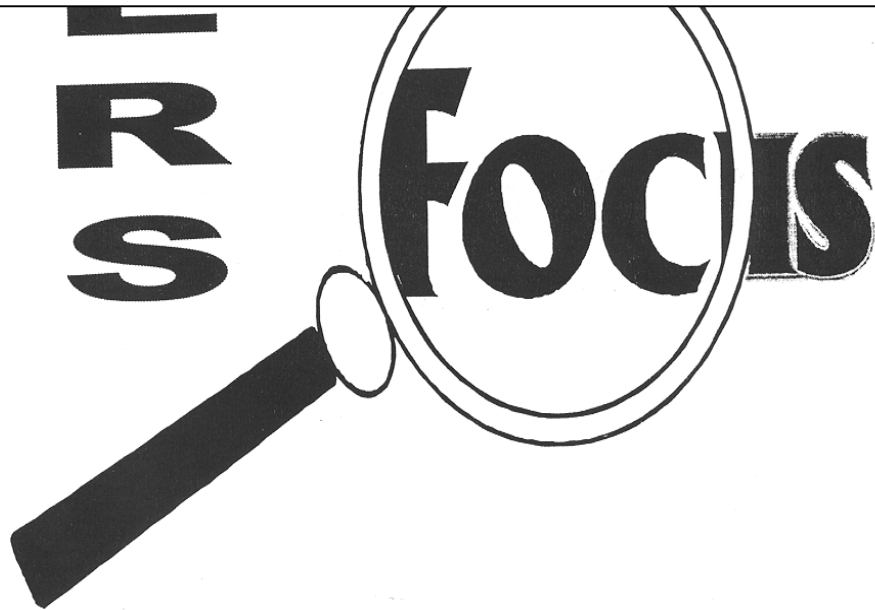


**M  
E  
M**

*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".*

**M  
E  
M  
B  
E  
R  
S**



**Focus**

**May 2007**

# MEMBERS' FOCUS

	<u>Page No</u>
Affordable Housing	2
Braintree Community Safety Roadshow	3
Carbon Management Programme	5
Capital Determinations	7
Crucial Crew	8
Environmental Protection	10
Halstead Community Safety Roadshow	11
News – Boost for Play Areas	13
News – Christian Charity benefits from Election	14
News – Olympic Bid	15
News – Heart and Sole	16
News – Keeping Standards High	17
News – Having Your Say on the Future	18
News – Archaeological Display	19
News – Cutting Carbon and Bills	21
News – Tackling a Sticky Issue	22
News – Tough Measures	23
News – New Visitor Guide	24
PACT Assembly	25
Planning Appeals	26
Scrutiny Bulletin	29
Ward Profiles	32

# MEMBERS' FOCUS

AREA: All

CORPORATE THEME HEADING: A better place to live, work and play

SUBJECT: Affordable Housing Development Update April 2007 (4th qtr)	CONTACT OFFICER: Tim Lucas, David Steel
TEL/EMAIL No.:01376 551414 ext. 2124, 2138 <a href="mailto:timlu@braintree.gov.uk">timlu@braintree.gov.uk</a> <a href="mailto:david.steel@braintree.gov.uk">david.steel@braintree.gov.uk</a>	BACKGROUND PAPERS: None
INFORMATION:	
<b><u>Development Programme Update – 2006/07</u></b>	
<b>Site Acquisitions, New Starts and Completions fourth quarter 2006/07:</b>	
<b><u>Site Acquisitions – 16 units:</u></b>	
<b>Sible Hedingham – Summerfields</b> on site with 13 rental and 3 shared ownership units.	
<b><u>New Starts:</u></b> There were no new starts during period.	
<b><u>Completions 10 units:</u></b>	
<b>Halstead – Abels Road</b> , had 7 rental units and 3 shared ownership units completed during March	
<b><u>New developments currently in progress:</u></b>	
<b>Witham Bridge Hospital:</b> 42 units – rented & shared ownership. Completion expected May 2007.	
<b>Halstead – Abels Road:</b> 1 shared ownership unit started on site February 2007, completion expected June 2007.	
<b>Braintree – Mill Hill:</b> 10 rental units due to be handed over by developers as Section 106 agreement. Handover expected July 2008.	
<b>Halstead – Tidings Hill:</b> 8 rental and 6 shared ownership units started on site in April 2006 and completion expected August 2007.	
<b>Belchamp Water:</b> 4 units for shared ownership started on site in September 2006 and expected to complete October 2007.	
<b>Braintree Bus Garage, Fairfield Road:</b> Started on site in July 2006 with 10 units for shared ownership expected to complete July 2007.	
<b>Witham, Maltings Lane (ML10):</b> Started on site October 2006 with 14 rental and 6 shared units. Expected to complete December 2007.	
<b><u>Housing Corporation funding / RSL funding has been allocated for the following developments with a start on site during this financial year (2006/07):</u></b>	
<b>Braintree, Baily Bridge Road:</b> Redevelopment of 32 x 2 bed flats and incorporating the large allotment site to the rear of existing properties that has now been transferred to RSL. Planning approval has been granted and start on site expected to be May 2007.	
<b>Water Lane, Pebmarsh:</b> Development of 10 rented units, Application for planning approval refused Feb 2007 on grounds of design. Revised application to be submitted May 2007. Start on site now expected to be August 2007.	

May 2007



# MEMBERS' FOCUS

AREA: Community Safety & Development

CORPORATE THEME HEADING: Meeting Community Needs

SUBJECT: Braintree 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: None
<b>INFORMATION:</b>  The second <b>Community Safety Roadshow</b> of this year took place in <b>Braintree on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> April in George Yard</b> , under the band stand in the town centre.  The Roadshow was well received by members of the public 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 and dog warden, 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>❖ Graffiti on bus shelter in London Road. Spray paint and scratches on the shelter.</li><li>❖ Council Tenant concerned about her neighbour that self harms and is in and out of the Linden Centre.</li><li>❖ A profoundly deaf member of the public wanted advice on how to summons the emergency services.</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 Bike Safety (fluorescent wrist bands from the Community Wardens)  <b>Other information/projects:</b>  Reality Roadshow	

May 2007

## **MEMBERS' FOCUS**

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.**

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. 7 under 10's completed the colouring competition and 5 teenagers completed the Teen quiz 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.

