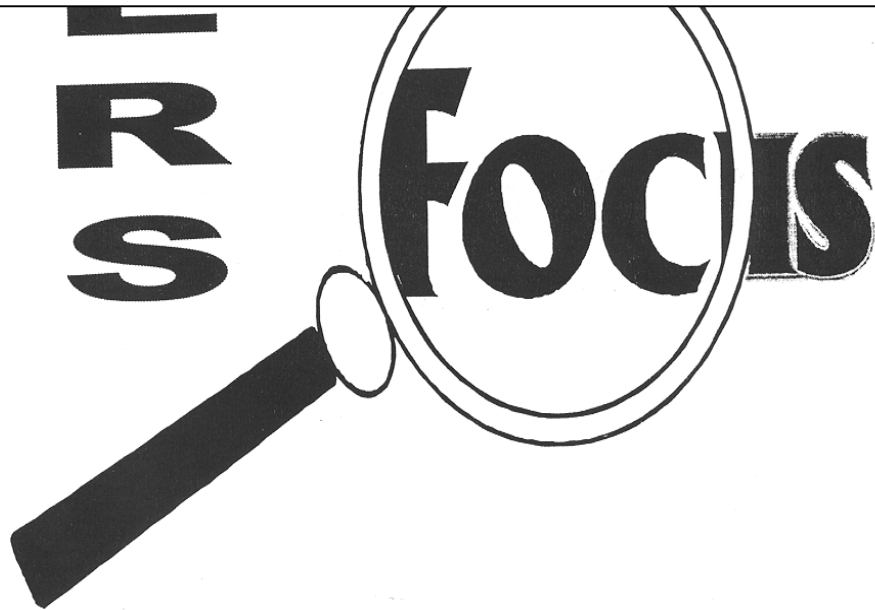


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*Members' Focus is available on-line at [www.braintree.gov.uk](http://www.braintree.gov.uk)  
- Choose "Council & Democracy" from the menu on the left,  
then "Members Focus".*

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**Focus**

**April 2007**

# MEMBERS' FOCUS

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# MEMBERS' FOCUS

AREA: ALL

CORPORATE THEME HEADING: Helping People Feel Safe And Well/A Better Place to Live, Work and Play.

SUBJECT: Food safety in Childminders	CONTACT OFFICER: Lisa Buckland
TEL/EMAIL No.: x 2212 <a href="mailto:lisa.buckland@braintree.gov.uk">lisa.buckland@braintree.gov.uk</a>	BACKGROUND PAPERS: None
INFORMATION:  Due to a recent change in the Food Safety Legislation more food premises (including childminders) now have to register with the local authority.  Food safety officers have recently sent a letter to all of the childminders currently registered as providing a service within our District. The childminders were sent a food safety newsletter (a copy of which can be found on the food safety web pages), a food premises registration form and a very short questionnaire requiring the childminders to provide details of the types of food that they provide to the children in their care.  Once the information has been returned programmed food inspections will be made to some of the childminders. The premises selected for inspection will be determined according to the nature and quantity of food that is prepared and served to the children.  The childminders were invited to ring the service if they have any food hygiene queries.	

# MEMBERS' FOCUS

AREA: Community Safety & Development

## CORPORATE THEME HEADING: Meeting Community Needs

SUBJECT: Witham Community Safety Roadshow	CONTACT OFFICER: <b>Janet Peatling</b>
TEL/EMAIL No.: <b>Ext 2344</b> <a href="mailto:janpe@braintree.gov.uk">janpe@braintree.gov.uk</a>	BACKGROUND PAPERS:
INFORMATION:  The first <b>Community Safety Roadshow</b> of this year took place in <b>Witham on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> April in the Grove Centre</b> , off Newland Street in the town centre.  The Roadshow was extremely well received by members of the public with over 120 people visiting throughout the day to peruse over the many displays and information on view.  Members of the public were able to raise any concerns with officers from Community Safety, Environmental Services – enforcement, community wardens, dog warden, and Housing, with three or more representative being on hand at allotted times throughout the day. In addition, Police Community Support Officers were on hand during the day, along with representatives from SEAMS and Essex County Council Youth Service.  <b>Topical items of concern included:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❖ Anti social behaviour in and around the areas of Samphire Close and Rosebay Close, Witham. The problems they were experiencing were relating to youth nuisance of a high level.</li><li>❖ Crime Reduction Advise, a gentleman wanted to speak to a Crime Reduction Officer about certain things, contact details of the gentleman were taken and passed on to Geoff Butler for him to make contact</li><li>❖ Anti social behaviour/Noise from and around the Crown Public House. A lady who lives near the Crown Public House expressed concerns with the amount of noise coming from the pub till 2:30am on a Friday and Saturday, youths are usually present outside there and are seen to be hanging around.</li></ul> With emphasis this year on educating members of the public on Community Safety & Anti Social Behaviour issues and raising awareness of intervention and enforcement.  <b>A broad range of exhibition boards and leaflets covered the following topics:</b>  Noise Nuisance ABCs ASBOs Dispersal Orders Purse theft (cat bells) Fly tipping Dog fouling Abandoned vehicles Reporting Domestic Violence/Hate Crime	

April 2007

## MEMBERS' FOCUS

Bike Safety (fluorescent wrist bands from the Community Wardens)

### **Other information/projects:**

Reality Roadshow

Crucial Crew

U Matters magazine produced by Essex Children and Young people's Strategic Partnership.

Think road safety

Anti Bullying alliance report

### **Outcome & Feedback Publicity on the event.**

Two performing arts students from Braintree College dressed as a chick and rabbit also attended the event to encourage the public to the stand. These were very well received by the young people and parents. Photographs were taken throughout the day.

