

BRAINTREE LOCAL COMMITTEE
Local Committee Budget and Priorities 2009-2010 and The results of the
Consultation Event 29 Sept 2009.

Portfolio Area: Customers and Communication
Report Presented by: Kitty Barrett – Locality and Rural Co-ordinator

Background Papers: “Local Committee Funding Priorities Report” to Local Committees
Corporate Implications: Please refer to table at end of report
Options: To approve or not approve the process for assessing Business Cases for Local Priorities, Action Plan and the allocation of Local Committee Budget for 2009/ 2010.
To consider the results of the consultation event held on 15th Sept 2009. To agree or not agree the proposals for taking forward views and ideas for 2010/2011 and beyond.
Risks: None Identified

Executive Summary

This report considers the Local Priorities for the Braintree Local Committee Area. It is divided into three sections.

Section A - Local Committee Budget

This provides a summary of the allocation of funding as of 9 October 2009

Section B - Action Plan for the Local Priorities for 2009-2010.

This section provides a background of when the action plan was agreed in principle and considers the process for assessing the projects within the action plan.(see Appendix A). The report outlines proposals for nominating a sub group and delegating authorisation for assessing the projects.

Section C - The Consultation event which was held on the 29th September

This is a summary of the Consultation event which was held on the 29th September at Causeway House in place of the usual meeting of the Braintree Local Committee. It explains the activities and identifies the resulting priorities together with potential ideas/solutions. A full report of all comments and views for each activity has also been included in Appendix B and C.

Further consultation opportunities have been considered as well as how the views and ideas resulting from the consultation event are to be taken forward. It includes a proposal that the Committee considers the results of the full consultation and that an annual programme is developed to include topics for debate around the priorities identified at the event.

Decision

Section A - To note the financial summary

Section B - Proposal for Assessing Business Cases

a) That a sub-group should be formed to assess all business cases submitted and be given the authority to approve the release of funding accordingly.

b) That the sub group should have a membership which includes the Chairman
The Vice Chairman and three additional members of the Braintree committee should be nominated

c) That all business cases will be assessed in one session at a meeting in early December to ensure that the approved projects can be allocated the funding from this financial year.

Section C - Taking forward views and ideas

Proposal;-

d) That the Committee considers the priorities in Appendix C and agree which they wish to include in a programme for developing further on behalf of the community

e) That the Committee makes representation to the LSP for those proposals that do not relate to BDC services.

f) That the Committee recommends to Cabinet Dec 7th those proposals they wish to take forward in 2010/11 that do relate to services provided by BDC in order that the recommendations of the Committee are taken into account in the budget process.

Local Committee Budget and Priorities 2009-2010 and The results of the Consultation Event 29 Sept 2009.

1. Introduction

This report considers the Local Priorities for the Braintree Local Committee Area. It is divided into three sections.

- Section A - Local Committee Budget
- Section B - Action Plan for the Local Priorities for 2009-2010
- Section C - The Consultation event which was held on the 29th September

SECTION A- LOCAL COMMITTEE BUDGET

2 Summary of Funding to date

Braintree Local Committee Funding - as at 8th Oct 2009

	Capital	Revenue	Total
Budget 2009/10			
2008/09 b/fwd	46,240.00	60,450.85	106,690.85
2009/10 approved	65,000.00	26,000.00	91,000.00
Total	111,240.00	86,450.85	197,690.85
Applications Approved	54,487.85	15,430.92	69,918.77
Spend to Date	2,426.50	7,117.64	9,544.14
Unspent Commitments	52,061.35	8,313.28	60,374.63
Budget Remaining 09/10	56,752.15	71,019.93	137,316.22

Decision: Members are asked to note the financial summary as of 8th October 2009.

SECTION B - ACTION PLAN FOR THE LOCAL PRIORITIES FOR 2009-2010

3 - Background

On 1st July 2009 a special meeting of Braintree Local Committee was held to identify priorities, develop an Action Plan and allocate the Committee's budget for 2009/10.