**Prepared by Janet Peatling Community Safety & Development Officer**

# MEMBERS' FOCUS

AREA:

CORPORATE THEME HEADING:

SUBJECT: Carbon Management Programme	CONTACT OFFICER: Peter Chisnall
TEL/EMAIL No.:	BACKGROUND PAPERS:
INFORMATION:	
<b><u>Briefing Note – Carbon Trust Local Authority Carbon Management Programme Phase 5</u></b>	
Background	
<p>The Carbon Trust helps business and the public sector cut carbon emissions and supports the development of low carbon technologies.</p> <p>The Carbon Management Programme Consultants help participating Local Authorities with workshops, meetings and other support tailored around a 10 month process guiding through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A systematic analysis of the carbon footprint</li><li>• A calculation of the value at stake and the case for taking action</li><li>• An assessment of opportunities to help manage carbon emissions</li><li>• Development of structured action plans and setting targets for realising carbon savings and embedding carbon management into the day to day business</li></ul>	
<b><u>Benefits to BDC from Involvement</u></b>	
<p>The programme is compatible other BDC Aims, Objectives and Imperatives:</p> <p>Financial Savings, access to external matched funding through Salix, (a Carbon Trust financial investment company)</p> <p>Efficiency and Effectiveness</p> <p>Gershon Review (it identifies cashable savings though some of these are to be used to set up a revolving, sustainable energy fund for implementing improvements)</p> <p>Reputation, Corporate Social Responsibility, Local Government Profile</p> <p>Partnership and joint working,</p> <p>Being an exemplar, getting own house in order</p> <p>Sustainability agenda, Nottingham Declaration, helping to achieve the carbon neutral, public buildings by 2012 aspiration</p> <p>This programme is now in its 5<sup>th</sup> Year. In previous years the Carbon Trust has preferred applications from County Councils, Unitary Authorities and larger public sector organisations with large energy bills and associated carbon emissions. However this year they have encouraged lower tiers of Local Government to</p>	

May 2007

# MEMBERS' FOCUS

apply and this resulted in Braintree, Uttlesford and Colchester making a bid that was successful. We are the first consortium to be involved in the programme and one of 43 organisations in Phase 5.

The programme responds to key drivers and gives significant benefits by:

- Identifying financial savings through managing and reducing energy and fuel bills.
- Meeting regulations by preparing for new legislation
- Raising the profile by being amongst top performing councils
- Leading by example to business and the community.

The programme lasts 10 months starting from now and culminating in a completed Strategy and Implementation Plan endorsed by Senior Management on March 31<sup>st</sup> 2008.

It is intended to limit the scope of the project to the following:

- Direct operational BDC buildings, i.e. not GCH housing stock or leisure facilities
- BDC streetlighting
- Commercial vehicle fuel
- Lease and Casual Car fuel (travel at work)
- Sustainable Procurement
- Waste produced in BDC buildings (i.e. not household waste)

The scope may be widened in future years to cover some of these other issues.

## **Capacity**

It is necessary to have a dedicated project team to work on this programme. However a lot of this work is necessary anyway to comply with the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive and Business Efficiency Reviews. Some is already being undertaken through the Sustainability Officer's Group and the Sustainable Energy Team.

The team is presently being assembled and will cover the following areas:

Finance  
Asset/Facilities Management  
Transport  
Capital Projects  
Environmental Projects  
Waste Management  
Procurement

Peter Chisnall  
Head of Waste Management and Resource Efficiency

# MEMBERS' FOCUS

AREA: CORPORATE

CORPORATE THEME HEADING: EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT

SUBJECT: Capital Determinations 2006/07	CONTACT OFFICER: Steve Tate																		
TEL/EMAIL No.: 01376 551414 Ext.2107 <a href="mailto:steve.tate@braintree.gov.uk">steve.tate@braintree.gov.uk</a>	BACKGROUND PAPERS: Accountancy Closedown Files 2006/07																		
INFORMATION:																			
<p>Part IV of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 requires the Director of Finance to notify Members of the methods used to finance the Authority's capital expenditure and the amounts charged to revenue accounts for repayment of debt. The determinations which follow, have been made by the Director of Finance under delegated authority.</p> <p>Total Expenditure of £19,604,876, has been capitalised and funded as follows:</p> <table><tr><td>Usable Capital Receipts -</td><td>£4,587,552</td></tr><tr><td>Specified Capital Grant -</td><td>£189,000</td></tr><tr><td>Supported Borrowing -</td><td>£300,000</td></tr><tr><td>Unsupported Borrowing -</td><td>£682,000</td></tr><tr><td>Contribution from Third Parties -</td><td>£2,979,286</td></tr><tr><td>Revenue -</td><td>£1,224,706</td></tr><tr><td>Major Repairs Allowance -</td><td>£6,619,818</td></tr><tr><td>Other Reserves -</td><td>£1,768,706</td></tr><tr><td>Contributions from Lottery/other Govt Grants -</td><td>£1,253,808</td></tr></table> <p>Supported borrowing is the notional amount, which attracts financial support from the Government. In practice, for both supported and unsupported borrowing, the Council used its cash balances instead of actually borrowing.</p> <p>The minimum revenue provision (for repayment of external loans) was nil and so nothing was charged to the revenue accounts of the Authority.</p>		Usable Capital Receipts -	£4,587,552	Specified Capital Grant -	£189,000	Supported Borrowing -	£300,000	Unsupported Borrowing -	£682,000	Contribution from Third Parties -	£2,979,286	Revenue -	£1,224,706	Major Repairs Allowance -	£6,619,818	Other Reserves -	£1,768,706	Contributions from Lottery/other Govt Grants -	£1,253,808
Usable Capital Receipts -	£4,587,552																		
Specified Capital Grant -	£189,000																		
Supported Borrowing -	£300,000																		
Unsupported Borrowing -	£682,000																		
Contribution from Third Parties -	£2,979,286																		
Revenue -	£1,224,706																		
Major Repairs Allowance -	£6,619,818																		
Other Reserves -	£1,768,706																		
Contributions from Lottery/other Govt Grants -	£1,253,808																		

