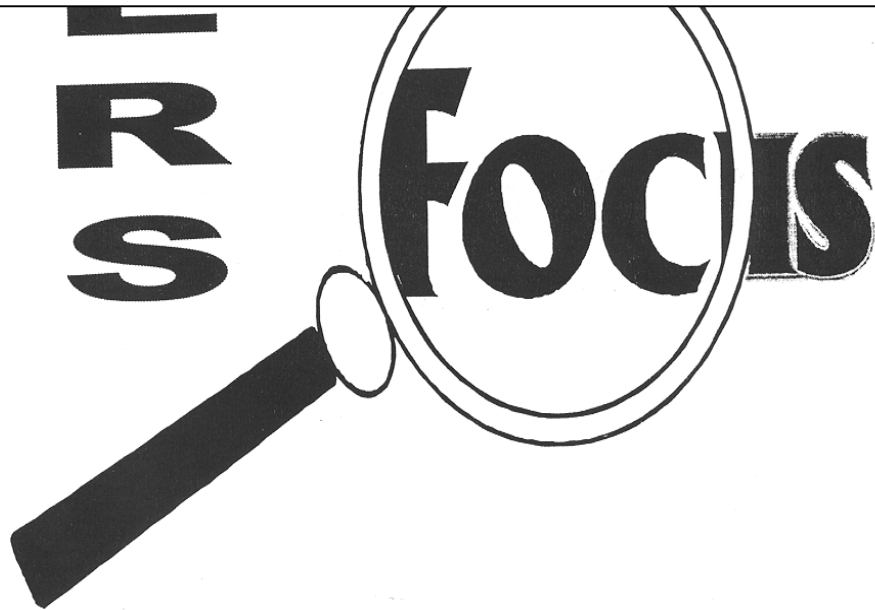


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*Members' Focus is available on-line at www.braintree.gov.uk
- Choose "Council & Democracy" from the menu on the left,
then "Members Focus".*

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Focus

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AREA: HOUSING SERVICES

CORPORATE THEME HEADING: ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

SUBJECT:anti social behaviour	CONTACT OFFICER:Brenda Sipple
TEL/EMAIL No.:01376 552525 Ext 2631	BACKGROUND PAPERS:
INFORMATION:	
<p>A young male was housed in a property in Braintree as a result of an obligation under the Homeless Provisions, he was moved from this property following a number of complaints by neighbouring residents.</p> <p>Working with the Police and Social Services the Housing Department moved the Defendant from Braintree to Halstead.</p> <p>He took up occupation of a flat in Cutting Drive on the 11th June 2007.</p> <p>On the 29th June 2007 he was arrested, at the time of arrest approximately 20 young people were in the flat , damage had been caused to the property, windows had been broken. Residents had complained of large groups of young people hanging around the communal entrance and being verbally abusive The security door to the communal entrance had been broken.</p> <p>Notice to Quit was served on 3rd July. A Summons for possession applied for and an emergency Court hearing obtained. On the 24th July 2007 Colchester County Court granted to the Council an Order for possession forthwith.</p> <p>The occupant is facing criminal charges.</p> <p>Any Further information can be obtained subject to Data Protection</p>	

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Briefing Paper

Braintree District CDRP & CYPSP Conference 2007 (22nd November, Towerlands, Braintree, Essex.)

'Interventions to reduce substance misuse among vulnerable young people'

BACKGROUND

In 2006, the Braintree District Crime & Disorder Partnership (CDRP) and the Children & Young People's Strategic Partnership (CYPSP) held their first joint conference entitled 'Children & Young People'. The event was attended by 132 operational professionals and provided the opportunity to jointly critic current working practices and plan for the future. The event received local and national media coverage and was hailed as a great success; in fact, so successful that the CDRP & CYPSP decided that the Conference would become an annual event.

Braintree is a very safe District in which to live, work, visit and play. Currently Braintree is ranking 14 out of 15 similar Local Authorities within their CDRP Family Group (15 being the lowest crime and disorder area). The Braintree District Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership have reduced incidents of crime and disorder significantly over the past year, and will strive to continue to do so. In order to do this, the CDRP will continue to work very closely with partners to initiate, develop and create initiatives to maintain low levels of crime. This will be a significant and key focal point for Braintree District Council in developing their plans for the 2012 Olympics.