At the meeting held on 14th July 2009 Members agreed an Action Plan in principle, but considered that specific funding should not be allocated until detailed costs had been calculated for each potential project. At this same meeting a lead Member was appointed for each project contained in the Action Plan. (See Appendix A)

4 Process for assessing the projects

4.1 Business Cases

To ensure that each potential project has been carefully considered and accurately costed it was agreed that a business case needed to be completed by Members who are leading on projects and submitted for assessment before releasing funds. The template for developing a business case has been distributed to all Members of the Committee for completion.

Proposal for Assessing Business Cases

Proposal – That a sub-group should be formed to assess all business cases submitted and be given the authority to approve the release of funding accordingly.

That the sub group should have a membership which includes the Chairman
The Vice Chairman and three additional members of the Braintree Committee should be nominated.

That all business cases will be assessed in one session at a meeting which should take place in early December to ensure that the recommendations can be taken to the January meeting for final approval.

4.2 Allocating the Funds

Where the work is to be carried out by the community or volunteers it will be necessary to ensure that the group has formed a constitution and holds a bank account before payment of any funds. It will also be helpful to be informed of the number of voluntary hours taken to complete the project as an indicator of the value of community involvement

4.3 Monitoring

The lead member will monitor the project until its completion, evaluate the expected outcomes and benefits and provide an update for the Local Committee.

SECTION C – THE CONSULTATION EVENT HELD ON THE 29TH SEPTEMBER

5. Introduction

This is a summary of the Consultation event which was held on the 29th September at Causeway House in place of the usual meeting of the Braintree Local Committee.

At this event members of the Local Committee were joined by local representatives from community groups, public service providers, and local people to discuss what was needed to make the area a better place to live.

A short DVD was shown about the local area. It also gave a flavour of how supportive people were in the community and what a difference some of the projects supported by the local committee has made to some peoples lives.

The evening involved facilitated group discussions and activities and voting opportunities to influence which of the issues and ideas for projects should be considered a priority for the local area.

6. Methodology - Link with the CAA and the Place Survey

A Place Survey was held in 2008 to capture local people's views and perceptions about services as part of the Council's performance framework. The first activity at the consultation event was based on the question in the Place Survey which was concerning local priorities to determine the top 5 most important factors in making somewhere a good place to live. (For an extract of the results of the Place Survey for Braintree please see Appendix D)

The Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) examines how effectively local public services are performing, and how well they are working together, to meet the needs of local people. The questions that were used in the remaining activities were based on the some of those questions that the CAA are focusing on. These were:

- How Safe is this area
- How Healthy and well supported are people
- How Well Kept and environmentally sustainable is the area
- How Strong and Cohesive are local Communities
- How Strong is the Local Economy

7 The Results of the activities

The evenings activities began with groups discussing what they felt were the most important factors that made an area a good place to live. The top 5 factors identified were:-

- Job Prospects
- Parks and Open Spaces
- Activities for Teenagers
- Affordable Decent Housing
- Health Services

Then building upon this, people were asked what was needed to make Braintree Locality, a better place. By working in groups, 5 key priorities emerged:-

- Anti-social behaviour
- Transport
- Town Improvements
- Open spaces
- Obesity`

Ideas on how the priorities could be tackled were also discussed and the top Potential /Actions/Projects can be seen in the box below.

Priority	Potential Actions
Anti-social behaviour	1. Local Youth Forum. 2. Under 18 nights; local young bands and tribute acts. 3. Joint engagement event with young people and other sections of the community.
Transport	1. Increase / extend community transport 2. A120 dualling 3. Railway line to Stansted 4. Passing loop on Braintree Branch line
Town Improvements	1 Bulb and tree planting in open spaces and provision of seating 2 Pedestrianise the High Street and provide parking at the top end (in the meantime, improve enforcement of traffic regulations) 3 Improve appearance of street scene; remove A frames, remove graffiti, and repair pavements and roads
Open spaces	1. Protect open spaces for current uses

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Improve facilities on existing open spaces; need not be high cost, low maintenance preferred (Football posts, kick walls, basketball hoops) 3. Improve access to open spaces through a cycle network 4. Tree and shrub planting at strategic sites and open spaces (e.g. Beckers Green)
Obesity	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Healthy lifestyle education for parents and children 2. Access to subsidised sports facilities 3. Resources for allotments projects in schools

For the full results of the consultation please see Appendix B and C

8 Taking forward views and ideas

All of the views expressed during the evening are being collated and will be fed into the service consultation process that the Council has started.