# MEMBERS' FOCUS

AREA: Community Safety and Development

CORPORATE THEME HEADING: Helping Children Stay Safe

SUBJECT: Crucial Crew	CONTACT OFFICER: Nikki Brewster
TEL/EMAIL No.: Ext 2316	BACKGROUND PAPERS: None
Date: 10 <sup>th</sup> May 2007	
INFORMATION:	
<p>2007 Braintree District Council will be managing the 14th year for the Crucial Crew project in the Braintree District. Crucial Crew has become well known to all the Primary Schools within the Braintree District and is being held at the Discovery Centre between 04th and 15th June.</p> <p>It is a fun way to prepare children to remain safe in a variety of emergency situations and to be aware of dangers they are likely to encounter as they advance through life. The potential for learning is enhanced by the fact that most of the learning is interactive. They move on every ten minutes from one situation to another and are required to react to the problems they encounter. The aim is that children will leave with a range of easy to remember messages that will prompt and guide them when faced with an emergency. The event also compliments the personal safety work of the children back in the classroom. Various pages on the BDC website have been created to assist teachers with further lessons.</p> <p>To date over 17,700 children including some with special needs have attended, and a further 1,710 places will be available this summer. The teachers inform us that 'Crucial Crew' is one of the most rewarding and successful activities provided for junior school children in Essex. Evaluation has proved the effectiveness of the Crucial Crew event.</p> <p>The project is coordinated here at Braintree District Council with the project's success largely attributable to the excellent partnership between the many agencies that participate. The most recent partner is Greenfield's Community Housing, who is financially supporting part of this year's event.</p> <p>Volunteers play a big part in the event, supporting the set organisers and generally being an extra pair of hands ensuring the children circulate through the different safety messages, keeping to time and ensuring that a supply of useful safety literature and other 'goodies' is taken back to the schools to complement their learning experience.</p> <p>This year's sets are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Shop lifting</li><li>• Smoking</li><li>• Water Safety</li><li>• Who do you know? (Stranger danger)</li><li>• Road Safety</li></ul>	

May 2007

## MEMBERS' FOCUS

- Alcohol awareness (a new set introduced in 2006)
- First Aid
- Bullying
- Fire Safety
- Say Hi to Sam (a new set introduced in 2006 exploring chat room safety)
- Railway Safety

***We are always seeking the assistance of volunteers. If you can spare a few hours, your help would be greatly appreciated! This is one of the few projects managed by Braintree District Council whereby we are able to network and work positively with large numbers of young people from the Braintree District. If you would like to be a part of shaping the future generation – please contact Nikki Brewster (Event Coordinator) on 01376 551414 Ext 2316, at [nikki.brewster@braintree.gov.uk](mailto:nikki.brewster@braintree.gov.uk) or in person (Community Safety & development, First floor, Causeway House)***

# MEMBERS' FOCUS

AREA: Environment

CORPORATE THEME HEADING: Caring for the Environment

SUBJECT: Environmental Protection	CONTACT OFFICER: Keith Jones
TEL/EMAIL :No.Ext 2225 keijo@braintree.gov.uk	BACKGROUND PAPERS: None
<p><b>INFORMATION:</b> On 25<sup>th</sup> January 2007 the Environmental Protection team received a complaint regarding dust from a construction/demolition site in Witham. On investigation the problem was identified as being dust being emitted from a mobile concrete crusher. A machine of this type is required by law to be permitted under the Pollution Prevention and Control Act 1999 by the local authority in which it is based. Enquiries with the contractor suggested that the permit was held elsewhere in one of two other District Council areas. Enquiries by Environmental Protection Officers at Braintree District Council with colleagues at Chelmsford and Brentwood Council revealed that no such permit was in force. A requirement was made that the concrete crusher ceased operation until such time as a permit was obtained, and thereafter-suitable dust suppression was adopted.</p> <p>Joint working between Environmental Protection teams, led to Summons being issued in relation to a charge of no permit for the concrete crusher. On 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2007 the Contractor appeared before Magistrates and was fined £3500 with costs of £337 awarded to the Council.</p> <p>Since this incident the appropriate documentation and has been obtained and the Contractor is now complying with the terms of the permit.</p> <p>This investigation shows the ability of Councils to deal with cross border incidents, and the resolve of the Magistrates Court to give tough sentences for offences of this type.</p>	

# MEMBERS' FOCUS

AREA: Community Safety & Development

CORPORATE THEME HEADING: Meeting Community Needs

SUBJECT: Halstead 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: None
INFORMATION: <p>The third <b>Community Safety Roadshow</b> of this year took place in <b>Halstead on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> April in Halstead Town Centre</b>, near Solar Store.</p> <p>The Roadshow was well received by members of the public visiting throughout the day to peruse over the many displays and information on view.</p> <p>Members of the public were able to raise any concerns with officers from Community Safety, Environmental Services – enforcement and community wardens, 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.</p> <p><b>Topical items of concern included:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❖ A lady who resides in Greenstead Green, Halstead stated that there is a problem with mopeds and mobile phones.</li><li>❖ Two residents one new to the area requested Crime Prevention advice.</li></ul> <p>With emphasis this year on educating members of the public on Community Safety &amp; Anti Social Behaviour issues and raising awareness of intervention and enforcement.</p> <p><b>A broad range of exhibition boards and leaflets covered the following topics:</b></p> <p>Noise Nuisance ABCs ASBOs Dispersal Orders Purse theft (cat bells) Fly tipping Dog fouling Abandoned vehicles Reporting Domestic Violence/Hate Crime Bike Safety (fluorescent wrist bands from the Community Wardens)</p> <p><b>Other information/projects:</b></p> <p>Reality Roadshow Crucial Crew U Matters magazine produced by Essex Children and Young people's Strategic Partnership. Think road safety Anti Bullying alliance report</p>	

May 2007

## **MEMBERS' FOCUS**

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

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. 3 under 10's completed the colouring competition and 1 teenager completed the Teen quiz 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.

