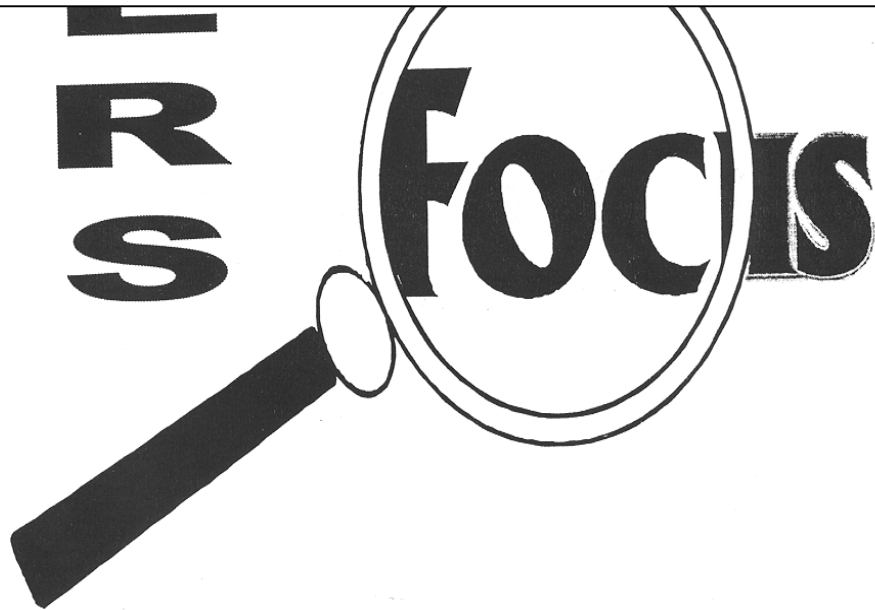


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*Members' Focus is available on-line at www.braintree.gov.uk
- Choose "Council & Democracy" from the menu on the left,
then "Members Focus".*

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Focus

August 2006

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AREA: PUBLIC PROTECTION & HEALTHY LIVING - Community Safety and Development

CORPORATE THEME HEADING: Meeting Community Needs

SUBJECT: ASBO Guidelines	CONTACT OFFICER: Tony MacDonald
TEL/EMAIL No.: Ext 2356	BACKGROUND PAPERS: Home Office Guidance, August 2006
<p>INFORMATION:</p> <p>The Home Office produced the following press release on 1st August 2006.</p> <p>Consolidated guidance on Anti-social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs) is being issued by the Home Office to practitioners including local authorities and police. Details can be found at http://www.together.gov.uk/article.asp?c=408&aid=3809 .</p> <p>“A guide to anti-social behaviour orders” brings together the latest in best practice from the frontline, recent developments in case law and consolidates legislative changes since the last edition three years ago. There are expanded sections on publicity, dealing with children and young people, and managing the court process. Additionally, there is advice on promoting awareness of disability and race equality issues.</p> <p>The Home Office is also making orders to allow the Environment Agency and Transport for London to apply for ASBOs. The new powers will come into effect on 1 September 2006. These will be used as an enforcement tool to tackle polluters and to crack down on people who behave badly on the capital’s buses and trains.</p> <p>Home Office Minister Joan Ryan said:</p> <p>“We have to ensure communities up and down the country take a consistently strong approach to tackling anti-social behaviour. ASBOs continue to be a crucial weapon in the fight against yobbish behaviour. We are extending the use of ASBOs to key agencies like the Environment Agency and Transport for London. Making available updated guidance on the effective use of ASBOs to those charged with seeking them also helps to ensure this happens.”</p> <p>ASBOs are orders issued in the civil courts and are designed to protect people from nuisance behaviour that causes harassment, alarm or distress. Such an order outlines conditions that forbid the offender from indulging in nuisance behaviour for at least two years, and aims to stop people from beginning a criminal lifestyle.</p> <p>In recent years there have been significant developments in the way ASBOs have been used by practitioners. For example, courts are now able to issue individual support orders to juveniles issued with ASBOs on application, meaning that support is combined with the restrictive conditions.</p> <p>The Home Office will continue to listen to practitioners’ views to ensure ASBOs are used in the most effective way possible.</p> <p>Prepared by: Tony MacDonald, Community Safety & Development Officer ext 2356</p>	