Further publicity will be sought to promote the winners of the colouring competition and teen quiz. The teen quiz raised awareness in young people of anti social behaviour, penalties for littering and motor vehicle nuisance with emphasis on the law for the riding of motor vehicles. 16 under 10's completed the colouring competition on the day and numerous were taken away to be completed at home and sent back to the Community Safety team. Prizes were donated by Number Ten Bowling and Braintree Cineworld.

The Braintree Community Safety Roadshow will take place at George Yard Shopping Centre on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> April and the Halstead Roadshow will take place at Halstead Town Centre on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2007.

# Press Release - Cycle Essex

12

March 2007



## Get on your bike with BBC Essex and explore our county

BBC Essex Presenters Steve Scruton and Angela Lodge are swapping their walking boots for cycle clips for the launch of Cycle Essex. The pair, who walked the 81-mile Essex Way footpath last year raising over £10,000 for the Essex Air Ambulance, have been set a new challenge. They'll be joining hundreds of riders cycling just under 15 miles through the heart of the beautiful Essex countryside, collecting sponsorship for the Helen Rollason Heal Cancer Charity. "I can't wait to get back on my bike", says Steve, "It's years since I've cycled any kind of distance". Angela is a little more prepared. "I'm going to ride my bike to BBC Essex at least twice a week from now to get in shape". However, she's drawn the line at sharing a bicycle made for two! "Steve thought we could do the route on a tandem, but there's no way I'd trust him with the brakes or handle bars!"

RealEssex, Highways and Transportation at Essex County Council, BBC Essex, the Helen Rollason Heal Cancer Charity and Friends of the Flich Way are organizing a charity cycle ride. We are inviting you to join us for a fun day out cycling the Essex countryside and raising money for the Helen Rollason Heal Cancer Charity. Meet at Great Notley Country Park and Discovery Centre ([click here for map](#)) on the 5<sup>th</sup> May 2007 at 9.00 am. Ian Wyatt's Saturday morning programme will be coming live from the Discovery Centre and will launch the intrepid duo on their way - and hopefully welcome them back before the show goes off-air!

April 2007

# MEMBERS' FOCUS

**Sporting Champions**, a Sport England initiative, bringing world-class athletes face-to-face with Young People through a programme of 450 visits per year, to inspire and motivate them to participate in sport have chosen our event as part of this year's programme. We are so delighted that a sporting champion will come and support the event. At the moment our guest celebrity is a 'mystery' but we will let you know in time.

**sportessex**, the lead organisation for sport and physical activity in Essex, will also be at the event, both participating on the day and promoting future sporting events. Alistair Russell from sportivessex believes 'the cycle ride provides a fantastic opportunity for individuals, friends and families to have an active and enjoyable day out in the countryside'. Kate Williams who is also from sportivessex is excited by the challenge of an off-road cycle ride, as 'it's been a while since I rode a bike...but as the saying goes...you never forget to ride a bike'. sportivessex look forward to meeting with the participants and inspiring them to partake in cycling regularly, gaining from the many benefits that an active lifestyle can bring.

**The event promises fun for everybody....so, what are you waiting for? Check out your bike and join us on the 5<sup>th</sup> of May.**

RSVP: Elli Constantatou Tel: 01245 702453 or email

[elli.constantatou@exdra.co.uk](mailto:elli.constantatou@exdra.co.uk)

## **Editor's notes:**

### 1. Volume and value of tourism in Essex

Research from the East of England Tourism indicates that tourism is worth over £1.5 billion to the Essex economy each year. It is estimated that in 2004 there were over 44 million day visitors that came to the county.

### 2. ExDRA's tourism activities

The Essex Development & Regeneration Agency (ExDRA) promotes Essex as a visitor destination by bringing together a range of organisations to deliver a joined up approach. Partners include Essex County Council, local authorities, VisitBritain, the East of England Tourism, the Essex Tourism Association and the local tourism industry. A range of initiatives that seek to ensure that the county is adequately promoted are carried out.

Specific initiatives currently being led by ExDRA include:

- The RealEssex website [www.realessex.co.uk](http://www.realessex.co.uk)
- Production of visitor publications including the RealEssex guide, Festival of the Countryside guide, Essex Churches and Essex Gardens guide, the Review, a quarterly life-style magazine and 8 themed itineraries for independent travel
- Raising the profile of the County as a tourist destination through positive PR activity
- Supporting and advising the local tourism industry so that the tourism "product" in Essex can be developed and expanded

# MEMBERS' FOCUS

- ExDRA also hosts Insite, the Essex Cultural Tourism Programme - a partnership of all district, borough, unitary and county councils of Essex, currently supported by Arts Council England.

## 3. Background to ExDRA

The Essex Development & Regeneration Agency was formed in 2004 from the former Enterprise and Regeneration Division of Essex County Council and the Essex Economic Partnership. The Agency works with a variety of partner organisations on a series of programmes and activities to help improve the economic prosperity of Essex.

## 4. The Helen Rollason Heal Cancer Charity

The Helen Rollason Heal Cancer Charity offers therapeutic support and development to men, women and their supporters following a cancer diagnosis.

The Charity was named after Helen Rollason MBE, the BBC sports journalist who died of cancer in 1999. She shared the vision of her oncologist, Professor Neville Davidson, that people should be treated as a whole and not just their illness.

In her desire to help him, Helen gave her name and image to help attract national and international support.

Before she died she said: *"Good quality of life whilst coping with cancer is the most important gift a sick person can receive, it should be available to everyone."*

The Charity has opened four cancer care centres with a fifth in the pipeline. It also has a five-day residential programme in Co. Donegal, Ireland, called the Live Well Experience. The Charity does not receive any government money, relying solely on funding from the community.