**Prepared by Janet Peatling Community Safety & Development Officer**

# MEMBERS' FOCUS

## News

### £320,000 boost for play areas

Page 1 of 2

A £320,000 programme of improvements will see new equipment at eight play areas throughout the Braintree district.

Two schemes have been completed and the others will follow throughout the year. The £40,000 projects will see equipment replaced at existing sites, although in some cases the play areas have already had items removed because of their poor condition.

Residents living nearby will be consulted before a design brief is drawn up at each of the sites. Questions asked include the age groups which need to be catered for, the type of equipment needed and whether it should be put in at the same place or somewhere different on the site.

All the schemes will have two seats and two litter bins, dog-proof fencing with self-closing gates and a safety surface under all the equipment.

Residents' responses will shape the design brief and when suppliers have come up with a variety of schemes residents will be invited to a public meeting to vote for their top three. The one with the most votes will be chosen.

The current schemes are part of a rolling programme to refurbish play areas throughout the Braintree district. It is hoped to complete six a year at a total cost of £240,000.

The two schemes completed so far this year are at Fisher Field off Wellington Close and Riverside open space off St John's Avenue, both in **Braintree**.

Ramsey Road open space in **Halstead** is now being equipped and the project should be completed by May 11.

Other schemes due to be completed this year are at King George V playing field, Meadowside and Stubbs Lane in **Braintree**; Rosebay Close in **Witham** and Kings Road Park in **Halstead**.

**For more press information contact Nick Day on 01376 551414.**

Issued by Braintree DC PR April 24 2007

May 2007

## MEMBERS' FOCUS

# News

## Children benefit from election

Page 1 of 1

Children overseas are to benefit from a by-product of the local elections held in Braintree District.

In an area as large as this it takes a lot of stationery items to make sure each polling station has everything needed but they are not going to waste.

Lesley Wheeler is a supporter of the charity Kidsalive International, through the Cornerstone Church at Black Notley, and she has collected the stationery to give to the youngsters being helped.

First Lesley, and members of the council's electoral team, had the task of sorting through 109 bags – one from each polling station – to salvage anything useable. Pencils, rubbers, scissors, sticky tape and rulers will now be packaged up and sent to the charity, which provides Christian care for children at risk all over the world.

### **ENDS**

For more information contact Steve Phillips on 01376 551414.

Issued by Braintree DC PR 14 May 2007

# MEMBERS' FOCUS

## News

### Olympic bid for council and MOD Police & Guarding Agency

Page 1 of 1

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Photograph** shows: Ch Ex/Ch Con Steve Love and Cllr David Finch sign a new partnership agreement, attended by newly trained MOD police at the Wethersfield HQ of MDPGA.

#### ENDS

**For more press information**, contact:

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

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

Issued by: Braintree DC PR 14 May 2007

May 2007

# MEMBERS' FOCUS

## Heart and Sole

Would you like the chance to relax, unwind, meet new people and get healthier at the same time?

The answer is to go along to the Elizabeth Courtauld Surgery in Factory Lane West in Halstead and start Walking for Well-being.

It is the starting point for two free weekly walks, lasting for about half an hour. They are on Mondays and Thursdays, starting at 10am, and each is headed by an experienced leader.

As well as the good company the walks give people the chance to explore parts of the town which they wouldn't on their own.

The health benefits are that walking is proven to reduce blood pressure and cholesterol; aid weight loss; de-stress and relax; improve stamina and strengthen bones.

For more information ring the Leisure Development Officer on 01376 551414 or email [walking@braintree.gov.uk](mailto:walking@braintree.gov.uk)

Issued 30 April 2007

## MEMBERS' FOCUS

# News

### Keeping standards high

An appeal has gone out for independent people to ensure high standards are maintained at Braintree District Council.

Four people, who are totally independent of the council, are needed to serve on its Standards Committee, which is responsible for promoting and maintaining

high standards of conduct for members and co-opted members of the authority.

As well as the independent members, three district councillors and two representatives of the 52 towns and parish councils in the district sit on the committee.

Applicants have until July 13 to come forward.

Appealing for new members Patrick Dempsey, monitoring officer at Braintree District Council, said: "The council is strongly committed to the promotion and delivery of high standards of conduct in public life. The Standards Committee is key to this. We have arranged for the members who are independent of the council, including the chairman, to be the largest group on the committee, and I both encourage and welcome applications for these important roles."

There is a small allowance, currently £264 a year, and the council will also reimburse travel and subsistence expenses. The committee meets as and when necessary and sometimes at relatively short notice if a local determination hearing is called.

On average, the committee has met four times a year, and this is the number of meetings programmed into the council's timetable but there could be more if it has to deal with a number of hearings.

Experience of dealing with ethical and misconduct issues, serving on an appeal panel, judicial body or similar, and knowledge of local government would all be an advantage, although not essential.

People not eligible are those who have been councillors in the last five years, any current members of the council, active members of a political party, council employees or anyone who is a relative or close friend of a member or officer of the council.