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AREA: Community Safety & Development

CORPORATE THEME HEADING: Meeting Community Needs

SUBJECT: Publicising Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs) across the Braintree District.	CONTACT OFFICER: Jayne Wakeling (June & August 2006)
TEL/EMAIL No.: Ext 2330 jayne.wakeling@braintree.gov.uk	BACKGROUND PAPERS: Home Office Publication - Guidance on Publicising Anti-Social Behaviour Orders
<p>INFORMATION:</p> <p>The purpose of this Members Focus is to provide members with a brief overview of the Braintree District Community Safety Partnership (BDCSP) guidelines in publicising ASBOs. To inform members of the decision making process, what types of publicity medium will be considered and the other considerations, which will be taken into account.</p> <p>BDCSP agrees that publicity is essential if local communities are to support agencies in tackling anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>An ASBO is a civil order, which restrains future behaviour: it is not a punishment. ASBOs are imposed by the courts on individuals proven to be undertaking unacceptable behaviour. They can contain a number of prohibitions that must be complied with for the duration of the order. Orders normally last for a minimum of 2 years and may dependant on the severity of the behaviour, last indefinitely. They may in certain circumstances include an exclusion zone, which restricts the offender from entering a specific geographical area. Breach of an ASBO is an arrestable offence; conviction of a breach may lead to a custodial sentence, a fine or both.</p> <p>The benefits of publicity include:</p> <p>Enforcement – local people have the information they need to identify and report breaches.</p> <p>Public reassurance – victims and witnesses know that action has been taken to protect them and their quality of life.</p> <p>Public confidence – local people and their communities are reassured that if they report anti-social behaviour, the local authority, the police and other agencies will take action.</p> <p>Deterrent to the ASBO holder – the perpetrator is aware that</p>	

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breaches are more likely to be reported because details of the order are in the public domain.

Deterrent to other perpetrators – publicity reinforces the message that ASBOs are being used and acts as a warning to others who are causing a nuisance in the community.

In addition copies of ASBO publicity items are shown and explained to perpetrators during Acceptable Behaviour Contract (ABC) signings and reviews, thus further deterring and preventing the continuance of unacceptable behaviour. This is a fairly new initiative and one, which we hope will further ensure the effectiveness of ABCs across the district.

How will the decision to publicise be made?

Each individual case will be judged on its own merits as to whether to publicise or not to publicise. In all circumstances, relevant agencies will be consulted and a decision made regarding the most appropriate course of action/s. In the majority of cases (time permitting) consultation will take the form of a Multi-Agency Professionals meeting, it is at this point that if the decision is made to pursue an application to the courts for an ASBO, then discussion can take place regarding the views and concerns of agencies regarding publicising of the ASBO should one be granted by the court. Where this is not possible then every attempt should be made to consult, at the earliest opportunity to avoid delay, with all relevant agencies as to the purpose of publicity, distribution, age considerations, the form publicity should take, and the contents i.e. language and tone considerations, photograph etc

The decision making process should aim to consider a number of key factors:

- The need for publicity
- The human rights of the public
- The human rights of the individual against whom the ASBO is made/applied for.
- The effect of publicity on family members including vulnerable siblings
- What form the publicity should take and *is it proportionate* to the aims of the publicity?

In all cases an ASBO Publicity Form should be completed, recording

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all considerations given to the above points. This form also includes a section on authorisation of a press release.

The defendant and his or her family should be warned at the earliest opportunity of the intention to publish details of an ASBO.