The aim of the Charity is to establish a network of centres and services to support people from the time of their diagnosis.

Patron of the Charity is Lord Coe, KBE.

## 6. Great Notley Country Park and Discovery Centre

Great Notley country Park is 100 acres of open space, which is managed for the benefit of both wildlife and the community. Cycling, exercise Trim Trail, horse riding and walking can all be enjoyed on the park and beyond with its links to the Flitch Way in the north and the bridleway in the south.

The Discovery Centre is the visitor centre to the Country Park and is a great example of sustainable architecture. This new type of building has been designed to have the least impact on the environment using construction materials, which ensure low maintenance and energy consumption.

Contact Sharon Woods on 01376 347134 or email [shafo@braintree.gov.uk](mailto:shafo@braintree.gov.uk)

# MEMBERS' FOCUS

## 6. Sporting Champions

Sporting Champions is delivered by Creating Excellence, an Essex-based company who also run Fit for Business, a workplace health initiative and Inspirational Speakers, a motivational speaker bureau. For more information on all of these, please visit [www.creatingexcellence.co.uk](http://www.creatingexcellence.co.uk).

## Sportessex

Sportessex, the Essex, Southend and Thurrock Sports Partnership is part of a national network of County Sport Partnerships with core funding from Sport England.

County Sports Partnerships provide strategic co-ordination and planning for sport in their geographic area. The strategic planning is primarily focussed on delivering the community sport and supporting the school sport. They also have key responsibilities for performance measurement, collecting data relating to Key Performance Indicators, and marketing and communications across the county, raising the profile of sport and attracting inward investment for sustainable delivery.

### **For more information please contact:**

Elli Constantatou, Tourism Programme Manager, Essex Development & Regeneration Agency (ExDRA) on 01245 702453) or email [elli.constantatou@exdra.co.uk](mailto:elli.constantatou@exdra.co.uk)

Niki Eves, Press Officer, Helen Rollason Heal Cancer Charity on 01245 513350 or email [nicola@helenrollason.co.uk](mailto:nicola@helenrollason.co.uk)

Louise Calton, Sporting Champions Project Coordinator on 0800 328 4903 or email [sportingchampionsLouiseCalton@creatingexcellence.co.uk](mailto:sportingchampionsLouiseCalton@creatingexcellence.co.uk), [ww.sportingchampions.org.uk](http://ww.sportingchampions.org.uk)

Alistair Russell, Communications and Marketing Coordinator, sportessex on 01245 702458 or email: [alistair.russell@sportessex.org.uk](mailto:alistair.russell@sportessex.org.uk)

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# 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 period between April 07 and march 07 the dog wardens have carried out over 29 promotional events. 13 visits to local dog training clubs to give talks on our service and dog legislation and judge dog owners on their kennel club good citizen tests at different grades . 6 dog microchipping events and have attended 10 fetes, dog shows. To date the dog wardens have microchipped 94 dogs and a further 50 by the r.s.p.c.a.on our behalf. The dog wardens will be now undertaking all the dog microchipping at £15 per dog with further events to follow at a discounted price. I am also in the process of organizing a training day on the 25 <sup>th</sup> June on canine aggression which will be open to all councils	

# News

## Birthday voter

Page 1 of 1

Just hours after turning 18 Sean Ranson will be exercising one of his new rights and voting in the local elections.

His birthday on Thursday May 3 coincides with the Braintree district and parish council elections and politics student Sean is keen to have his say.

Sean, who lives in Windmill Road, Halstead, and is a student at the Sixth Form College in Colchester, has just been accepted to study politics at the University of Essex in the autumn.

There are 60 district council seats in 30 wards and 436 seats for parish and town councils with from five to 13 seats each. The 109 polling stations will be open from 7am until 10pm.

**For more press information, contact Anne Proudfoot on 01376 551414.**

Issued by Braintree DC PR 10 April 2007

# MEMBERS' FOCUS

## News

Local councillors share public venue to show co-operation across boundaries

Page 1 of 1

**Bures Hamlet and Bures St Mary are two halves of the same community, straddling the river Stour**, with one part in Braintree District in Essex and the other half in Babergh District in Suffolk. Despite this, it has its own strong identity, regardless of the boundaries.

**For the first time**, all four local district and county councillors from both sides of the boundary, will hold a 'surgery' for residents to meet with them and ask questions on any issues of local concern.

**It offers a new opportunity for local people** meeting in the village hall in Bures St Mary on **31<sup>st</sup> March** from 10am until noon.

District councillors Tony Shelton (Braintree) and Peter Holbrook (Babergh) will attend, with county councillors Selwyn Pryor and David Finch.

Cllr Shelton comments: "This shared 'surgery' is a first for both districts and shows how modern councillors must work more closely together for the benefit of residents, especially in rural locations."

Cllr Holbrook adds: "It's a great opportunity for any local residents to meet and lobby their local councillors at district and county level."

**ENDS**

**For more press information, contact:**

Tony Shelton 01787 477560

Issued by: Braintree DC PR 16 March 2007

# MEMBERS' FOCUS

## News

We are the champions! - new network to help improve neighbourhood environment

**There's an exciting new opportunity** for environmentally-minded people of all ages to get involved in making a difference to their local neighbourhood. By taking up the challenge, 'Community champions' will agree to a code of conduct for themselves as well as look out for local problems like litter, fly-tipping, abandoned cars and other eyesores. They'll also get involved in making suggestions of how local improvements can be made.