For more information on the role contact Mr Dempsey on 01376 552525, extension 2620. Information packs are available from P J Dempsey, Monitoring Officer, Braintree District Council, Causeway House, Bocking End, Braintree, Essex CM7 9HB. Email: [patrick.dempsey@braintree.gov.uk](mailto:patrick.dempsey@braintree.gov.uk)

**ENDS**

Issued by Braintree DC PR 14 May 2007

# MEMBERS' FOCUS

## News

### Your chance to have a say

Page 1 of 1

Residents are being asked what they want to see at a flagship country park.

Braintree District Council and Essex County Council are working in close partnership to develop an outstanding countryside recreational facility at the Discovery Centre and Great Notley Country Park.

They want to hear residents' views so they can be taken into consideration before proposals are finalised later this month.

They will see the creation of a high-class community country park at Great Notley, combining fun, leisure and learning in an environmentally-friendly facility, which showcases the very best in energy efficiency and conservation.

The county's Field Archaeology Unit would also move to the site, promoting the county's archaeological heritage with visits by schools and the public.

Current proposals include creating and offering adventure play areas; cycle hire to explore the Flich Way; a sensory trail and bistro-style catering.

Improvements and extensions would be made to paths and cycle routes; the access road and car parking; education programmes for all and sports facilities.

The highest possible standards for environmental sustainability will be met in the development.

Views on the plans are needed by May 18 and residents can fill in a questionnaire on the council's website at [www.braintree.gov.uk](http://www.braintree.gov.uk)

Those who respond will have a chance of winning a family ticket for the A Knight's Quest event at Cressing Temple on 27 May and a year's family season ticket.

ENDS

**For more information ring Paul Partridge in 01376 551414.**

Issued by Braintree DC PR 2 May 2007

## MEMBERS' FOCUS



**Bronze Age rings, Viking bullion and a Duke of Norfolk pendant  
New archaeological Treasure at Baintree District Museum**

## Exciting new finds

A group of rare archaeological finds are to go on display at Baintree District Museum, including an intriguing gold fragment with runes from the Anglo-Saxon alphabet, possibly later used as gold bullion by the Vikings.

All were found by metal detectorists in Baintree District, acquired under the 1996 Treasure Act and will be on display from 17<sup>th</sup> May. Most of the finds were bought with grants from the Baintree and Bocking Civic Society and the Friends of Baintree District Museum.

Pictured left to right are:

- ❖ A complete Middle Bronze Age gold ring from Coggeshall, dated to about 1300 – 100 BC. Two c-sectioned gold strips were soldered together along their length and burnished on one side only. The ring has been pulled out, possibly after it was deposited.
- ❖ A late Bronze Age gold penannular ring from Kelvedon, dated to about 1150 – 750 BC. The ring is made from a thin gold sheet wrapped around a base metal core, probably bronze and then decorated with thin bands of gold. Three thousand years ago, gold was very rare and making the ring in this way would have used much smaller amounts of this precious metal. Archaeologists are still unsure about what these objects are although the rings were made with a

# MEMBERS' FOCUS

deliberate gap. They may have been used as body jewellery, hair decorations or buried as religious offerings.

- ❖ An Anglo-Saxon, 9th century gold runic fragment from Kelvedon. The fragment appears to have been chopped at the ends that may show it was used as bullion during Viking activity. The three symbols engraved on both sides are runes from the Anglo-Saxon alphabet or futhorc. The translated letters read ...GDE and TÆ A... and may mean a tie or fastening of a box, case, casket or coffer.
- ❖ A complete Anglo-Saxon, late 9<sup>th</sup> century, silver hooked dress tag from Black Notley. The flower-like pattern is similar to one on the border of the great Anglo-Saxon 'Fuller Brooch', now in the British Museum. Such hooks could be used for leggings, veils and purse fastenings.
- ❖ A late 13<sup>th</sup> or early 14<sup>th</sup> century Medieval silver ring brooch from Gestingthorpe. The rewards for this find were kindly waived by both the finder and landowner.
- ❖ A late 16<sup>th</sup>, early 17<sup>th</sup> century silver pendant from the Witham area. A complete shield shaped pendant with the lion rampant on the front and on the reverse the initials T/NOR/FOC/K. These symbols indicate the arms of the Duke of Norfolk and they may have belonged to Thomas Howard, fourth Duke and second cousin of Queen Elizabeth I, but beheaded by her for conspiring to marry Mary, Queen of Scots. This may mean that an important member of the Duke's household visited the area and lost the pendant probably from a horse harness.
- ❖ A 17<sup>th</sup> century silver buckle from the Witham area. The maker's mark IM has not been identified but a similar mark is dated 1609 - 1610.

❖ **Robert Rose, collections and heritage manager**, is particularly delighted that the display showcases discoveries made by members of the public.

He said: "Finding a piece of archaeology is hugely exciting, as it gives people a direct and meaningful contact with their past. By allowing the Museum to acquire these objects, we can extend that connection with the thousands of visitors who come through the museum door every year and for many years to come. These objects provide a glance into the private lives of people who lived in the District hundreds and thousands of years ago and make those people seem very real."

He added: "We are extremely grateful for the funding from the Friends of Braintree District Museum and the Braintree and Bocking Civic Society. Their generosity has allowed us to safeguard this important local archaeology, that is not widely represented in the Museum's collectionS."

**Note to editors:** Mrs Jean Harrison, Chair of the Friends of Braintree District Museum and Mrs Rita Churcher, Chairman of the Braintree and Bocking Civic Society, who funded the finds will be available to discuss the discoveries with reporters at the launch of the display at Braintree District Museum at 3pm on Thursday 17 May 2007.

For more press information or enquiries contact: Robert Rose, Collections & Heritage Manager at the Museum, on 01376 325266 or [robert.rose@braintree.gov.uk](mailto:robert.rose@braintree.gov.uk)

Issued by Braintree DC PR May 9 2007

May 2007

## MEMBERS' FOCUS

# News

### Cutting carbon and bills

Braintree District Council has joined forces with its neighbours in Uttlesford and Colchester to become the first consortium to take part in a programme aimed at cutting both carbon emissions and energy bills.