The 2007 Conference Strategic Context

Planning sessions for the 2007 conference have commenced with the event-taking place in November. The focus of the conference is the 'Interventions to reduce substance misuse among vulnerable young people'. The event will meet the priorities of the Essex LAA, Every Child Matters priorities of Young People and Drugs, the

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National Drugs Strategy and, the most recent publication of (March 2007) the NHS Paper from the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (Interventions to reduce substance misuse among vulnerable young people). The outcome from the event will be the development and implementation of a strategy and intervention programmes to reduce substance misuse among vulnerable and disadvantaged people aged under 25. This is the strategic responsibility of the Local Strategic Partnership; however, the CDRP and CYPSP may be best suited to undertake this piece of work with support from the LSP (PACT). The preparation for the conference will include the collection and analysis of substance misuse data pertaining where possible to the Braintree District.

It is recognised that there are gaps in services particularly around those who are 'dabbling' with drugs and also for those young people who are affected by their parents using drugs and/or alcohol. The conference will incorporate young people (engaged and dis-engaged), and will include a series of interactive and participative workshops (including the young people). The workshops will identify what services are available that are not known currently; what the gaps in service provision are; and, reform delivery and strengthen accountability to provide such services. The strategic development will be built around the needs of vulnerable children and young people (including partnership commissioning if necessary). This will include the expansion of the Common Assessment Framework to mainstream the use of this tool in referring young people to services.

Who is the Conference For?

This year's conference is designed for front line operational staff. In addition to the partners from wide ranging organisations, colleagues from the licence trade (Publicans), School Teachers, Colleges, approximately fifty Young People (engaged and disengaged), and Councillors etc will be invited. There will be 'show casing' of successful initiatives across the District. The programme is being developed, but the highlighted initiatives are likely to be the Safer Bars Award for Publicans, Youth Media (Braintree College), Test Purchasing, the work of the CDRP & CYPSP etc. The estimated attendance for this year is 300 people.

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Speakers

The event will be opened by the Chair of the Braintree CDRP (Graham Seward). A 'key note' speaker from Government Office for the Eastern Region will then provide the National perspective on Substance Misuse. This will be followed by Professor Woody Caarn from the Anglia Ruskin University who will present the more local perspective. There will be a third speaker in the afternoon who will provide the current trends and local issues pertinent to the Braintree District.

The Workshops

There are a series of workshops taking place in the morning. Attendees will be able to participate in two workshops. The topics for the workshops are as follows:-

- 1) **Alcohol & Pregnancy**
- 2) **Children Affected by Parents Misusing**
- 3) **Binge Drinking & Sexual Health (Risks – date rape; Violence; STDs)**
- 4) **Hard Use & Dependency**
- 5) **Solvent Abuse**
- 6) **Crystal Meth**
- 7) **Dual Diagnosis**
- 8) **Cannabis and Mental Health**
- 9) **Substance Misuse and DV**
- 10) **2 Workshops specifically for Young People (to be decided)**

Theatrical Production

In the afternoon there will be a theatrical production provided by a drama group from a local educational establishment. The production will be about following a young person's life through misusing substances (home and school life). A scene from the play will commence and then pause. The conference attendees will be on tables of a maximum of ten people with a facilitator. At each interval of the production, there will be pre-determined questions for each of the tables to discuss. The discussions will be captured and put onto flip chart paper. Then the second scene will then take place and then pause. A second discussion will then take place and the facilitator will capture the discussions again. This will continue until five questions have been discussed and captured.

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The issues to be discussed will be around the recommendations from the NHS Paper (March 2007), these are as follows:-

- **Screening and assessment tools**
- **Family-based programme of structured support drawn up with the parents or carers of the child or young person**
- **Longer term group-based behavioural therapy for the children**
- **Group-based training in parenting skills for the parents or carers**
- **Motivational interviews according to the young person's needs**

The outcomes from each table will then be collated after the event and a strategy developed with partners to reduce substance misuse among vulnerable and disadvantaged people aged under 25. This will also include an implementation plan.