**The 'Community Champions' scheme** offers a support network and a direct line for action by the Council. Supported by two staff, the new community champions know that their voice will carry weight when they call or mail with a problem to be fixed. People of all ages can get involved and they will receive some training so that they can be safe and be effective in their reporting of problems.

**Cllr Michael Gage comments:** "Neighbourhoods need people like these: to work together for an improved environment, just as the Council needs them to make those calls. It's an exciting opportunity which I hope will appeal to all kinds of people."

**Simon Baldock of BBC Essex introduced the new scheme to an audience of councillors and volunteers in Braintree on 19<sup>th</sup> March. He says: "I know there are a lot of people who want to get more done for their area and it's a great idea to give enthusiastic people a direct line into the Council."**

Allan Waight - Grove Residents Association

"The Grove residential development in Witham has a number of raised brick planters established by the original developers to enhance the street scene. In 2004 the Grove Residents' Association entered into a Partnership Agreement with Braintree District Council to replant and maintain the largest and most prominently sited of these planters. The Council generously provided the plants chosen by the residents, and materials and the residents provided the labour for the re-establishment of the planter and for its on-going maintenance. The result is an attractive feature that is appreciated both by residents and visitors alike."

# MEMBERS' FOCUS

**Julie Smith - Halstead in Bloom**

"We have worked in good partnership with Street Scene and they have given us a great deal of help so far. We are very happy to continue this partnership."

**Peter Smith - St Michaels Church, Braintree**

"Our partnership with the council to keep the St. Michael's Braintree Churchyard clear from litter has resulted in the area being kept tidy. This is welcoming to parishioners and makes it a pleasant and tranquil place to spend time in - and is therefore an asset to the town as a whole."

**ENDS**

Each volunteer gets a Champion's Kit: including a notepad and pen, pre-paid reply cards, a free-phone number to call and an on-the-go drinking cup. They'll receive the 'Street Scene' newsletter and access to essential safety training, for when they're engaged on community activities.

**Picture caption:** Local volunteers sign up as new street scene Community Champions

Tabor Science College and Alec Hunter Humanities College students take the pledge: (l to r) from Alec Hunter, Martin Lee, Chloe Ellis and Jemima Paine with Tabor students Pete Musto, Piers Merryweather and Daniel Ward.

**For more press information or photographs contact:**

Claire McAneny or Jenny Nice 01376 551414 (just say the name)

Issued by: Braintree DC PR 22 March 2007

## MEMBERS' FOCUS

# News

## Partnership means bright future for country park

Page 1 of 1

A close working partnership between Braintree District Council and Essex County Council could see the Discovery Centre and Great Notley Country Park become a regional centre of environmental excellence.

At Cabinet on the 26<sup>th</sup> March, councillors will discuss proposals for the two authorities to work together creating a unique and exciting opportunity for the development of the centre and country park. The wide range of proposals include providing educational facilities to promote the environment, sustainability and energy, bistro style refreshments at the Discovery Centre and extending the existing car park. The construction of an adventure trail in the country park and a sensory trail plus a cycle hire centre for exploring the Flitch Way. The second phase of proposals would see the County Field Archaeology Unit move to the site in purpose-built accommodation. The unit would promote the County's archaeological heritage with visits by schools and the public.

By working in close partnership with the county council it is hoped to develop the centre and the park to become a high profile 'Destination Park' offering many facilities to the public and a range of educational opportunities for local schools.

**Leader of Braintree District Council Councillor Graham Butland** comments:

"This is a very exciting development which shows how local authorities working together can bring significant improvements to local people. When completed Great Notley will be the flagship country park in Essex, a major asset for our community and for the county."

**ENDS**

For more press information or enquiries contact: Paul Partridge, 01376 551414 – just say the name.

Issued by: Braintree DC PR 16 March 2006

# MEMBERS' FOCUS

## News

### Fantastic plastic!

Page 1 of 1

Hang on to your yoghurt pots, margarine tubs and ready meal containers. From now on they are among a much wider range of plastics which can be recycled across the Braintree district. Until now only plastic bottles have been collected as there have been no local markets for other types of plastic.

A new deal with a recycling company means that most plastic packaging can now be recycled but exceptions include bulky expanded polystyrene and rigid plastics used for items such as toys and garden furniture.

Recycling newsletters and leaflets are being distributed to explain which plastics can now be recycled and every resident with a grey bin will find a hanger on their bin reminding them to recycle plastic packaging. Banners will also be going up in supermarkets as a further reminder to shoppers that much of the packaging on the products they are buying can be recycled. Some council staff involved with the recycling programme have been experimenting with the new collection to see what impact it would have.

"It really does make a big difference to the space left in the grey bin," said Ros Alam, environmental communications officer. One colleague who is in a household with two adults and two children was amazed how much plastic could now be recycled and how it dramatically reduced the amount which could not be recycled or composted."

Peter Chisnall, head of waste management, said: "After listening to residents' views we are really pleased to be able to offer yet another opportunity for people to recycle even more and reduce the amount that goes to landfill."

ENDS

**NOTE:** Braintree District Council is now working with Holmen Recycling, which is building a new factory to sort the council's recycling. The company has found a market for the mixed plastics, which will eventually be used to make products such as street furniture and building materials.

**For more press information contact Ros Alam on 01376 551414**

Issued by Braintree DC PR 22 March 2007

# MEMBERS' FOCUS

## News

### 10,000 residents to have their say about the future of housing in Braintree District

Page 1 of 1

**10,000 residents** in Braintree District are being asked about their current housing situation and future aspirations in a postal survey that will shape the future of housing in an area stretching from Hatfield Peverel, to as far north as the Suffolk border. Braintree District Council is looking at a range of issues that affect where people choose to live and the problems they face in finding suitable housing. This includes looking at population movements, where people travel to work and the private rented housing sector. Amongst other things, the survey asks people for:

- Information about how many people live in their household;
- Reasons for moving to their current home;
- Support needs of their household;
- Future plans – whether they plan to move in the future, and if so, where to; and
- Future plans of anyone needing to move out of the household

The information will be used to help the Council understand what sort of housing is required by residents in Braintree to help plan for the future.