Its acceptance on the latest phase of the Carbon Trust's local authority carbon management programme will provide specialist consultancy to help review the council's carbon footprint.

A carbon management programme will form the basis of Braintree District Council's future internal action plan.

It is one of 45 new local authorities taking part in this phase of the programme and in the previous four annual savings of more than £33 million and 500,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> were identified.

The Carbon Trust is now working with nearly a third of the UK's local authorities and the aim is to cut emissions under their direct control such as buildings, vehicle fleets, street lighting and landfill sites.

Braintree District Council's waste and energy manager Peter Chisnall commented: "The council acknowledges the increasing impact climate change is having on our community and we are committed to tackling the causes and effects.

"We are determined to achieve a significant reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and the specialist help we will get from the carbon trust will be invaluable."

Richard Rugg, public sector programme manager at the Carbon Trust said: "Climate change is the biggest environmental threat currently faced by the UK and the reduction of carbon emissions, the main cause of climate change, should now be a key priority for all organisations, including local authorities.

"Improving energy efficiency and therefore reducing energy bills is crucial if local authorities are to make best use of taxpayers' money."

For more information contact Peter Chisnall on 01376 551414.

## News

### Tackling a sticky issue

Page 1 of 1

A grant of £30,000 has been awarded to Braintree District Council to run a campaign to tackle the sticky issue of chewing gum.

The money will be used to promote awareness of the scourge of chewing gum on streets and pavements throughout the district.

Each year it costs the council £10,000 to employ a specialist contractor to clean gum from hot spots and new bins have been installed in the town centres in Braintree, Witham and Halstead to combat the problem. They are specially designed for chewing gum and cigarette butts and have been put in places where people gather such as bus stops and taxi ranks. Braintree is one of 16 authorities to be awarded a grant to join the Defra-led campaign being run by the Chewing Gum Action Group.

It will take place in August and September with new visuals, poster adverts and special activities organised in the Braintree district.

Environmental promotions officer at Braintree District Council Tania Roberge said: "Discarded chewing gum makes our town centres look unsightly and it is very expensive to clean up.

"This campaign, combined with the new bins we have installed, should make people think twice before behaving in this extremely antisocial way. We want to see an end to the scourge of discarded gum across the district."

ENDS

For more information contact Tania Roberge on 01376 551414.

Issued by Braintree DC PR 16 May 2007.

## News

### Tough measures

Page 1 of 1

A warning has gone out that tough measures will be taken against anyone breaching environmental regulations.

It follows a hearing at Chelmsford Magistrates Court on Monday April 30 when Heard Demolition Ltd of West Hanningfield Road, Chelmsford, admitted operating a permitted process without a valid permit. It was fined £3,500 with £337 costs for the incident, which related to a mobile concrete crushing operation in Perry Road, Witham.

Environmental officers from Braintree District Council worked closely with those from Chelmsford Borough Council and Brentwood Borough Council to gather evidence that the firm was in breach of the Pollution, Prevention and Control Act 1999.

The firm later applied for and was granted a permit by Chelmsford Borough Council.

Colin Batchelor, Principal Environmental Health Officer at Braintree District Council, said it showed the consequences of not complying with regulations.

“We have a robust approach to anyone breaching environmental regulations, which are in place to safeguard everyone’s quality of life.

“Also, going through the proper processes should ensure that all the necessary conditions for operating are understood and met.”

ENDS

**For more information contact Colin Batchelor on 01376 551414.**

Issued by Braintree DC PR May 2 2007

## MEMBERS' FOCUS

# News

### Launch of new visitor guide

The rich history of the Braintree District is highlighted in a new guide.

Accommodation providers joined staff at the town's Tourist Information Centre to launch the 2007 Braintree District Visitors' Guide.

David Finch, chairman of Braintree District Council, thanked those who provide accommodation and commended the guide for highlighting the area's history, culture and visitor attractions.

The guide gives information on where to stay and what to see, where to get tickets for attractions, transport, timetables and all the other services provided by the Tourist Information Centres.

It also highlights not only the three main towns of Braintree, Halstead and Witham, but also the 50 villages in the district.

The council is working closely with ExDRA, the Essex-wide tourism and regeneration agency, to make visitors aware of the rich and varied history of Essex. A leaflet was recently produced highlighting American connections, which are a strong local feature and should attract visitors from the US in increasing numbers, particularly approaching 2012.

After lunch Loretta Sollars, the county head of sports development and Olympics, spoke of the opportunities it brought.

More information on the hidden treasures of the area can be found on a new website [www.enjoybraintreedistrict.co.uk](http://www.enjoybraintreedistrict.co.uk)

In 2006/7 33,000 people visited pages on the old site and 700,000 made "hits" to the site from around the world.

The new site is more accessible, easier to use and will have multiple options for languages added later in the year.

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

Issued by Braintree DC PR 30 April 2007

# MEMBERS' FOCUS

AREA: POLICY AND PERFORMANCE

CORPORATE THEME HEADING: PACT ASSEMBLY

SUBJECT: PACT Assembly	CONTACT OFFICER: Lynn Marston
TEL/EMAIL No.: Ext 2008 / <a href="mailto:lynn.marston@braintree.gov.uk">lynn.marston@braintree.gov.uk</a>	BACKGROUND PAPERS:
INFORMATION:	

PACT (the Local Strategic Partnership for the Braintree District) is hosting an event on **Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> June** at Causeway House.

It will be a great opportunity for different organisations to discuss the options for the future of the area and to help to develop a vision for the District, as part of the Local Development Framework and Sustainable Community Strategy Consultation.