The Conference Planning Group

The key Partners involved in developing this year's conference planning group are from the following agencies:-

Braintree District Council
Essex Drug & Alcohol Action Team
Essex County Council (Youth Service & Education; Leaving & Aftercare Services)
Braintree District Drug & Alcohol Reference Group
Mid Essex PCT
Connexions
EYPDAS
Essex Police
Chair of the CDRP
Chair of the CYPSP

Funding

This year the conference is costing approximately £6,800. This is being funded from a variety of sources. Currently there have been agreed contributions from the following partners:-

Braintree District CDRP £3,500

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Braintree District Local Strategic Partnership (PACT)	£2,000
Braintree District Drug & Alcohol Reference Group	£250

Requests awaiting a decision on are:-

Essex Drug & Alcohol Action Team	£500
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**Prepared by: - H Goodwin, Community Safety & Development
Manager, Braintree District Council, D.D. 01376
557756**

MEMBERS' FOCUS

AREA: Exchequer, Finance

CORPORATE THEME HEADING: Council Tax and Business Rates

SUBJECT: Various	CONTACT OFFICER: Dave Ekins Local Tax Manager 13 August 2007
TEL/EMAIL No.: 2910 davek@braintree.gov.uk	BACKGROUND PAPERS: None
INFORMATION: NON-KEY DECISIONS REQUIRED - Cannot be called in.	
<u>PURPOSE OF REPORT</u>	
<u>To advise members on current developments in the arena of Council Tax and Business Rates.</u>	
DEVELOPMENTS	
<u>2.1 Lyons Inquiry – Council Tax</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Lyons inquiry was set up to report on the local authority funding formula. Lyons reported earlier this year. Central Governments response is that Council Tax Revaluation and Banding will not take place in the lifetime of the current Parliament and is unlikely to be considered before 2010/11. Whilst the Inquiry makes proposals for changes to the System of Council Tax Bands, any changes would not be feasible without a revaluation, which would cause significant disruption and cost. Central Government concludes that they have no plans to change the current banding structure that will remain for the foreseeable future.	
<u>2.2 Lyons Inquiry – Business Rates</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Existing arrangements are to be retained at present, but it is proposed to introduce a supplement on the current national business rate; reform the empty property rate and provide factories and warehouses with the same level of relief as other business properties; consult with stakeholders on taxing derelict property and Brownfield land and review exemptions and reliefs.• Central Government response is to increase the empty property rate to 100% of the occupied rate (but have the flexibility to	

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revert back to 50% depending on prevailing market conditions)

- Provide a zero rate for empty properties owned by charities
- Provide new powers to tackle rate avoidance
- The above to be effective from 1 April 2008. Historically, there has been no need to keep data regarding ownership of vacant premises; this information now needs to be gathered. Our 2008/09 collectable debt will increase by more than 4% and will have an adverse impact on collection rates of 1% - 3%.

2.3 Valuation Office Agency (VOA)

- Government is taking steps to differentiate the VOA from the Valuation Tribunal Service. (VTS) The VTS are there to hear appeals against banding decisions made by the VOA. It proposes a system of direct appeals that would improve transparency between the VOA and VT.

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Flood Investigation Team

Brook Walk Witham

Flood Investigation Officer Steve Tullett was called in to investigate areas of concern at Brook Walk Witham. What looked like a very straightforward investigation soon turned out to be anything but. Calls started coming in regarding flooding and LACK of water. With the lack of water it was reported to us by the Environment Agency that up to 300 fish a day were dying due to lack of water. Strange but true.

The brook that runs parallel with Howbridge Road used to feed the ancient "Stew Pond" which is in the grounds of Howbridge Hall. The overflow from this pond then fed a further 3 smaller ponds before ending up at the river.

Some years ago it was decided that because of the risk of flooding due to building works being carried out, a portion of the brook would be culveted. Of course there was still a need for the stew pond to be fed water so a large diameter pipe was taken directly to the river with a much smaller pipe being taken directly to the stew pond. A control valve was also fitted at the stew pond in order to restrict the flow to the pond if needs be.

Obviously the smaller pipe would block far more easily as the majority of the surface water was taken straight to the river. The more blocked it became the more surface water went to the river and so on and so on until the smaller pipe failed entirely. This was the first problem that Steve encountered. Hastily the small pipe was thoroughly cleaned through and sandbags were used to create an emergency Hydrobrake in order to send more water down to the pond. This then caused problems during heavy rain as the brook was breached by surface water and the footpaths and roads were flooded. Water did enter the gardens of the properties in Brook Walk but there was no internal flooding. At this point the problems were identified and recommendations given.