Those views and ideas that have been discussed that do not relate to services provided by Braintree District Council will be shared with our Partner organisations through the Local Strategic Partnership.

9 Proposals for works programme

In these austere times, we are having to develop a culture of thrift and it is even more important to work together in partnership to develop efficient and effective ways to meet those carefully selected priorities.

Therefore many of the views and ideas will require further discussion with partner organisations and interested members of the public before they can be developed. The results of the Place Survey held in 2008 for both the Braintree Urban Area and Braintree Rural Area may also be usefully taken into account. Some of the possible priorities and proposals need to be discussed and considered with the knowledge of what is already happening and or what could be undertaken in partnership, by communities or by single organisations.

A way forward is that the Committee considers the results of the full consultation and that a 1 or 2 year Programme is developed to include topics for debate. This will enable people and partner organisations to participate and help inform and influence decision making when developing effective and efficient solutions.

The final decision on what will be taken forward as projects for 2010/11 will be made in February 2010.

Proposal;- that the Committee considers the priorities in Appendix C and agree which they wish to include in a programme for developing further on behalf of the community.

That the Committee makes representation to the LSP for those proposals that do not relate to BDC services.

That the Committee recommends to Cabinet Dec 7th those proposals they wish to take forward in 2010/11 that do relate to services provided by BDC in order that the recommendations of the committee are taken into account in the budget process.

10. Further consultation opportunities

Members may recall at the meeting on July 14th Councillor Simon Walsh was appointed to represent Braintree Local Committee on the Focus Group which will consider appropriate ways of involving people in the work of the Local Committees.

It was agreed that holding a consultation event or Local Committee Meeting was only one method of engaging with local people. Many other methods may be considered that could be as successful in reaching different people who will have different needs and preferred ways to participate and respond.

Some of the methods

- Focus Groups
- Surveys
- Attending Fetes
- Coffee Mornings
- Walkabouts
- Peoples Panels
- User Groups
- Drop in Sessions at different locations
- Thematic workshops
- Exhibitions/events
- Activity events
- The Social Network i.e. Face book, Blogs
- Electronic Voting
- Online
- Texting
- Phone Surveys
- Face to face
- Youth Clubs
- Youth Councils
- Schools
- Road shows

This sub group will be meeting in the New Year to consider appropriate ways of involving people in the work of the Local Committees.

Corporate Implications	
Financial:	None Identified
Legal:	There are None
Equalities & Diversity:	There are none
Customer Impact:	An Opportunity to be involved with the work of the Local Committees
Environment & Climate Change:	There are none
Consultation/Community Engagement:	Local Committees Partners, Public and Staff
Key Decision:	No
Public/Private Report:	Public
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APPENDIX A
BRAINTREE LOCAL COMMITTEE – PRIORITIES FOR 2009- 2010 – Draft Action plan