Where possible publicity should be made immediately following an order being granted, at the very latest within 1 week. Further publicity may be appropriate upon variation or discharge of an order.

Publicity may include the following types:

- Local print and television media
- Local leaflet drop
- Local newsletter

A few examples of the types of information which may be included:

- Name of the individual
- Description
- Photograph
- Summary of the anti-social behaviour
- Summary of the prohibitions in the order
- Expiry date
- Details of how to report a breach
- Details of exclusion zone/s (with map)
- Date of publication

As with all other considering factors ***the proportionality test applies*** when deciding the type of information which should be included and which method of publicity is most appropriate.

Prepared by Jayne Wakeling – ASB Liaison Officer Ext 2330.

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AREA: All

CORPORATE THEME HEADING: **Help People to Feel Safe and Well**

SUBJECT: Public Protection and Healthy Living – Health Activities Update	CONTACT OFFICER: Kryshia Fuller, Leisure Development Officer
TEL/EMAIL No.: 01376 551414 ext 2313 kryshia.fuller@braintree.gov.uk	BACKGROUND PAPERS: None
<p>INFORMATION:</p> <p>This briefing is to update Members on the 3 main Health Activities that have taken place during the last month since the previous Members Focus Briefing.</p> <p><u>Walking for Well Being</u></p> <p>The Programme of weekly walks for the period Sept – Dec is now available and includes walks between 2 and 5 miles across the whole of the Braintree District. The walks attracted 126 walkers during July (an increase of 6 on the previous month).</p> <p>The Walks are free and open to everybody regardless of age or ability. They are particularly beneficial to reduce blood pressure, increase stamina and reduce the risk of falls.</p> <p>A copy of the programme has been sent to all Councillors.</p> <h2>BOOKLET OF WALKS</h2> <p>A Booklet of Walks has been produced by the Volunteer Walk Leaders and contains 20 circular walks varying in length from 4 to 6 miles. It has been produced as it was recognised that not everyone wanted to walk in led group and that if routes were produced with maps and descriptions people could be encouraged to walk independently.</p> <p>The booklets went on sale at a cost of £2.50 at 5 locations across the District at the end of July (including Tourist Information Centres, Marks Hall Estate, Discovery Centre and Halstead Town Council) and to date 102 copies have been sold. The income received from the sale of the booklets will be used to provide first aid refresher training for the Walk Leaders.</p> <p>Other locations across the District are being approached and encouraged to stock the booklet</p> <p>A flyer advertising the Booklet of Walks has been sent to all Councillors.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Continued</i></p>	

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Heart and Sole

The Heart and Sole programme of short walks has been launched by the Leisure Development Team following the successful pilot programme in Halstead reported in the last Health Activities Members Focus.

The walks are carried out in partnership with GP Surgeries in the District to improve the health of patients, in particular those with high blood pressure, diabetes or those who may be obese.

Wednesday 16th August will be the first walk from the Coggeshall Surgery. GP's recommend the walks to patients who they believe would benefit from the 30 minute brisk exercise and Braintree District Council provide a walk leader for a 12 week period. The walks are followed by tea and coffee with a chance for patients to socialise and discuss their health concerns.

Although the walks are recommended to patients by their GP's and nurses everyone across the District is welcome to attend and posters and leaflets are produced for the local community.

After the 12 week period the patients themselves will be encouraged to lead the walks with little intervention from Braintree District Council (this system is still working well in Halstead where the pilot project took place).

The next GP Surgery to be involved will be the Douglas Grove Surgery in Witham when the Leisure Development Officer will attend their Obesity Clinic to deliver a presentation to the clients. A briefing on this will be provided in the next Members Focus.