Who was involved and why?

The brook itself and the feeder watercourses are the responsibility of the Riparian Owners, Braintree District Council are the Riparian Owners so we had the responsibility for the maintenance of the

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brook and feeder watercourses. This was the first obstacle. No one would take responsibility saying, "They had no resources either in man power or budget". Steve kicked back quite hard as the answer to him was unacceptable as we have a responsibility under the "Land Drainage Act 1991" to ensure that the watercourses within our responsibility were adequately maintained. It was agreed by the then Director for Environmental Services that the money would be found from an Environmental Services budget.

The pipes leading to the ponds and river are the responsibility of Anglian Water however, they refused all knowledge of the pipes and in the end refused to talk to BDC about the issue even though concrete evidence was put before them, but they still wouldn't budge.

Something had to happen to start rectifying the situation so the decision was made to carry on without AW and other members of the Engineering team were called on to give assistance. It was decided that the headwall containing the 2 pipes needed modifying so as to facilitate a far larger safety grille, which would also give some degree of protection as an angled trap to arrest debris that were washed down through the watercourses. A weir was needed inside of this grille to ensure that 100% of the normal water flowing through the brook would reach the ponds with the larger pipe only used as an overflow during bad weather.

The Project Engineers got to work to design a suitable grille and weir and the Environment Agency were called in to offer advice. Once the grille and weir had been designed written consent had to be applied for from the Environment Agency to allow BDC to carry out the work.

Street Scene Services offered the assistance of keeping the old grille clear until something more permanent was put in place. They also upped the maintenance on keeping the brook as weed free as possible.

Councillor Wayne Tearle of Witham Town Council really took this area to heart and became the personal contact to liaise between BDC and the local tenants. Steve and Cllr Tearle have met up many times for progress reports for both sides. Some of the local

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tenants became involved offering to be the eyes and ears that reported any problems.

It was during 1 Sunday afternoon that one of these helpers phoned Steve at home to say that the brook, footpaths, and road were all flooded. Steve attended and along with a couple of volunteers went round to the river to see the cause of the problem. The safety grille at the river end was totally choked up and was only allowing a small amount of water through. They cleared the grille and the waters subsided within 20 minutes. Another problem was identified.

Again the Engineering team got their thinking caps on and a new type of grille was designed for the outlet. All consents were passed by the Environment Agency and the grilles and weir were constructed. Their success has been quite dramatic.

At this point it was decided that Anglian Water should be made accountable and a request was made to the Secretary for details of who to contact regarding this matter "pending possible legal action". A Senior Manager contacted Steve and they met on site to discuss the issue along with the Regional Manager and Area Supervisor. He could see no problem with any of it and offered to pay for 50% of the cost of the grilles, and weir. They also assured BDC that they would take 50% of the responsibility for keeping the grilles clear.

It was suggested that rather than just leave it at that, BDC could construct a small Biodiversity system at the top end of the brook where the watercourses (ditches) meet. The assistance of the BDC Conservation Officer was sought and the idea was given the green light as a "good idea for the community".

All of the watercourses were scoured out to their original standard. In some places the watercourses had almost disappeared. A "Reed Bed" area has been scalloped out to build a reed bed for the wildlife. This also acts as a holding area for "backwash water" when it is raining hard.

Where are we now?

After the recent rains it has been discovered that the brook has only flooded over once but not to the same degree and it cleared a

MEMBERS' FOCUS

lot quicker. It is suggested that it was the mere volume of water that came down that particular day.

Our Flood Investigation Team Steve Tullett and Jan Taylor are closely monitoring the situation. If necessary a Hydrobrake could be installed at the top of the brook to slow down the amount of water getting to the pipes. There is a "natural" Hydrobrake in place but it may need something more formal and substantial.

Steve and Jan are going to clear out a small ponded area so that the fish have a refuge area and with the Conservation Officer are looking to plant out the reed bed in October.

It has been suggested that Witham Town Council could place some picnic tables/benches on the green at Brook Walk in order to attract residents to the immediate area and to keep it just that little bit special.

A Senior Engineer, Project Engineer, and Enforcement Officer from Epping Forest District Council have been to view the project and were extremely impressed, taking back some of our ideas with them.