Living Landscape					
Estimated Capital (£)	Estimated Revenue (£)	Proposed Project (& number of votes)	Benefits	Proposing Ward / Sub-Committee	Lead member
28,500	1,700	3 tree planting schemes in Braintree Town Centre; in Pierrefitte Way, Little Square and Bank Street (10)	Improved environmental quality of open spaces in the town	Living Landscape sub-committee	Braintree Living Landscape Sub Group Chair Cllr Wendy Schmitt and Vice Chair, Cllr Eric Lynch
	1,500	Coppice an area of overgrown hazel in woodland at Marks Farm (6)	Improvement of structural diversity; dormouse habitat. Local Involvement	Bocking Blackwater	
5,000		Improvement to and management of Glebe wood by newly formed 'friends' group (3)	Wood more accessible and attractive; new wildlife habitat. Local involvement	Bocking North	
	1,000	Attention to 'The Copse' at Tapestry Walk, Beckers Green. Clearance of ditch and overgrown areas.	Improve appearance of area. Create a safe place for children to play.	Braintree East	
Community Facilities and Civic Pride					
Estimated Capital (£)	Estimated Revenue (£)	Proposed Project (& number of votes)	Benefits	Proposing Ward / Sub - Committee	Lead member
1,000		'Gates' and speed signage at entrance to Great Saling (6)	Speed reduction. The gates act as a visual guide for drivers to slow down.	Panfield	Cllr Tim Wilkinson
	10,000	Promotion of the arts activities in the Braintree locality (6)	Co-ordination of arts activity	Braintree East	Cllr Tim Wilkinson
	6,000	Feasibility study to extend Great Notley Community Centre (5)	Gather views on need for and use of a pavilion, parish office and store	Great Notley	Cllr Graham Butland
	5,000	Feasibility study on provision of additional outdoor sports facilities (3)	Improved health and increased community involvement	Rayne	Cllr Mike Banthorpe
33,000		Surfacing and repair work to the car park at the rear of Marks Farm community hall and adjoining open space (1)	Improved drainage and appearance.	Braintree East	Cllr Eric Linch

Engagement with and activities for young people					
Estimated Capital (£)	Estimated Revenue (£)	Proposed Project (& number of votes)	Benefits	Proposing Ward / Sub - Committee	Lead member
	7,900	Employment of a Modern Apprentice to work with young people in the area (5)	Increased interest in local democracy and involvement of young people in decision making	Braintree Local Committee	Cllr Simon Walsh
Fund for other identified projects					
Estimated Capital (£)	Estimated Revenue (£)	Proposed Project	Benefits	Proposing Ward / Sub - Committee	Lead member
22,919	46,233	Fund for projects developed to meet other local priorities (see grid below)	A fund responsive to local need and emerging priorities		n/a

90,419 79,333 Total Action Plan

Other potential projects to be developed

Estimated Capital (£)	Estimated Revenue (£)	Proposed Project (& number of votes)	Benefits	Proposing Ward / Sub - Committee	Lead member
8,000		Outdoor gyms (cost £8,000 each) on recreational land in villages	Access to outdoor fitness equipment; healthy lifestyles	Panfield	Cllr Tim Wilkinson
15,000 (with volunteer labour)		Replacement of boardwalk in woodland and Marks Farm with non slip surface and hand rails NB Contractor cost £45,000	Improved access to woodland and increased usage	Bocking Blackwater	Cllr Wendy Schmitt
44,000		Repair to paths around Bradford Meadows open space	Improved safety	Bocking South	Cllr Baugh
2,000		A community notice board on Fairview Estate	Local information	Bocking Blackwater	Cllr Edey
25,000		Contribution towards extension of village hall in Rayne to provide sports changing facilities	Increased usage by groups	Rayne	Cllr M Banthorpe
125,000		Suitable car parking provision for the Village Hall and Old School Room in Rayne	Reduced on street parking to improved sight lines and safety	Rayne	Cllr Banthorpe
2,000		Phased programme of tree planting and upgrade of facilities at Sporting 77 and BMX track	Improved sports facilities and their appearance	Bocking North	Cllr T Everard

	500	To Decorate the Scout Hut at Finchingfield	Improved scouts facilities/appearance.	Three Fields	Cllr Finbow
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Commitments for subsequent years associated with the above projects:

Estimated Capital (£)	Estimated Revenue (£)	Proposed Project	Year
	8,216	Employment of a Modern Apprentice to work with young people in the area	2010/11
	1,700	3 tree planting schemes in Braintree Town Centre; in Pierrefitte Way, Little Square and Bank Street	2010/11
	1,700	3 tree planting schemes in Braintree Town Centre; in Pierrefitte Way, Little Square and Bank Street	2011/12