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AREA: PUBLIC PROTECTION & HEALTHY LIVING - Community Safety and Development

CORPORATE THEME HEADING: Meeting Community Needs

SUBJECT: Mini Motos face the Crusher	CONTACT OFFICER: Tony MacDonald
TEL/EMAIL No.: Ext 2356	BACKGROUND PAPERS: Home Office Guidance Aug 2006
INFORMATION: <p>The Home Office produced the following press release on 1st August 2006. This reinforces the message that Community Safety Partnership have been promoting to the public for many months.</p> <p>Reckless drivers of mini-motos who disrupt and damage communities could receive points on their licence (even if they haven't yet got one), face a driving ban, a fine or even have their vehicles crushed under new guidance published by the Respect Task Force in August 2006.</p> <p>It is illegal to ride unregistered mini-motos and similar off-roading vehicles on pavements, in parks and on public highways. Due to increased complaints of misuse, the Respect Task Force has produced a guide to help inform people how to legally use these vehicles and help prevent anti-social behaviour in the community.</p> <p>Speaking ahead of a visit to Manchester to see the work being undertaken to address anti-social behaviour, the Home Secretary made it clear that those misusing mini-motos could have them seized and crushed by the police. In order to help police carry out enforcement, the Respect Task Force is giving £200,000 to 28 areas who are stepping up enforcement activity over the summer. Braintree is not one of the 28 areas.</p> <p>To coincide with the enforcement campaign, all police forces and Crime Disorder Reduction Partnerships will receive a step-by-step practical guide to help effectively tackle those who misuse mini-motos. Details can be found at the following website http://www.respect.gov.uk/whats-being-done/news-events/articles/mini-moto.html</p> <p>Part of this action is awareness-raising of the anti-social problems these vehicles can cause and of the penalties for using mini-motos anywhere except on private land where permission has been granted.</p> <p>As well as the prospect of having their vehicle crushed, offenders can expect to receive points on their licences, including children not old enough to currently hold one.</p> <p>If a child is awarded points on a future licence as a result of driving a mini-moto illegally, some insurance companies will refuse to insure them once they have passed their driving test. As a minimum, their insurance premium will be vastly increased.</p> <p>Home Secretary John Reid said:</p> <p>"Misuse of mini-motos is dangerous and is causing misery in too many of our local communities. We are working with police and local partners to promote safe and sensible use. These vehicles are not toys and I want to see irresponsible drivers stopped and if necessary their bikes crushed.</p> <p>"I know people are experiencing increasing problems from the menace of misused mini-</p>	

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motos. This must stop. It is not acceptable to ride these vehicles on our streets or parks and the guidance we are giving to police and users is clear – irresponsible use will be punished.”

Misuse of mini-motos is a growing concern across the UK. The Motor Cycle Industry Association estimates that sales of mini-moto-type vehicles have increased from 10,000 in 2002 to an estimated 100,000 in 2005, although police believe there could be more in circulation.

Although marketed as ‘toys’ these vehicles have loud engines and can reach speeds of up to 60mph. Police have received thousands of complaints about them over the last year.

Louise Casey, Government Co-ordinator for Respect, said:

“Everyone has the right to enjoy living in their communities in peace and safety, without the fear of being mown down or being forced to listen to the screech of these mini-bikes.

“The Respect Task Force is leading a summer clampdown on mini-motos to raise awareness of the problems people are facing and the penalties for misuse. These vehicles should be used responsibly and those who wreak havoc with them will face the consequences.

“Parents should also be aware of the penalties their child faces for misuse and think twice before allowing them to have one.”