**Steve Tullett Tech IOSH
Flood Investigation Officer
Health & Safety Advisor**

MEMBERS' FOCUS

AREA: Community Safety & Development

Dated: 7th August 2007

CORPORATE THEME HEADING: Meeting Community Needs

SUBJECT: Joint CDRP & CYPSP Conference	CONTACT OFFICER: Janet Peatling
TEL/EMAIL No.: Ext 2344 janpe@braintree.gov.uk	BACKGROUND PAPERS: Briefing paper
<p>INFORMATION:</p> <p>We would like to welcome partners that work in the Braintree District to the second joint partnership conference between the Children and Young Peoples Strategic Partnership (CYPSP) and the Braintree District Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) for front line practitioners and Managers working in the Braintree District.</p> <p><u>'Creating a better future for Children and Young People in the Braintree District'</u></p> <p><u>'Interventions to reduce substance misuse among vulnerable young people'</u></p> <p>22nd November 2007 9 am – 4pm Towerlands, Panfield Road, Braintree</p> <p>Both partnerships are committed to developing initiatives to support children and young people at the earliest opportunity to promote positive attitudes and behaviours and reduce the risk of anti-social behaviours and, where this happens, to provide a framework to reduce escalation of these behaviours. This conference has been designed to raise awareness of the two partnerships and to give an opportunity for participants to focus together on how we can improve outcomes for children and young people, their families and the communities we serve.</p> <p>The focus this year will be 'Interventions to reduce substance misuse among vulnerable young people'.</p> <p>The event will meet the priorities of the Essex LAA, Every Child Matters priorities of Young People and Drugs, the National Drugs Strategy and, the most recent publication of (March 2007) the NHS Paper from the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (Interventions to reduce substance misuse among vulnerable young</p>	

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people). The outcome from the event will be the development and implementation of a strategy and intervention programmes to reduce substance misuse among vulnerable and disadvantaged people aged under 25.

WORKSHOPS

There will be opportunity to participate in 2 of the 10 following workshops.

1 ALCOHOL & PREGNANCY

2 CHILDREN AFFECTED BY PARENTS MISUSING

3 BINGE DRINKING & SEXUAL HEALTH (RISK – DATE RAPE; VIOLENCE; SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASE)

4 HARD USE & DEPENDENCY

5 SOLVENT ABUSE

6 Crystal Meth

7 Dual Diagnosis/ Cannabis Misuse and Mental Health

8 Substance Misuse and Domestic Violence

9 Workshop run by Young People (topic being developed with young people)

10 Workshop run by Young People (topic being developed with young people)

There is also an opportunity to display information relating to substance misuse services available to children and young people in the Braintree District.

If you are interested in attending the conference please contact Janet Peatling Community Safety & Development Officer janpe@braintree.gov.uk for a booking form. Booking forms must be returned by 22nd October 2007.

MEMBERS' FOCUS

AREA: All

CORPORATE THEME HEADING:

SUBJECT: Local Committee Co-ordinators	CONTACT OFFICER: Linda Morgan, Melanie Philips, Michele Jones
TEL/EMAIL No.: linmo@braintree.gov.uk melph@braintree.gov.uk , micjo@braintree.gov.uk	BACKGROUND PAPERS:
<p>INFORMATION:</p> <p>Braintree, Halstead and Witham Local Committees will soon start their second cycle. The Committees are making a concerted effort to engage with local communities, with invitations to attend sent to local community groups.</p> <p>The intention is that these Committees will be consulted on local issues before a decision is taken at Cabinet, strengthening the influencing role of the local Ward Representative. In addition, each Committee has a small budget with which to make things happen locally.</p> <p>A Locality Co-ordinator has been appointed for each area; Linda Morgan will be co-ordinating the work of the Halstead Local Committee, Melanie Phillips will be looking after Witham, and Michele Jones will be supporting Braintree until Kitty Barrett's return to work.</p>	

MEMBERS' FOCUS

News

Boost for parishes

Projects in villages across the Braintree District have been boosted by a cash handout.

In the latest round of grants from Braintree District Council's Rural Communities Development Fund a total of £41,970 has been allocated to nine projects.

Five of them will receive £5,000, the maximum grant allowed from the fund, which is designed to enable parishes to carry out projects which will benefit the communities.