How safe is this area?	
Anti-social behaviour (20)	Policing (4)
Lack of facilities for young people Drop in centre only runs in winter in Great Notley Lack of funding for youth diversion (is too much money going into other ASB initiatives?) Teenage shelter (not in my backyard) Need a youth in Braintree (car park with a burger van!) Large numbers of youths on the street Intimidation Group culture Very few 'stranger' crimes Gangs from London 'no go' areas Manor Street closure of club Education of parents Lack of respect Lack of understanding between generations Stronger links with schools needed Vandalism / graffiti Domestic violence Drugs (Great Notley) Bikes Alcohol related (not always) Easy access to alcohol at supermarkets Change of licensing laws To what extent can people defend themselves?	It is a safe area 40% reduction in violent crime but public perception does not reflect this Perceptions of safety – perception isn't the same as reality Local papers make it worse – scare mongering Not just a perception, intimidation and harassment are real if happening to you Perceptions that it is worse in Braintree Town Lack of visibility Lack of response (sometimes) PCSOs – are there enough? Do they make people feel safer? Police get tied up with paperwork
Street lighting (2)	Fire
Parks should be better lit Is more required? Stisted needs more. Nobody wants it in Panfield	Need fire alarms for vulnerable groups Overall reduction in number of fires through community safety initiatives
Rural areas	
Thefts from farms	

Note: The numbers in brackets are the numbers of votes they received

How well kept is this area?	
Town Improvements (16)	Roads and pavements (15)
<p>Appearance has impact on tourism Empty shops in town Empty shops could be used as charity shops or by art groups for displays Make boarded shops look better with a graffiti project Town Centre manager needed Improve the appearance of the Market; co-ordinate like in Norwich Need more planting schemes; trees and flowers Entrances to town could be more inviting Lack of public toilets</p>	<p>Pavements in disrepair, cracked and weeds Hedges not cut back enough Pot holes in roads Parking on pavements and verges Confusion over responsibility, ECC, BDC, Greenfields</p>
Cleanliness (8)	Open Countryside
<p>Education vs. enforcement Greater enforcement needed re god fouling Dog waste bins not emptied enough Lack of dog waste bins Graffiti generally cleaned off quickly Some graffiti hot spots e.g. bus station, flitch way bridge, rail station Litter and cigarette butts Chewing gum Market leaves litter, not removed until 5pm Fast food outlet cartons Super market trolleys dumped Clean Team is good; good response; need to maintain standards Wheelie bins spoil the look of towns and villages (black sacks break)</p>	<p>Well maintained Beautiful rural areas Friends of Bocking Blackwater do a very good job with river clearance Who does river clearance if volunteers don't? Mowers cutting verges and grassed areas; cost to parishes Better maintenance of spinneys</p>

Note: The numbers in brackets are the numbers of votes they received

How environmentally sustainable is this area?	
Open Spaces (23)	Transport (8)
Pressure from house building Need to protect open spaces New developments need more green space; improve standards Some areas very sensitive Insufficient woodland No amenities can be developed as lack of space Have to pay for parking at Notley Country Park Need safe cycle tracks to open spaces No encouragement for cycle parking Need sustainable planting schemes	Stansted expansion and second runway – creates noise; creates jobs! High level of out commuting from Braintree area We have the longest journeys to work in the county Disparity of public transport services Traffic congestion and pollution A120 and Braintree by-pass Traffic volumes / journeys related to airport (partially)
Renewable Energy (3)	Housing (2)
Food energy plant Incinerator proposes CHP (Combined heat and power) Can we trust where our waste goes at present? Rubbish needs to go somewhere Incinerator issue relates to its size / scale Incinerator pollution	Age of most housing stock is unsustainable Energy standards need to be enforced by planning
Water Extraction (1)	Climate change
Not enough supply for domestic and agricultural	What are the council's mitigation measures?
Recycling	Energy efficiency
High levels Food waste service has smell and health issues Summer collections not frequent enough Glass collection and textiles not at kerbside Dates not always clear on collection	Insulation and low energy light bulbs widely available