**Tim Lucas** is the council's housing research and development manager and he says: "The Council needs to understand what sorts of homes are needed now and in the future so we can do our best to plan to meet that need. The more people that reply and tell us about their situation, the more accurate we can be. So if you receive a questionnaire, please spend a few minutes to complete it and send it back."

Addresses have been selected to provide a statistically representative cross-section of the views of the District's population. The survey is carried out by Fordham Research on behalf of the Council and personal information about respondents will not be disclosed to the Council.

Questionnaires are being delivered by post and people are asked to return them to Fordham Research by 20<sup>th</sup> April in the pre-paid envelope provided.

If residents have any questions about the survey they can contact JAMES EVE at Fordham Research on the free phone number: 0800 163 231.

ENDS

For more press information or enquiries contact Tim Lucas on 01376 551414 – just say the name – or Chris Trim on 557752. Issued by: Braintree DC PR 3 April 07

## MEMBERS' FOCUS

# News

### Keep voting!

Residents are being urged to keep voting for the district's Warner Textile Archive to put it top of a people's vote.

It has been consistently in the lead, or top three, of the poll being run by the national virtual museum the 24 Hour Museum. Its aim is to find out what real museum visitors across the country feel about the ten places long-listed for the prestigious £100,000 Gulbenkian Prize, which include Braintree.

The list has now been narrowed down to the final four – all big multi-million pound projects – but there is still a chance that Braintree District Museum's Warner Textile Archive could win the prize for the people's vote.

The voting continues on the website right up until the overall prizewinner is announced on May 24.

The Chair of the Gulbenkian Prize judges, author and broadcaster Francine Stock, paid tribute to all ten of the museums long-listed.

She said: "Choosing a shortlist has been tough. We've travelled coast to coast from northernmost Scotland to the Sussex seaside visiting ten very different museums. Each has its own way of attracting the local community and new audiences to collections and exhibitions and it's exciting to see the growth in visitor numbers."

**Jean Grice**, cultural services manager for Braintree District Council, said: "It was wonderful to be nominated and the recognition was a great tribute to everyone involved in the campaign to bring the Warner Textile Archive back home to Braintree.

"The final four are all very large projects and it would be brilliant to fly the flag for small projects without national funding by winning the people's vote."

To cast your vote go to

<http://www.24hourmuseum.org.uk/nwh/ART43382.html>

**NOTE:** The Warner Textile Archive records the design and manufacture of textiles over the past 200 years and is one of the largest collections in public ownership in the UK.

Collections of cloth, woven textiles, printed fabric and paper designs are all on show in the gallery, which was once the working mill which produced many of the 19<sup>th</sup> century textiles it now displays.

**ENDS**

**For more press information, contact Jean Grice on 01376 325266.**

Issued by: Braintree DC PR 10 April 2007

April 2007

## News

### Party time

Page 1 of 1

The traditional civic reception held by the Chairman of Braintree District Council made way for a special treat for youngsters this year.

Instead of the usual event Councillor David Finch decided to hold a party for children from each of his four selected charities.

Around 75 youngsters of all ages attended the party, which was held at Unex Towerlands in Panfield Lane, Braintree.

Entertainment came from JoJingles, Potty Patrick and Calamity the Clown and many of the youngsters enjoyed having their faces painted. The afternoon was rounded off by a traditional tea party.

The young guests came from the Chairman's four charities. Parc (Play and Resource Centre) at Great Notley is a community project, which provides play opportunities and respite care to around 180 local disabled children.

Southview School is a day special school for pupils with physical and neurological impairment and Down Syndrome-Extra21 is a charity supporting children and young people with Down Syndrome, including several in the Braintree District.

Young Enterprise East of England gives students the chance to run a real company and learn about aspects of business. Children from Edith Borthwick School in Bocking were invited as representatives of the group as members work with the school in their day-to-day enterprise role.

**ENDS**

**For more press information, contact Donna Walton on 01376 551414**

Issued by Braintree DC PR 11 April 2007.

# News

## Race for Life

Page 1 of 1

Great Notley Country Park is again the venue for this year's Race for Life in the Braintree District.

All over the country women-only 5K events are being held where women can come together to raise money to help more people survive cancer.

The aim this year is to get 800,000 women to take part and help to raise £60 million to fund Cancer Research UK's life-saving work. The runs are being supported by Tesco.

At Great Notley the fundraising target is £152,000 and organisers are hoping 2,000 women will run, jog or walk the course, which takes in the park and surrounding areas.

**The event is on Sunday June 17 and the race starts at 11am, although competitors need to arrive an hour earlier to take part in a warm-up.**

**NOTE: Since it started in 1994 Race for Life has become the UK's biggest women-only fundraising event. So far more than two million women have taken part and raised more than £140 million in sponsorship for Cancer Research UK.**

ENDS

To take part or for more information go to [www.raceforlife.org](http://www.raceforlife.org) or call 08705 134 314.

Issued by Braintree DC PR 17 April 2007

## MEMBERS' FOCUS

### Sign up for the environment

World Environment Day on June 5 will be marked in Braintree with a special public event designed to raise awareness of environmental and sustainability issues and how you can make a difference.

Between 10am and 6pm there will be themed talks in Causeway House, "under canvas" on Weavers Park, Bocking End, and under the bandstand in George Yard there will be competitions, prize draws and giveaways and the opportunity to explore the many displays and stands.