In **Earls Colne** the money is for play equipment for five to 12 year olds at the play area in the centre of the village, subject to the parish council raising additional funds.

In **Hatfield Peverel** CCTV will be put in to cover the new play equipment in the Strutt Memorial Ground and entrance to the sports ground, village hall and car park.

The grant will be used for work on **Helions Bumpstead** village hall as part of a larger refurbishment project. It will cover the replacement of windows and dry-lining of existing walls.

Play equipment for eight to 15 year olds will be put in at **Kelvedon**. The plan for this phased project was drawn up by Kelvedon Youth Forum.

At **Sible Hedingham** there will be renovations to the public toilets and the addition of toilet facilities for the disabled.

A grant of £4,760 will be used to improve energy efficiency at **White Colne** Village Hall and to encourage hirers to sort and recycle waste.

Much of the play equipment at **Birdbrook** dates back to the 60s but a grant of £4,500 will provide some new attractions as will £3,710 for a roundabout at **Gosfield** Playing Field.

The final grant of £4,000 goes to **Rayne** to buy grass cutting equipment, subject to the parish council raising enough money to buy a tractor.

MEMBERS' FOCUS

Councillor Nigel McCrea, deputy to the leader of the council, said: "These projects make a real difference to people living in the parishes which have benefited.

"More people have been encouraged to take part in and enjoy local play and recreational facilities and other projects have made people feel safer, such as funding for CCTV equipment.

"I am particularly pleased that we have managed to support such a wide range of projects."

The Rural Communities Development Fund has now re-opened with a balance of £58,030 for distribution. The closing date for applications is October 31 and all eligible parish councils have been invited to submit applications for a grant.

ENDS

For more information contact Angela Verghese on 01376 551414.
Issued by Braintree DC PR 6 August 2007

MEMBERS' FOCUS

News

Green prizes for Environment Day awards

On Thursday 26th July, Councillor Robert Mitchell welcomed the environment event competition winners to Braintree Library where they received a variety of green prizes.

At the World Environment Day held in Weavers Park in June, visitors were asked to guess how long it would take the polar bear ice sculpture to finally melt. Councillor Mitchell, who is deputy cabinet member for the Environment, volunteered to take the sculpture home and monitor how long it took to melt.

The winner was Mr. Roy Whittaker who estimated 39 hours, Mr. Whittaker received a green make-over for his home worth £500 including loft insulation, energy saving light bulbs, a home energy advice visit, electricity monitor, eco kettle, composter, water butt, eco balls and intelli plug.

Mrs. Warland came second with an estimate of 37 hours. She received green prizes worth over £100. The three runners-up included 11 year old Miles Clark chose a solar-powered robot kit as his award plus a Shake flashlight.

Cabinet member for the Environment Roger Walters comments: "I hope the competition winners all enjoy their green awards which will help them save energy in their homes. The event in June highlighted climate change and environmental issues, visitors found out there are many ways they can make a difference to the environment at home, at work and as they travel."

ENDS

For more press information, contact: Anne Proudfoot 01376 557752
Issued by: Braintree DC PR 2 August 2007

MEMBERS' FOCUS

News

Five years to five rings

An event has been held to mark the five-year countdown to the opening ceremony of the London Olympics.

Braintree District Council and its partners gave local youngsters the chance to take part in a variety of Olympic and Paralympic sports.

Organisations working with the council are Tabor Science College, North West Essex School Sports Partnership, DC Leisure, Braintree Supporting Sports Partnership, sportessex, Nike Braintree and Braintree BMX Club.

The event was held at Braintree Leisure Centre and youngsters between nine and 14 were able to tackle sitting volleyball, judo, BMX cycling, basketball, hockey and table tennis.

Sporting champion Giles Long, winner of seven Paralympic swimming medals and who started out at Braintree and Bocking Swimming Club, was on hand to answer questions. The young athletes chatted to him about his sporting career and hopes for the future.

The event also marked the launch of the Braintree Supporting Sports Partnership (BSSP). Its aim is to provide sponsorship and support to talented athletes within the Braintree District. Local businesses were invited to the day to see the activities taking place with the hope of more becoming part of BSSP.

