

No	Rec/9 wd target to respond	Question by	Response from	Sent to Cllr	Published
1	Received 11 th January 2006	<p>Cllr Haslam</p> <p>How is the Council responding to new guidance issued by the Government to local authorities on the control of outdoor advertisements? Will this affect the Council's current policy on fly-posting?</p>	<p>By Councillor Gage, Cabinet Member for the Environment</p> <p>The new guidance is primarily designed to encourage local authorities and highway authorities to deal with the increasing problem of large advertisements displayed on vehicles and trailers parked in fields adjacent to trunk and major roads. However, the guidance also clarifies circumstances under which advertisements may be lawfully displayed without the need for planning consent.</p> <p>In certain circumstances, advertisements for local events being held <i>for charitable purposes</i> may be displayed. One key criterion is that the permission of the owner of the site on which the advertisement is displayed must be obtained. This includes the Highway Authority if the sign is to be placed on highway land. The Council will, of course, change its procedures to comply with the new guidance.</p> <p>The Scrutiny Panel is currently investigating the Council's enforcement practices, but the legislation relating to outdoor advertisements is particularly complex and Members are always advised to contact the Planning or Environmental Services Departments for clarification on any <u>specific</u> advertisement issue.</p>	11/01/06	23/01/06

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2	Received 11 th January 2006	<p>Cllr Reid</p> <p>How many anti-social behaviour orders [ASBOs] were imposed in the Braintree District in each financial year between 1st April 1999 and 31st March 2005?</p>	<p>By Councillor Schmitt, Cabinet Member for Public Protection and Healthy Living</p> <p>The first ASBOs for the Braintree District were achieved in April 2004.</p> <p>By the end of the 2005 financial year a further 9 were obtained giving the total number for 2005 financial year of 10 ASBOs.</p>	11/01/06	23/01/06
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3	Received 11 th January 2006	<p>Cllr Jenner</p> <p>Will the Leader of the Council make a statement on the Government's response to the Barker report and its possible impact upon Braintree District?</p>	<p>By Councillor Butland, Leader of the Council</p> <p>The Government has published its response to the Barker report [published jointly by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) and the Treasury]. This seeks to address the problem of housing affordability in the Wider South East Region by increasing the supply of housing. The Government response to Barker is not published as a consultation document; but as the Government has invited comments on draft Planning Policy Statement 3 (PPS3, Housing) the Council can use that consultation to respond to concerns in relation to the Barker Report. Comments need to be submitted to ODPM by 27 February.</p> <p>These policy documents have been debated at</p>	11/01/06	23/01/06

			<p>the Regional Strategy Public Inquiry. ODPM has sought to encourage the Panel to take on board the draft guidance and the Government's response to Barker in considering housing supply in RSS 14. Whilst housing supply in Braintree District has been robust, in general the supply in the region has been lower than average annual rates set out in the draft RSS.</p> <p>However, it would not be appropriate to amend the draft RSS by increasing the housing supply policies to reflect the draft guidance at this stage. It is not yet possible to predict in what way, if any, the draft guidance may be amended in response to the outcome of consultation. Moreover, if housing supply did need to be increased, consideration of the optimum distribution for additional housing would be better dealt with by considering the issues at the next review, which will be part way through the plan period, rather than seeking to modify the strategy on the hoof, such as by tacking on a proportionate amount to the existing distribution.</p> <p>There is also a fundamental problem with the assumption in the Barker report, on the relationship between house prices and land supply. The proposals continue to be based on the presumption that housing supply is the overriding determinant of affordability. It is wrongly assumed that "turning on the tap" to increase land supply will have a significant impact on rising house prices, and it is land supply constraint that has led to spiralling house prices. At best this is an over-simplification. A substantial body of past research, including that sponsored by central government, has indicated</p>		
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