Also on Weavers Park, Weapons of Sound will be playing as well as providing workshops for Junior School pupils.

Water and energy efficiency, solar energy, "green" vehicles, carbon footprints, food miles, green pest control, organic and local produce, recycling, green transport and sustainable landscaping and development are just some of the many topics to be covered during the day.

Anyone interested in taking a stand should contact Margaret McCloud on 01376 551414 or email [margaret.mccloud@braintree.gov.uk](mailto:margaret.mccloud@braintree.gov.uk)

# MEMBERS' FOCUS

## News

### Boost for charities

Page 1 of 1

Four charities involving young people are to receive a cash boost.

Councillor David Finch, Chairman of Braintree District Council, is handing over £7,753 to be shared equally between his four chosen charities.

Parc (Play and Resource Centre) at Great Notley is a community project, which provides play opportunities and respite care to around 180 local disabled children.

Southview School is a day special school for pupils with physical and neurological impairment and Down Syndrome-Extra21 is a charity supporting children and young people with Down Syndrome, including several in the Braintree District.

Young Enterprise East of England gives students the chance to run a real company and learn about aspects of business.

Of the grand total being handed over £6,100 was raised at a golf day, Braintree Bowls Club made a donation of £600 and the rest came from events like raffles and casual dress days by council staff.

**ENDS**

**For more press information contact Donna Walton on 01376 551414.**

Issued by Braintree DC PR 11 April 2007

# MEMBERS' FOCUS

## News

### Council continues to improve

Page 1 of 1

The annual Audit Commission's assessment of Braintree District Council, published this week, concludes that performance is continuing to improve.

The Audit Commission report, based on performance figures for 2005/06, states the organisation has shown strong improvement in some front-line services such as Development Control, Recycling and public access to services but performance in housing benefit services is an area for improvement. Today, twelve months on, the housing benefits services have improved significantly and by the end of the year Braintree is expected to be one of the best performing councils.

The authority has shown a clear focus on improving the environment, investment has resulted in improved services leading to higher levels of recycling and the introduction of new initiatives such as parish rangers, community wardens and, most recently, the community champions.

The inspectors congratulated the Council on its effective partnership working, particularly with parish councils, which had shown a clear commitment to rural areas and had enabled local people to determine what levels of service they require. The constructive working relationship between officers and councillors was also commended, as was the clear cross-party agreement to improve services.

**Council Leader Graham Butland said** "The annual report reinforces our commitment to focus on improving our performance across all services and holds no surprises. The figures are based on our performance in 2005 and there have been many changes since then, not least the tenant's vote to transfer the housing stock. The report gives us useful indicators to ensure our resources are focussed where they are most needed."

#### **ENDS**

**For more press information, contact:**

PR Section 01376 557752

The full report can be viewed at [www.braintree.gov.uk](http://www.braintree.gov.uk), front page – Latest Council Documents

Issued by: Braintree DC PR 30 March 2007

April 2007

# MEMBERS' FOCUS

## News

### What future for Braintree District?

**The Braintree District** has outgrown local job opportunities and if the trend continues, the gap will widen between people who live and work locally and those who commute to better paid jobs elsewhere. This is the stark warning sent to every household by Braintree District Council in its quarterly newsletter.

During April the council will consult with local groups and people will be able to see the options for the district on the council's web site: [www.braintree.gov.uk](http://www.braintree.gov.uk).

Three different visions of the future have been outlined in a special consultants' report, first published earlier this year. The visions range from a district which is left behind by steady progress in neighbouring areas, to one which seeks out new employment opportunities as the foundation for a more dynamic and progressive local economy; but without losing its existing and essential quality of life. At the same time the District must still meet its quota of new housing that is required by the East of England Plan of about 5,500 dwellings between 2006 and 2025 and decisions will need to be made about where these should be built.

**Corporate director Peter Crofts**, outlines the prospects: "Business as usual is just about letting things happen, without much trying to steer them. Quality of life for most people might not improve but like any change, you feel better about it if you're in control." Of the other alternatives, he said: "To create a district where ideas can take shape, employing local people, encouraging local entrepreneurial talent and bringing with it all the advantages of a prosperous and attractive area – that's the real challenge and it'll need all the co-operation and creativity available."

**Paul Bird of Joscelyne Chase Commercial** comments: "Braintree has seen significant new residential developments completed in recent years but the challenge remains in that many of the residents in these properties commute out of the town for employment, shopping and to some extent leisure facilities. The opening of the A120 has given the town a higher profile and some significant new commercial developments have started to emerge as improving rental and capital values make such schemes viable. A number of new employers have been attracted to Braintree by these developments however one of the restrictions preventing a more balanced and sustainable expansion of the town is the lack of land being allocated for future commercial use'.

People can see the council web site in April for more information and a list of local groups, organisations and parish councils to be formally consulted.

**ENDS**

For more press information or enquiries contact: Chris Trim on 01376 557752.

Issued by: Braintree DC PR 2 April 2007

# MEMBERS' FOCUS

## News

### Council unlocks land potential for Braintree club

Page 1 of 1

**Braintree District Council** has approved a revised planning application to unlock hundreds of thousands of pounds for future investment in Braintree Town Football Club. The district development committee relaxed further planning concessions to enable the club to get far more than originally envisaged, from a high-density redevelopment of a car parking area into 35 flats.

**The council has to balance** three long term aspects to this neighbourhood. The future prospects of the Club, as an important, successful and popular local facility. The duty to receive a proper value from the land, which stands to be sold for more than 20 times the original covenanted figure asked by the council in 1995. And the need to ensure that future residents of the new flats are provided with proper open space, car parking and play area for children.