Prepared by: Tony MacDonald – Community Safety & Development Officer ext. 2356

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AREA: CORPORATE

CORPORATE THEME HEADING: EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT

SUBJECT: Local Authority Mortgages	CONTACT OFFICER: Steve Tate
TEL/EMAIL No.: 01376 551414 Ext.2812 Steve.tate@braintree.gov.uk	BACKGROUND PAPERS: Housing Act 1985 ODPM Notification 16/09/04
<p>INFORMATION:</p> <p>The Housing Act 1985 specifies how local authorities must set their interest rates for mortgages arranged since October 1980. Authorities must charge whichever is the higher of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the Standard National Rate, set from time to time by the Secretary of State and currently 6.28% (OPDM notification 16th September 2004), with effect from 1st October 2004, or• the average rate, based on the Authority's own borrowing costs. <p>The consolidated rate of interest for council debt is currently estimated at 4.73% and the local average rate, including 0.25% for administration at 4.98%.</p> <p>The existing Council rate has stood at 6.28%, the Standard National Rate since October 2004. As still exceeds the local average rate, the Council Mortgage rate will remain at 6.28%</p> <p>There were 36 outstanding mortgages at the end of July 2006.</p>	

News release

Reference FRAM-BFI 41/06

Date 20 July 2006

Benefit Fraud Inspectorate (BFI) targets security arrangements in local authorities

BFI's latest phase of inspections will cover the following councils:

Caerphilly County Borough Council
City of Edinburgh Council
Glasgow City Council
London Borough of Hounslow Council
Sheffield City Council
South Bedfordshire District Council
Staffordshire Moorlands District Council
Watford Borough Council

The previously announced inspections of Braintree District Council and London Borough of Newham Council and Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council will not go ahead because these councils have shown significant improvements in their overall performance.

BFI is an independent unit within the Department for Work and Pensions that reports directly to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on the standard of benefit administration and counter-fraud activity.

James Plaskitt, Minister for Housing Benefit and Anti-Fraud, announced the inspection programme in a written ministerial statement.

Notes to editors

1. BFI was launched in November 1997 as part of the Government's initiatives to reduce the high levels of fraud in the social security system. BFI inspects the effectiveness and security of benefit administration within the Department for Work and Pensions and local authorities. It is part of the Department but operates independently of those responsible for administering benefits and reports directly to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions. BFI's reports are published to promote good practice.

BFI press enquiries 01423 83 2982
Public enquiries 0207 712 2171
Website www.bfi.gov.uk

MEMBERS' FOCUS

News

Warning over illegal flytipping

Residents are being warned to check who is taking their rubbish away or they could face hefty fines.

Illegal waste carriers can make serious money by charging to take rubbish away and then dumping it in the nearest lane or layby. These flytippers face prosecution if caught and so do the householders who hired them if rubbish can be traced back to their properties.

Braintree District Council is warning it will continue to search out the culprits and work to cut the number of unsightly and costly flytips across the district. The total cost of clearing them in the year 2005 to 2006 was £125,612.

Next week two people are due before Chelmsford magistrates to face charges relating to dumping waste.

One faces a charge of littering public land with a fine of up to £2,500. The other faces two charges of dumping waste, three of burning and one of not removing waste, with a fine of up to £50,000 and/or 12 months in prison.

Councillor Michael Gage is responsible for the local environment, and said everyone had a legal responsibility to know where waste was going. "It is not acceptable to say 'I paid someone to take it away.' Flytippers rely on people not asking to see documents proving they are registered waste carriers. "If we all take responsibility not only will it reduce unsightly mess but it will cut the cost of clearing it away, which falls on everyone who pays council tax."

NOTE: Michael Sharman of Halstead is due in court on Monday August 21 at noon, for collecting household waste from residents and then burning it in a field.

Also due in court is Rachel French from Braintree for littering public land by throwing rubbish onto a playing field behind her property.

ENDS

For more press information or inquiries contact Colin Batchelor, Principal Environmental Health Officer, Environmental Services, Braintree District Council, on 01376 552525 ext 2119.

Issued by Braintree DC PR August 15 2006.

MEMBERS' FOCUS

News

Plenty to do in Braintree District

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From now until the 1st of September there are over forty five activities for children in the Braintree District. From Steeple Bumpstead in the North to Rivenhall in the South, there are sports, arts and crafts days to enjoy during the long summer holidays.