The programme will include a keynote speech from Catherine Doherty, a senior officer in the Community and Local Government Department, outlining the background to these discussions and the implications of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill, which gives local authorities a central role in the “place – shaping” programme.

The event will give a chance to those invited to take an active role in helping to set the agenda for the District’s future.

For more information about the event, please contact **Lynn Marston** on Ext 2008 or email [lynn.marston@braintree.gov.uk](mailto:lynn.marston@braintree.gov.uk)

# 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 M Maunder  
Site: 95 Cressing Road, Braintree  
Development: Dropped kerb  
Application No. 07/00100/FUL  
Start Date 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2007

Appellant: Mr Trevor Bearman  
Site: Ponyacres, Rotten End, Wethersfield, Braintree  
Development: Addition of first floor to bungalow; provision of garage with accommodation  
Application No. 06/01850/FUL  
Start Date 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2007

Appellant: Mr David Mason  
Site: 135 Witham Road, Black Notley  
Development: Demolition of existing bungalow and erection of four dwellings  
Application No. 06/01736/FUL  
Start Date 16<sup>th</sup> April 2007

Appellant: Miss Lorna Gifford  
Site: 4 Bulmer Tye, Bulmer  
Development: Change of use of land to garden  
Application No. 07/00324/COU  
Start Date 19<sup>th</sup> April 2007

Appellant: A P Doubleday  
Site: Land Adjacent High View, Sudbury Road, Foxearth  
Development: Erection of detached dwelling  
Application No. 07/00227/FUL  
Start Date 20<sup>th</sup> April 2007

Appellant: Mr & Mrs A Hicks  
Site: Wedgewood, Jaspers Green, Shalford  
Development: Erection of extension and alterations to existing bungalow  
Application No. 07/00164/FUL

May 2007

# MEMBERS' FOCUS

Start Date 26<sup>th</sup> April 2007

## INFORMATION: APPEAL DECISIONS

Appellant: Mrs W. I. Brown  
Site: 26 Nunnery Street, Castle Hedingham  
Development: Demolition of existing garage and erection of 1 No. one bedroom bungalow  
Application No. 06/01317/FUL  
Decision and Date: DISMISSED – 5<sup>th</sup> March 2007

Appellant: Mrs H Harvey  
Site: Stablehands Cottage, Curd Hall Farm, Cuthedge Lane, Coggeshall  
Development: Conversion of former hunting lodge to residential accommodation  
Application No. 06/01781/FUL & 06/01782/LBC  
Decision and Date: (06/01781/FUL – ALLOWED) (06/01782/LBC – DISMISSED) 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2007

Appellant: Mr & Mrs E Aldridge  
Site: Land at rear of 110 Kynaston Road, Panfield  
Development: Conversion of one existing outbuilding, re-use existing garage and erection of 2 No. 2 bedroom bungalows for affordable housing  
Application No. 06/00422/OUT  
Decision and Date: DISMISSED – 16<sup>th</sup> April 2007

Appellant: Mr & Mrs G Bell  
Site: Lakeland Fisheries, Wickham Bishops Road, Hatfield Peverel  
Development: Continued use of mobile home as a residential dwelling for a temporary period of three years  
Application No. 05/02413/FUL  
Decision and Date: ALLOWED – 16<sup>th</sup> April 2007 (Costs – ALLOWED) 16<sup>th</sup> April 2007

Appellant: Mr P Rowe  
Site: 58 Newland Street, Witham  
Development: Change of use of existing ground floor travel agents to an estate agents  
Application No. 06/01068/COU  
Decision and Date: DISMISSED – 4<sup>th</sup> May 2007

Appellant: Brian Beckwith & Lia Begum  
Site: Land adj. 215 Lister Road, Braintree  
Development: Erection of one dwelling  
Application No. 06/01339/OUT  
Decision and Date: DISMISSED – 4<sup>th</sup> May 2007

May 2007

## MEMBERS' FOCUS

Appellant: Manu Patel  
Site: 20 Clockhouse Way, Land rear of 18-22 Clockhouse Way and rear of 180 Cressing Road, Braintree  
Development: Replacement of 2 no. flats (20 Clockhouse Way) and erection of 7 no. new flats on land to rear.  
Application No. 06/00682/FUL  
Decision and Date: ALLOWED – 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2007

Appellant: Doctor Paul Davis  
Site: Land rear of Memories, 1 Crouch Green, Castle Hedingham  
Development: Change of use of land for the temporary stationing of 2 no. portakabin buildings  
Application No. 06/01373/COU  
Decision and Date: DISMISSED – 9<sup>th</sup> May 2007

Appellant: Mr R V Cottrill  
Site: Land rear of Dordell Court, Church Lane, Toppesfield  
Development: Proposed demolition of existing metal profile barn and erection of a single storey dwellinghouse  
Application No. 06/00870/FUL  
Decision and Date: DISMISSED – 10<sup>th</sup> May 2007

# MEMBERS' FOCUS

AREA: All

CORPORATE THEME HEADING:

SUBJECT: Scrutiny Bulletin	CONTACT OFFICER: Linda Morgan
TEL/EMAIL No.: 01376 551414	BACKGROUND PAPERS:
INFORMATION:	
<p><b><u>Scrutiny Performance and Improvement: the Road to Excellence</u></b></p> <p>A new publication and seminar by Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS) examines a sample of the Audit Commission's Comprehensive Performance Assessments (CPA), extracting common themes and trends regarding comments on overview and scrutiny. The following is an extract from that report.</p> <p>This research report from CfPS provides some answers to these questions about scrutiny, performance and improvement. While we do not claim to have established a causal link, there is a clear correlation between high performance overall, as measured by the Audit Commission's Comprehensive Performance Assessment, and a strong scrutiny function. Only 'excellent' councils evidence strong leadership in their scrutiny function, and they seem to make most use of external opportunities to learn and develop further.</p> <p>For councils with further to go on their improvement journey, this research provides useful pointers to the issues on which to focus in relation to scrutiny. As our two case studies, Chester-le-Street and Hackney LBC, demonstrate, enhancing the challenge aspect of scrutiny and developing a clear focus for scrutiny members' work both strengthens scrutiny and enables it to contribute to the council's overall improvement.</p> <p>For scrutiny to be effective and contribute to improving performance, this research shows that it needs to be linked to the council's wider priorities and mainstream work programme, to be well-supported and invested in. We acknowledge that this can be a challenge to councils struggling to maintain resources for priority services. However, as the drivers for improving performance move from external inspection and regulation to self-assessment and self-improvement, investing in overview and scrutiny should be seen as an investment in the overall capacity of the council to improve itself.</p> <p>There is one final point, perhaps directed more at the Audit Commission than councils. We found few references to scrutiny in any reports under the ambition and prioritisation themes or Key Lines of Enquiry (KLOE). Is this because scrutiny has no contribution to make in these areas, or because the Commission's inspectors do not look for it? We would argue that an effective scrutiny function – particularly as powers to focus on external scrutiny of partners are extended – can help councils and their partners review their ambitions and priorities and ensure that these are truly based on a shared understanding of the</p>	

May 2007

# MEMBERS' FOCUS

local community's needs. Assessments of scrutiny's performance should take account of this broader role for scrutiny, as well as the internal contribution it can make to capacity and performance management.

## Results – District Councils

There was a very clear relationship between the quality of the scrutiny function and the overall level of performance as assessed by the Audit Commission – although this may not be a causal link.

Interestingly, 'fair' councils attract more positive comments about scrutiny than those categorised 'good', especially in the key lines of inquiry of 'focus' and 'investment'. To use the descriptors informally proposed by the Commission, this might suggest 'good' councils are more prone to 'coasting', where 'fair' councils are 'striving' harder for improvement and use their scrutiny function to help them do this. An overall weakness across authorities was in 'capacity' for scrutiny, which was often poor. Councils should address this, taking the approach that investing in scrutiny's capacity is enabling scrutiny to contribute to the council's overall capacity to improve.

Additional observations on scrutiny and performance for each type of councils include:

### EXCELLENT COUNCILS

- have the highest average number of overview and scrutiny committees
- the greatest strengths of scrutiny were in 'performance management' and 'investment' and the relative weaknesses in 'capacity'
- excellent councils' scrutiny function is usually well-integrated with the rest of the council and helps it focus on its priorities
- only excellent authorities achieved positive comments on the quality of leadership in scrutiny
- had a high proportion and good range of positive comments about 'investment' and 'learning', especially in terms of staff and member development and use of external organisations to stimulate improvement

### GOOD COUNCILS

- the greatest strengths of scrutiny were in 'focus', for example providing robust challenge linked closely to council priorities. However the ratio of positive comments on 'focus' was still lower than in 'excellent' and 'fair' councils
- the greatest weaknesses of scrutiny were in 'capacity' and 'investment', for example lack of member development and inadequate staff levels

### FAIR COUNCILS

- the greatest strength of scrutiny was in 'investment', for example in the provision of strong levels of staffing for the function
- 'focus' was also strong and comments suggest scrutiny is seen as an active contributor to council improvement
- the greatest weakness of scrutiny was in 'capacity'
- many authorities did not show clarity of purpose in their 'performance management' role
- 'Investment' and 'learning' are strong and have led to improvement. Councils

## MEMBERS' FOCUS

should therefore consider investment in scrutiny as 'invest to save'

### WEAK COUNCILS

- the greatest strength of scrutiny was 'focus', although this was still relatively poor and often scrutiny was not well integrated into council priorities
- the greatest weakness of scrutiny was 'capacity', illustrating the 'Catch 22' of poor-performing authorities who are unable to invest in scrutiny and therefore scrutiny cannot play a full role in improvement
- weak councils make positive use of 'learning' from external sources, but often fail to invest in member development

### POOR COUNCILS

- have the second highest average number of committees, but comments on their effectiveness are overwhelmingly negative
- 'Capacity' was a key weakness, with many comments suggesting scrutiny offers insufficient challenge
- Scrutiny structures are often poor and 'focus' not sufficiently linked into council priorities and improvement
- Scrutiny of 'performance management' is often hampered by a lack of basic performance information across the council

### Case-Studies

At the end of the report, there are two case studies from Chester-le-Street District Council and the London Borough of Hackney relating to how overview and scrutiny has improved since the publication of their respective Audit Commission's inspection reports. The two case studies aim to discover how the overview and scrutiny function can evolve and improve following external assessment.

### Further Information

To see the full research report and the data behind the results, please follow the link <http://www.cfps.org.uk/cpa>

# MEMBERS' FOCUS

AREA: POLICY AND PERFORMANCE

CORPORATE THEME HEADING: WARD PROFILES

SUBJECT: Ward Profiles	CONTACT OFFICER: Lynn Marston
TEL/EMAIL No.: Ext 2008 or <a href="mailto:lynn.marston@braintree.gov.uk">lynn.marston@braintree.gov.uk</a>	BACKGROUND PAPERS:
INFORMATION:	

Two major agendas for 2007 are the role of the frontline councillor and the Neighbourhood agenda. Both were significant elements of the White Paper and the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill currently in Parliament. Ward Planning and Ward Profiles are two key tools that neighbourhoods and their councillors can use to deliver improved outcomes for their areas.

The **Ward Profiles** project at Braintree has produced a first “taster” of the typed data available for analysis. By having access to greater sources of information, Braintree District Council and its partners will be able to pinpoint problems, highlight successful outcomes and resources where they are most needed.

The Profiles will be distributed to Ward Councillors and Parish Councils shortly.

For more information about the subject, please contact **Lynn Marston** on Ext 2008 or email [lynn.marston@braintree.gov.uk](mailto:lynn.marston@braintree.gov.uk)