**Corporate Director Peter Crofts comments:** "This is a momentous decision for the Club and shows how far this Council is prepared to go to support the local community. We have carefully balanced conflicting demands and now have a result which will give the Club everything it needs to move forward, on and off the pitch."

The specific concessions approved by the Council include:

- the 35 flat development, to include 5 rented and 5 shared ownership homes (less than 30%)
- reduced contribution to highways (£13,170 not £21,950, saving the club £8,780)
- reduced contribution for open space (£23,400 not £78,000, saving the club £54,600)
- reduced contribution for play equipment (£7,000, not £8750, saving £1750)
- enabling additional visitors' parking spaces
- nil provision for education purposes

In effect, the cash difference in these concessions will be paid for out of the council's dividend from the sale of the land.

### **ENDS**

**For more press information, contact: Chris Trim 01376 557752**

Issued by: Braintree DC PR 4 April 2007

## MEMBERS' FOCUS

# News

Whatever the future – it must be sustainable

**Braintree District** is among leading councils in promoting greater 'sustainability' with residents and businesses. From grants for solar heating and cavity wall insulation, to free energy saving light bulbs and greater recycling, the council is tackling the issue in a variety of ways. This is one of the topics featured in the council's quarterly newsletter going to households this week. Whatever people think of the future, a more energy efficient and less wasteful one must be among the top priorities.

**Corporate director Peter Crofts**,: "The council is going for change on a broad front, with some things making a quick difference and others taking longer; like recycling which relies on everyone playing their part."

**Witham Chamber of Trade chairman Sally Carpenter** comments: "Despite fears that householders would be resistant to change, the council appears to be well ahead of many authorities in encouraging the recycling of a wide range of household waste. We also need to consider the removal and separation of business/trade waste at a cost that is practical for the individual businesses.

**For householders** there's a new leaflet giving expert advice about small-scale renewable energy ideas. **Building developers** are required to ensure that a tenth of the energy need of new properties shall come from renewable sources and a separate guidance leaflet is available for them.

The Council is organising a public event for all the family on World Environment Day – 5<sup>th</sup> June. With many local and national organisations represented, it promises to be a thought provoking and enjoyable afternoon and evening.

ENDS

For more press information or enquiries contact: Chris Trim 01376 557752.

Issued by: Braintree DC PR 2 April 2007

# MEMBERS' FOCUS

19<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2007

## AND THE WINNER IS.....

Essex County Council today announced the community initiative that will receive £50,000 worth of funding following a trial initiative in Local Democracy run by both the County Council and Braintree District Council.

The project that received the most public votes was one to improve the open space around the River Blackwater, including the maintenance of pathways, seating and the riverbank. The project was put forward by a Terry Brooks from the Bocking area of Braintree and received **3,488** votes from residents in the two wards included in the initiative.

The search for a winning project started on BBC Radio 5 Live on 29<sup>th</sup> January this year and focused on the two wards of Bocking South and Bocking Blackwater in the Braintree District. Residents were encouraged to submit their ideas for how they would like to spend £50,000 for the community in their area. A public meeting was held, broadcast live on BBC Radio 5 Live, where residents who had put forward ideas were given the opportunity to canvas for votes and sell their idea. After the public meeting a ballot paper with the final 10 projects was sent via the post to every (10,231) household in the two wards and residents were given the opportunity to vote for their three favourite projects.

**3,188** ballot papers were returned in the vote, a return rate of 32.14%. In the 2003 District Elections in 2003 the turnout rate for voting was 27.8% in Bocking South and 24.6% in Bocking Blackwater.

**Cont/**

Lord Hanningfield, Leader of Essex County Council, said: "This is a brilliant example of how giving the decision making opportunity to the local community really works. The turn out was higher than that for the elections, and the residents really got involved. I think this is a lesson for all of us involved in Politics, that when residents actually have the chance to shape their own surrounding and community they really do get involved. It has also resulted in a very worthwhile project getting much needed funding that will not only

## MEMBERS' FOCUS

benefit the communities of the two wards involved, but the whole of Braintree town.”

Councillor Graham Butland, Leader of Braintree District Council, said: "I am delighted that so many people have got involved in the project. There were a number of excellent ideas put forward, all of which would benefit the community. I congratulate the winners and look forward to seeing the final result."

### ENDS

**Media Contact:** Eleri Roberts, 01245 430650

**Notes to Editors:**

More information about the initiative can be found at [www.essexcc.gov.uk/youdecide](http://www.essexcc.gov.uk/youdecide)

Essex County Council already runs a successful Community Initiatives Fund (CIF) which encourages community groups and projects across the county to bid for smaller pots of money. More information can be found at [www.communityinitiativesfund.co.uk](http://www.communityinitiativesfund.co.uk)

The winning project is for environmental improvements to the open space along the River Blackwater in the Bocking Blackwater ward. The money will be spent on repairs to footpaths and seating and installation of interpretation boards. Residents have also highlighted an issue with motorbikes using the pathways, so solutions to this problem will also be looked at.