George Yard has already backed young athletes Martin Pitts, Hannah Bright and Lisa Potter and at the launch it was announced BSSP was supporting David Fryatt and Aleasha Kiddle.

Councillor Wendy Schmitt, cabinet member for public protection and healthy living, said: "Our young athletes are the Olympians of the future and in the Braintree District we want to keep London 2012 in the spotlight and increase awareness of the tremendous opportunities it will bring to this area.

"Thanks to George Yard Shopping Centre local athletes are being sponsored and by launching this new partnership we hope many more businesses will come on board and give more of our youngsters the support they need and deserve."

Issued by Braintree DC PR 7 AUGUST 2007

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News

Warning to fly tippers

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An appeal has been made for help in tracking down fly tippers.

Environmental protection officers at Braintree District Council are calling on members of the public to provide clues to help them find those responsible for the latest serious incident.

This time it was in the north of the Braintree district at Great Henny where dumped rubbish was left in several roads around the village, partly blocking one of them and creating a hazard for drivers.

It happened on Sunday July 22 and the waste consisted of empty bags of Dengie and Spillers horse feed, black silage wrap, white plastic bags and council recycling bags of rubbish, black sacks of waste and laurel and conifer cuttings.

Garry Philp, environmental protection officer, said he was anxious to talk to anyone who saw rubbish being dumped or had information about where it came from.

“We are determined to track down whoever did this – and others throughout the district. Everyone is affected by this antisocial behaviour. Not only does it create an unsightly mess but the cost of clearing it away falls on every council tax payer.”

Anyone with information should contact Garry Philp on 01376 551414.

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Issued by Braintree DC PR 30 July 2007

MEMBERS' FOCUS

News

Still time to join holiday camps

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There are limited places left on a series of summer coaching clubs being held across the Braintree district.

They are being run by Braintree District Council and offer youngsters the chance to have fun in the holidays and improve their sporting skills at the same time with tuition from qualified coaches.

Four cricket camps have been organised, open to boys and girls of all abilities, with those aged seven to nine having a morning session between 10am and 12.15pm and the ten to 12-year-olds 10am until 3pm.

The first is at Kelvedon and Feering Cricket Club on August 9 followed by Gestingthorpe Cricket Club on August 17, Braintree Cricket Club on August 23 and Halstead Cricket Club on August 24.

A multi-sports camp with coaching in hockey and rounders is being held at Braintree Hockey Club on August 24. It is open to boys and girls of all abilities between nine and 13 and runs from 10am to 3pm.

Girl footballers aged between nine and 13 are being catered for in two sessions at Bramston Sports Ground in Witham on August 22 and August 29. The camps run from 10am to 3pm.

The final session is for boys and girls who want some coaching in netball and is being held at Halstead Leisure Centre on August 30. Again it is open to nine to 13-year-olds and runs from 10am to 3pm.

Each camp costs £14, apart from the morning-only cricket session which is £6. Book a place by calling 01376 552525 or emailing csc@braintree.gov.uk.

ENDS

For more press information contact Mark Aldous on 01376 551414

Issued by Braintree DC PR 24 July 2007

MEMBERS' FOCUS

News

Come and join the fun run

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Up to 500 adults and 200 children are hoped for at this year's Halstead fun run.

The event is being held on Sunday October 7 at 11am with a five-mile route for adults and a one or two kilometre route for the youngsters. There will also be various other activities to keep families entertained.

All runners will start and finish in Kings Road at the King George V playing field, with the children doing a short route into Parsonage Street, Factory Lane West and back – one lap for eight to ten year olds and two laps for those aged between 11 and 15. For adults the route will take them onto Tidings Hill and on public roads to Greenstead Green before returning mainly along farm tracks.

Entry is £6 for adults and £2 for children with all the profit going to the League of Friends of Halstead Hospital. Every runner will get a medal and trophies will be awarded.

Entry forms are available from Halstead Town Council Offices in The Causeway, Halstead, and on line at www.halsteadtowncouncil.co.uk

ENDS

For more information contact Tony MacDonald on 01376 551414.

Issued by Braintree DC PR 14 August 2007

MEMBERS' FOCUS

Notley High pupils are new community champions

Page 1 of 1

Notley High School is the latest to sign up as a community champion and more schools are being encouraged to get a direct link to the council environment staff.

They will join a growing band of people who are working together for an improved environment, regularly calling the council with information about local environmental problems.