Note: The numbers in brackets are the numbers of votes they received

How healthy and well supported are people?	
Obesity (10)	Older People (6)
Free swimming for teenagers Not enough sports activities Gyms and leisure centres expensive We have more sedentary lifestyles Eating too much 'takeaway' food Educate people about the need for exercise and activity Too much time in front of a computer Health walks / Walks for well being are good Children don't walk to school Adults driving short distances Need to cycle more	Need affordable old people's homes Sell own home; savings used to pay for place in homes
Mental health (3)	GP provision
Need more staff to deal with the number of cases Social service needs to improve Advisory services provided by CAB reduce stress etc	Access to doctors very good Difficult to get doctors appointments NHS providing health training sessions Primary care – more work to do with charter Isolated in rural area because of lack of transport

Note: The numbers in brackets are the numbers of votes they received

How strong is the local economy?	
Attracting new employers (15)	Improving skills (10)
Unemployment not as bad as in some other areas Strong retail and leisure sectors Lack of high paid jobs in this area Low paid work dominates – lack of career opportunities Need a strategy to attract manufacturing Induce hi-tech businesses More local jobs needed Need larger employers Biggest employers are local authorities and health service Think big!	Support for small businesses (6)
Tourism (10)	Support for small businesses (6)
Tourism benefits of Stansted airport and the Olympics Limited number of tourist attractions Lack of quality hotel accommodation Potential for tourism not fully realised Lacking venues for arts and drama	We have a lot of small businesses employing a few people each High business rates – small businesses need more support Small businesses haven't experienced the worst of the recession yet
Stansted / Olympics (5)	Transport links (5)
Need to take advantage of Stansted airport Make better use of Olympics opportunities	Better transport links needed Crucial to dual the A120 Improve rail service – Braintree loop
Rural areas (1)	Business Parks (1)
Poor access to broadband Restrictive rural planning policy Need diversification in rural areas Loss of jobs on large sites e.g. Premdor	Ageing stock of business units Need for new business park and regeneration of existing ones More use of Skyway Park

Note: The numbers in brackets are the numbers of votes they received

How strong and cohesive are local communities?

Volunteering (9)	Community spirit and sense of belonging (9)
<p>Societal issues; lack of willingness to volunteer Need more individual action; people to join in Age levels of volunteers is increasing Age 60+ are the mainstay The same people volunteer for lots of things Have had an influx of young volunteers People's work and lifestyles can be a barrier to them volunteering People work long hours How do we encourage volunteers?</p>	<p>People identify better with small areas Some people like to belong to community groups Villages are more likely to 'self help' rather than expecting the council to do everything Better spirit where community is settled. Generally better community spirit in villages High income wealthy areas do not necessarily have strong communities There is a lot of out commuting and people identify with other places A lot of the area is commuter towns and villages – people are not here to create a community Migration, lots of new people or rapid turnover makes communities unsettled Everyone used to know everyone! New housing has brought influx of new people Lots of housing development in Braintree in last 10 years It takes a while for habits to form and to identify with a new place Young people have less sense of community (their communities are virtual e.g. facebook) Actions of the individual is what determines community spirit and cohesion People can't be made to belong More ethnic groups in the area. Need integration Demise of the church is a factor; Christian communities are no longer focused around the church (unlike Muslim communities) Street pastors Quality of the environment and public space affects community pride Young people will not necessarily identify with their nearest town as there are many accessible options Everyday incidents can cause frictions within a community e.g. parking across drives, loud parties Big contentious issues can bring communities together against a common enemy e.g. proposed incinerator</p>

Communication (3)	Local services (2)
<p>Need to develop on line communication so more information is available Internet can prevent face to face interaction; people don't talk anymore Young people are part of virtual communities e.g. facebook and twitter but don't know their neighbours Facebook is a strong community Some young people don't know how to hold a conversation</p>	<p>Village / community halls are important centres for services and activities Shops and PO are a focal point for communities Village hall hire costs need to be affordable Halls may need funding to keep charges down and still maintain the building Lack of community halls / centres in Braintree Town Hall closed has not been replaced</p>
Housing (2)	Fear of crime (1)
<p>Lack of care homes in villages; older residents have to move away from friends and family Young people can't afford to stay in villages</p>	<p>Older people will not go out in the dark to take part in activities Perception of crime and safety issues Visibility of police and street pastors</p>
Leadership and representation (1)	Events
<p>People need a voice or to feel represented Need to feel that opinion is valued Inclusion in local governance Parish council has a role in generating community cohesion Church has a role in leadership and governance Churches have a strong voice in Braintree Some people feel they have no input into council decisions</p>	<p>Local events important for community cohesion Have found good support for events Need media support Word of mouth publicity also important Need to consider timing of events</p>