Next week children can explore their creative side during 'clay week' at Braintree Museum where they can make tiles, Toby jugs and tea-lights. All through August there are different activities on offer; children can discover the excitement of the Vikings in history week, make their own puppet in performing arts week or learn the fascinating skill of origami during craft week. The sessions run from 10.30am to 12.30 and from 1pm to 3pm, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Each session costs £4.50. For details and to book call the Museum in Manor Street on 01376 325266.

The Activity Days team will be visiting Gt. Maplestead, Gestingthorpe, Wethersfield, Steeple Bumpstead and Stisted next week. Children aged 5 – 11 can have fun in team games, art and crafts, circus skills and for any budding pop stars there is also a karaoke machine! The Activity Days run from 10.30am to 3.30pm, Monday to Friday and cost £5.00 per child. Residents can book a place, or get more information by calling Braintree District Council Customer Service Centre on 01376 552525.

For sports fans there are Athletic, Basketball and Cricket day camps offering a mixture of coaching and fun. The camps run from 10am to 3 or 4 pm and cost £14 per day. Residents can find out more or book a place by calling Customer Service Centre on 01376 552525

Cabinet Member for Public Protection and Healthy Living, Councillor Wendy Schmitt said, "There should be something to suit everyone in the variety of activities on offer. The children can have great fun and enjoy learning new skills at these value for money services."

ENDS

For more press information contact: Anne Proudfoot, PR Section, 01376 557752

Issued by: Braintree DC PR 4 August 2006

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 C M Cheng
Site: 17-19 Manor Street, Braintree
Development: Retrospective application – retention of altered windows and door to front elevation of premises
Application No: 06/00525/FUL
Start Date: 19th July 2006

Appellant: Mr & Mrs M Salmon
Site: 1 Church Cottages, Long Melford Road, Liston
Development: Erection of two storey side extension and alterations
Application No: 06/00798/FUL
Start Date: 1st August 2006

Appellant: Mr R Trinder
Site: 6 Station Road, Sible Hedingham
Development: Provision of new dwelling on part garden
Application No: 05/02378/OUT
Start Date: 2nd August 2006

INFORMATION: APPEAL DECISIONS

Appellant: Dr P Mayo
Site: 1 Old Fox Cottages, Church End, Shalford
Development: Erection of one and a half storey side and rear extension, single storey rear extension, porch and detached garage.
Application No: 05/01661/FUL
Decision and Date: DISMISSED - 27th July 2006

Appellant: Friends of The Great Notley Church
Site: New Church, Priory Lane, Great Notley
Development: Proposed erection of new church building
Application No: 04/01889/FUL & 05/00780/FUL
Decision and Date: DISMISSED – 31st July 2006

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Appellant: Mr B Oliver
Site: Land rear of 9 Recreation Ground, Sible Hedingham
Development: Erection of detached two bedroom bungalow
Application No: 04/02082/FUL & 05/00680/FUL
Decision and Date: DISMISSED – 31/7/2006

Appellant: Austin Electrical
Site: Land off Monks Road, Earls Colne
Development: Proposed change of use of part of building to offices
Application No: 05/00667/COU
Decision and Date: ALLOWED – 31/7/2006

Appellant:
Site:
Development
Application No:
Decision and Date:

MEMBERS' FOCUS

AREA: The Whole District

CORPORATE THEME HEADING:

SUBJECT: Scrutiny Panel Investigation	CONTACT OFFICER: Steve Bore or Linda Morgan
TEL/EMAIL No.: 01376 552525 Ext 2003	BACKGROUND PAPERS: Full report available upon request
INFORMATION:	
<u>The Process of Allocation of New Digital Hearing Aids in the Braintree District Area</u>	
<p>Our Scrutiny Committee has recently completed a review under powers delegated by the County Council's Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee as part of a pilot initiative – the first of it's kind in Essex.</p>	
<p>Scrutiny Panel members heard evidence from Audiology specialists at the Mid Essex Hospital Services NHS Trust and the Essex Rivers Health Care NHS Trusts, from whom the Halstead, Witham and Braintree PCT commission services for residents of the District.</p>	
<p>Members of the public also contributed to the debate in the form of written responses to an advertisement in the local press. In addition, a member of the Patient and Public Involvement Forum, a resident of Kelvedon, attended the hearing to listen to the evidence and participate in the debate.</p>	
<p>The Panel have made the following recommendations to Essex County Council's Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee:</p>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Patients should be advised at the outset of the current waiting times for each stage of the process for applying for a digital hearing aid.	
<p>If, subsequently, the waiting times increase significantly patients should be advised of the revised waiting times;</p>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none">2. Given that the recruitment of audiology staff is one of the major difficulties facing Audiology Departments in achieving the 'Modernising Hearing Aids Service' programme, the further use of locum staff and private sector providers should be considered if pressures on the waiting list increase;	
<ol style="list-style-type: none">3. As part of the Action Plan for increasing capacity and reducing waiting times, the respective NHS Trusts should set down a specific target to reduce waiting times significantly before 2010.	
<p>The target should be adjusted as necessary if, in future, national standards in waiting times for hearing aid services are laid down by the Department of Health;</p>	

MEMBERS' FOCUS

4. The resources allocated to the Audiology Departments at the respective Trusts should be kept under close review to ensure that those departments are properly resourced to provide a high quality service to patients;
5. Given the continual advances in technology, the positive feedback received from patients on the improvement in quality of life and the likely increase in demand, we would like to see service models and clinic management regularly reviewed to see if there are smarter ways of getting things done, whilst continuing to ensure that the patient remains at the centre of the service;
6. The audiology profession should be promoted at a national and local level as a worthwhile career to pursue within the NHS with a view to helping to address current recruitment difficulties. We welcome the profession being degree based as a positive step, but in view of the capacity problems in the service there should be flexibility in the training and education process to include part time, distance and modular learning;
7. Whilst we note that the RNID and the Institute of Hearing Research are looking to the future development of a national computerised Audiology system, the technical difficulties and training issues identified with the existing computerised Patient Management System used by the respective Trusts need to be addressed to ensure that audiology staff are in a position to make the best use of the current system and that they have an input into its development.

MEMBERS' FOCUS

AREA: PUBLIC PROTECTION & HEALTHY LIVING - Community Safety and Development

CORPORATE THEME HEADING: Meeting Community Needs

SUBJECT: Trickster the Musical	CONTACT OFFICER: Tony MacDonald
TEL/EMAIL No.: Ext 2356	BACKGROUND PAPERS:
August 2006	
INFORMATION:	
<p>Essex County Council Trading Standards have informed us of an excellent new scheme being piloted by themselves to tackle bogus callers and distraction burglaries. 'Trickster the Musical' is a musical theatre production by the Solomon Theatre Group and a preview is available from: www.trickster-musical.co.uk. Trading Standards have organised a day with Tendring Council and we have been approached to see whether we would be interested in arranging for a group of pensioners to visit the Princes Theatre in Clacton on 19th September to see the play.</p>	
<p>A Cast of three professional actors present this musical and energetic live story-telling event. George is an elderly gentleman who has become the victim of a distraction burglar. Once a proud soldier, we follow George as he battles with being conned and beats the bogus callers.</p>	
<p>We need 50 people to fill a coach for a fun morning out. To cover the cost of the coach we would be asking for £4.50 per head. Admission to the theatre to watch the play, light refreshments and a sing song afterwards is free. The coach would leave Braintree at 8.30am and return by 3.00pm.</p>	
<p>Fliers and posters have been prepared and are being distributed inviting pensioners to express their interest in attending the event. If we get enough interest and the day is a success we may enter into negotiations with Trading Standards to run a similar event in the district. Any interested person should contact Tony MacDonald on 01376 551414 by 25th August to book a place.</p>	
Prepared by: Tony MacDonald, Community Safety & Development Officer ext 2356	