# 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: Lidl UK GmbH and Ernest Doe & Sons Ltd  
Site: Ernest Doe & Sons Ltd., Rayne Road, Braintree  
Development: Erection of a replacement building providing showroom, workshops and office facilities and the provision of a new convenience foodstore with associated access and car parking  
Application No. 06/01109/FUL  
Start Date 19<sup>th</sup> February 2007

Appellant: Mrs Ruby Baker  
Site: 16 Meadway, Gosfield  
Development: Demolition of existing garage and erection of new bungalow  
Application No. 06/01872/OUT  
Start Date 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2007

Appellant: Mr & Mrs Read  
Site: 3 Holst Avenue, Witham  
Development: Erection of front porch  
Application No. 06/02238/FUL  
Start Date 27<sup>th</sup> February 2007

Appellant: Mr K G Newton  
Site: 23 The Ridgeway, Braintree  
Development: Erection of single storey front extension  
Application No. 06/02185/FUL  
Start Date 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2007

Appellant: Mr D Graham  
Site: Land between 25 and 27 Bois Hall Gardens, Halstead  
Development: Erection of 2 no. two bed semi-detached houses, garages and associated works  
Application No. 06/02369/FUL  
Start Date 20<sup>th</sup> March 2007

Appellant: Thomas Phillips Price Trust  
Site: Bouchiers Grange Cottage, Marks Hall Road, Coggeshall

April 2007

# MEMBERS' FOCUS

Development: Conversion of single dwelling to provide semi detached cottages with extensions  
Application No. 06/01738/FUL  
Start Date 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2007

## INFORMATION: APPEAL DECISIONS

Appellant: Mr & Mrs Minton  
Site: Rare View, Shardlowes, Hedingham Road, Gosfield  
Development: Conversion of redundant cattle sheds to holiday chalets for the disabled  
Application No. 06/00970/COU  
Decision and Date: ALLOWED – 28<sup>th</sup> February 2007

Appellant: The JTS Partnership  
Site: Valley View, Middlefield, Halstead  
Development: Erection of two detached bungalows  
Application No. 06/00425/FUL  
Decision and Date: DISMISSED – 28<sup>th</sup> February 2007

Appellant: Mrs D Page  
Site: 36 Friars Close, Sible Hedingham  
Development: Retrospective application – erection of conservatory  
Application No. 06/00088/FUL  
Decision and Date: ALLOWED – 1<sup>st</sup> March 2007

Appellant: Chelmsford Cars and Commercials  
Site: North Side BP Filling Station, London Road, Rivenhall  
Development: Change of use from petrol filling station to vehicle sales premises  
Application No. 06/00115/COU  
Decision and Date: WITHDRAWN – 5<sup>th</sup> March 2007

Appellant: Mr C Chapman  
Site: 46 Buckwoods Road, Braintree  
Development: Erection of bungalow and garages  
Application No. 06/01894/FUL  
Decision and Date: WITHDRAWN – 7<sup>th</sup> March 2007

# MEMBERS' FOCUS

AREA: CORPORATE

CORPORATE THEME HEADING: IMPROVE PERFORMANCE AND DELIVER BETTER VALUE

<p>SUBJECT: Revised Code of Conduct</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><b>INFORMATION:</b></p> <p>A revised Code of Conduct for Members was laid before Parliament on 4 April 2007 and comes into effect on 3 May 2007. Local authorities have six months from the date the relevant statutory instrument was made (2 April 2007) to adopt it. This means that if the Council has not adopted it by 1<sup>st</sup> October 2007, it will apply automatically.</p> <p>The main changes to the Code of Conduct are to:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• simplify and clarify the drafting, including making the language in which it is written gender neutral;</li> <li>• amend the rules in the Code relating to prejudicial interests, so that a Member only has a prejudicial interest where his/her interest is greater than that of the majority of people in the ward affected by the matter, rather than merely greater than the interest of other people in the Council's area (a modified version of this rule applies where the Member, e.g. an independent member of the Standards Committee, does not represent a ward).</li> <li>• provide that the Code of Conduct will apply to Members' conduct in their private capacity where such conduct has resulted in a criminal conviction; and</li> <li>• allow Members with a prejudicial interest to speak at a Council meeting providing this is solely to allow them to make representations, answer questions or give evidence, but not to vote.</li> </ul> <p>A special meeting of the Standards Committee will be called to consider the revised Code with a view to recommending its adoption by the new Council at the AGM on 21 May.</p> <p>Training on the Code of Conduct will be provided as part of the induction programme for Members after the election.</p>	

## MEMBERS' FOCUS



# RURAL COUNCILLORS - CALL FOR EVIDENCE EXTENDED TO 8 JUNE

12 Apr 2007 15:57

We've extended the deadline for submissions to our Call for Evidence on ['Strengthening the role of rural councillors'](#) until 8 June 2007.

We're keen to hear from rural councillors and parish clerks, community groups, local partnerships, council officials, business associations and everyone with ideas and experience they want to share.

We're also pleased to receive visual and audio material, for example photographs, recordings, film footage, to support your submission.

We'll use the information we gather to:

- identify and promote a range of specific policy and delivery solutions to Government and key organisations,
- help locally elected councillors make full use of their existing powers and new responsibilities coming through the Local Government White Paper
- help rural communities have more influence over local decisions.

[Find out more](#)

# MEMBERS' FOCUS

AREA:

CORPORATE THEME HEADING:

SUBJECT: Scrutiny Bulletin	CONTACT OFFICER: Linda Morgan
TEL/EMAIL No.: Ext 2602,linmo@braintree.gov.uk	BACKGROUND PAPERS:
<p><b>INFORMATION:</b> At the Council Meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> April, the Council approved some proposals to revise the scrutiny arrangements at Braintree.</p> <p>The Policy Development Groups will cease to exist. Instead, there will be topic-specific Task Groups set up to carry out investigations on a project management basis.</p> <p>Members of the new Council will be invited to suggest topics for investigation, and Scrutiny Panel will prioritize these and decide which should go forward this year. Any non-Cabinet Member will then be able to put themselves forward to work on specific projects, with Scrutiny Panel deciding the Task Group membership.</p> <p>The detail of the process is currently being drawn up, and will be available shortly.</p>	