerable people in the towns.** The key question here is how can we improve access to services for residents living in areas with few accessible facilities and/or no public transport?
- (3) **Democratic Renewal:** It was agreed that voter turnout is a matter for national government. It was noted that the Council will soon be required to monitor and improve voter turnout as performance indicators were expected to be applied. It was noted that Polling Stations weren't always easy to find. One of the key questions is how can the Council make it as easy as possible for residents to vote ?
- (4) **Refuse/recycling collections.** How is the system working? Can it be improved?

MEMBERS' FOCUS

AREA: POLICY AND PERFORMANCE

CORPORATE THEME HEADING: WARD PROFILES

SUBJECT: Ward Profiles	CONTACT OFFICER: Lynn Marston
TEL/EMAIL No.: Ext 2008 or lynn.marston@braintree.gov.uk	BACKGROUND PAPERS:
<p>INFORMATION:</p> <p>We have been pleased with the positive feedback and the constructive comments that we have received about the Ward Profiles that were sent to Members last month. This is the first phase of the project and we are keen to involve members in its future development.</p> <p>Over the next few weeks we will be considering ways to expand the amount and type of data available and looking at how we can best present that information. As the project will be web-based from now on, we intend to build in links to other useful websites. We also hope to be able to provide information at parish, super output area level (i.e. areas that are smaller than wards or parishes such as post codes) and Local Committee Area where this is available. We are looking at how we might be able to provide “cross-boundary” information to give a more rounded picture of those wards that are on the edges of the District and that look outside the District for services etc.</p> <p>Please let us know what you would like from the project. Are there areas or types of information that you would like included? Do you have any suggestions about how we can or should develop it further? We would be pleased to receive any comments or suggestions. Please contact Lynn Marston on EXT. 2008 or email lynn.marston@braintree.gov.uk</p>	