Note: The numbers in brackets are the numbers of votes they received

Jan Cole, 30th September 2009

BRAINTREE LOCAL COMMITTEE – GOING LOCAL CONSULTATION EVENT 2009

NOTE:

Items in **bold** are the preferred 4 projects / actions (as you will see in some cases there were not 4 preferred projects)

Items in *italics* relate to services not delivered by Braintree District Council

Priority: Anti-social behaviour

	Rural	Both	Urban
2010/11		<p>1. Local Youth Forum.</p> <p>2. Under 18 nights; local young bands and tribute acts.</p> <p>3. Joint engagement event with young people and other sections of the community.</p> <p>More youth clubs and organised youth activity like the respect project.</p> <p>More healthy sports activity.</p>	
Future	<i>Increased police presence in rural areas</i>	<p><i>Community learning centre to develop employability skills.</i></p> <p>More community centre ‘spaces’ for young people.</p>	<p>Large purpose built drop in centre for young people in Braintree Town</p> <p>Review licenses and enforce licensing issues</p>

District wide actions:

Go back to 11pm closing

More carefully planned residential areas

Young firefighters scheme

Firebreak scheme

Full scale support for police in crackdown on ASB

Identification of ‘offenders’

Roadrunner

Genuine pressure on parents of troublemakers

Disagreed actions:

Priority: Transport

	Rural	Both	Urban
2010/11		1. Increase / extend community transport Encourage more volunteer drivers Run MIDAS courses at the weekends Encourage rural communities to set up their own community transport schemes (like Coggeshall)	
Future		2. A120 dualling 3. Railway line to Stansted 4. Passing loop on Braintree Branch line	

District wide actions:

Disagreed actions:

Priority: Town Improvements

	Rural	Both	Urban
2010/11			<p>1 Bulb and tree planting in open spaces and provision of seating 2 Pedestrianise the High Street and provide parking at the top end (in the meantime, improve enforcement of traffic regulations) 3 Improve appearance of street scene; remove A frames, remove graffiti, and repair pavements and roads</p> <p>Encourage businesses to fill empty shops (work with Town Centre Manager) Provide finger post signage to parts of the town to encourage exploration</p>
Future		A120 dualling	<p>Produce an improvement plan for the town to include regeneration project and suggestions listed here Better focus and 'magnets' to encourage wider retail activity Address parking and access issues Provide a youth café / centre Provide an art gallery and theatrical facility of some kind to attract visitors</p>

Disagreed actions:

Priority: Open spaces

	Rural	Both	Urban
2010/11	Support rural communities that have expanded and need more amenity space and facilities	<p>1. Protect open spaces for current uses</p> <p>2. Improve facilities on existing open spaces; need not be high cost, low maintenance preferred (Football posts, kick walls, basketball hoops)</p> <p>3. Improve access to open spaces through a cycle network</p> <p>4. Tree and shrub planting at strategic sites and open spaces (e.g. Beckers Green)</p> <p>Management of open space; keep spinney and copses tidy</p> <p>Support and encourage local groups to protect and enhance public open spaces</p> <p>Provide more tennis courts as centres for activity</p> <p>Multi-use paths for walking, cycling and horses</p> <p>Informal fun activities in parks</p> <p>Well designed play areas</p> <p>More play equipment of exercise type for all ages; outdoor gyms</p> <p>Survey play equipment and replace unsafe equipment</p> <p>Keep some areas 'wild'</p> <p>Establish new local nature reserves</p> <p>Publicise existing local nature reserves and increase access</p> <p>PCs and TCs to come together to fund projects</p> <p>'No ball games signs' can be inhibited</p>	Best kept parks in towns Improve paved open spaces
Future			

District wide actions:

Open spaces considered with the planning and design of all new development
Don't take away well used open spaces and replace with allotments

Priority: Obesity`

	Rural	Both	Urban
2010/11	<p>More transport to sports facilities and activities in evenings and at weekends</p> <p>Take exercise activities out to more remote villages (target those with obesity problems first)</p> <p>Support rural sports initiatives</p>	<p>1. Healthy lifestyle education for parents and children</p> <p>2. Access to subsidised sports facilities</p> <p>3. Resources for allotments projects in schools</p> <p>Officer support for youth sport leagues</p> <p>Provision of allotments for healthy eating and exercise</p> <p>Healthy cooking advice and demonstrations in local restaurants (with celebs)</p> <p><i>Subsidised gym membership or outdoor pursuits</i></p> <p><i>Pupil rewards to walking to school</i></p> <p><i>No parking within xx metres of any school</i></p> <p><i>Greater emphasis on healthy lifestyles in schools</i></p> <p><i>Parents of obese children requested to attend health clinic session to discuss and set out a plan</i></p>	<p>Greater availability of football pitches and training areas in the town</p>
Future		<p><i>Automatic referral by GP for any obese child to a health clinic</i></p> <p><i>Structured fun activity sessions for young people inside and outside school, evenings and weekends</i></p>	<p>Bus visits town centre and takes young people to physical activity sessions</p>

District wide actions:

- Tighter controls on fast food outlets
- Planning to not allow fast food outlets near schools
- Credit vouchers for secondary school pupils for sports activities
- Free access to sports facilities
- Healthy menus for school dinners
- District wide weight loss initiative
- Better signposting to free advice through libraries etc
- Work with NHS on easily accessible health checks for everyone
- Free swimming for secondary school pupils
- GP referrals – ensure access to leisure facilities are low cost or free
- Start education about exercise at an early age

Priority: Obesity`

	Rural	Both	Urban
2010/11	<p>1. Relaxed planning regulations for expansion of rural businesses</p> <p>3. Support new businesses working in rural areas</p> <p>Encourage local farms to become 'tourist attractions'</p>	<p>2. Establish a strategic vision for growth; 'brand' Braintree</p> <p>4. Support start-up businesses; more seedbed starter units, training and advice</p> <p>Become an industry specialist in one field and support that with education and training</p> <p>Investment Programme for tourism (hotels, guest houses, restaurants)</p>	<p>Dedicate resources to attract large, higher salary businesses</p> <p>Look for outside partners (Stansted, Cambridge) to attract employers</p> <p>Improve appearance of industrial estates</p>
Future		<p>Affordable housing for new employers</p>	<p>Investigate creating an investment growth area in Braintree as a low tax, low cost employment zone e.g. Dublin's development area</p> <p>Attract hi-tech employers associated with airline servicing and maintenance through grants and tax incentives</p> <p>More support for school leavers to provide skills</p> <p>Create technology backbone</p> <p>Attract dark data centre environment employer on skyline park</p>

District wide actions:

- Increase the economic funding budget at BDC
- Encourage small businesses with subsidised rent and rates
- Develop incentives through funding and grants

Jan Cole, 30th September 2009

APPENDIX D

Braintree Local Committee November 24th 2009

EXTRACT FROM THE BRAINTREE PLACE SURVEY 2008

Braintree Urban Area
<p>What most needs improving –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Activities for teenagers• Road and pavement repairs• Traffic congestion <p>Critical Areas for Improvements –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Level of crime• Clean streets• Health service <p>Exceptional findings - Best result in the District on respect and consideration.</p> <p>Lowest results in the District on refuse collection, clearance of litter, Local area as place to live, Council providing value for money and being efficient and well run.</p>

Braintree Rural Area
<p>What most needs improving –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Activities for teenagers• Road and pavement repairs• Public transport <p>Critical areas for improvement – No areas highlighted, but concentrate on 'what most needs improving' as they are not critical but scored high in the need to improve.</p> <p>Exceptional findings - Best results in the District on the local area as the place to live, Regular volunteering, Local public services are making things better and Anti-social behaviour not being a problem.</p>