Now the school has joined Braintree's Tabor Science College and adopted a version of the scheme for its own grounds. It has pledged to keep the school clear of litter, to look out for the immediate neighbourhood and to help to encourage a sense of pride among pupils.

Councillor Roger Walters, cabinet member for environment and sustainability, said: "Neighbourhoods need these people who care and are prepared to work together to make a difference to the environment. They are proving an invaluable asset in keeping the council in touch with what is going on at a local level.

"There are lots of people who care about their neighbourhood and this scheme ensures those signing up as a community champion will be listened to and their information acted upon."

Anyone can become a community champion by contacting Mick Galley on 01376 551414.

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ENDS

For more information contact Mick Galley on 01376 551414 – just say the name, or Chris Trim on 557752. Issued by Braintree DC PR 16 July 2007

MEMBERS' FOCUS

News

Work to start on new cycleway

Page 1 of 1

Work is about to start on a new cycleway in Witham which will help to link the Maltings Lane development and the town centre.

The £60,000 project, funded under an agreement with the developers, is for the stretch between Town End Field and Dengie Close. It is close to Howbridge Infants School and the Holy Family RC Primary School in Maltings Lane and could be used by pupils and parents travelling to and from these schools.

The new cycleway/footway will take about eight weeks, weather permitting, and is the first phase of a longer route. It is planned to put in the second stage, between Dengie Close and Howbridge Road, next year when more funding is available.

The new stretch will be three metres wide and will replace an existing narrow footpath and provide access for people in wheelchairs, mobility scooters and children in buggies as well as cyclists and pedestrians.

New street lights will be put up, designed to concentrate light onto the ground and to avoid light pollution into the night sky.

Councillor Roger Walters, cabinet member for environment and sustainability, said: "We are committed to providing more cycleways as one of the ways of reducing the impact of traffic throughout the district by encouraging cycling, walking and the use of public transport.

"This one will provide a safe off-road link from the Maltings Lane development, reducing the number of cars being driven into the town centre and making a more pleasant environment for shoppers and workers."

ENDS

For more information contact cycling officer Juliet Strathern on 01376 551414.
Issued by Braintree DC PR 25 July 2007

MEMBERS' FOCUS

News

Planners celebrate

Page 1 of 1

Planners at Braintree District Council are celebrating after being awarded more cash than any other district in Essex under a grants system.

The planning department will receive a provisional allocation from the Government of £362,754 for successfully meeting the targets set out in the second tranche of the 2007/8 Planning Delivery Grant.

The award is based on councils achieving a number of criteria. These include the speed of deciding planning applications, number of appeals upheld by the Secretary of State, progress towards the local development framework, e-planning and sustainability indicators. Braintree's award also includes an allowance for being within an area of high housing demand.

Councillor Nigel Harley, cabinet member for enterprise and infrastructure, said: "This grant confirms the commitment to meeting targets for planning applications while maintaining a high standard of decision in the planning process.

"It is due to the commitment and dedication of staff in the planning department and the introduction of a number of initiatives and new ways of working in the last year."

If the allocation is confirmed the decision on how the money will be spent will be taken by cabinet members.

ENDS

For more information contact Darren Roberts on 01376 551414.

Issued by Braintree DC PR 6 August 2007

MEMBERS' FOCUS

News

Scouts help out communities

Page 1 of 2

Around 40,000 Scouts from around the world descended on Essex's county at the end of July.

And their arrival for the 21st World Scout Jamboree brought a bonus for the Braintree district with 1,300 Scouts volunteering to work on four wildlife and community projects.

The Scouts were based at Hylands Park in Chelmsford for 12 days but took part in community work across Essex.

Braintree District Council's landscape services team organised the projects in the district, with support from community wardens.

Groups of Scouts took part in projects at Great Notley Country Park, Glebe Avenue in Braintree, Whetmead nature reserve in Witham and two sites in Hatfield Peverel.

All this equated to £65,000 worth of volunteer hours according to a Heritage Lottery Fund calculation.

At Great Notley Country Park 40 Scouts a day took part in wildlife projects, which included the creation of pond dipping platforms on the lakes and building artificial badger setts.

At Whetmead they put in fishing platforms and built artificial otter holts.

In Glebe Avenue the project involved the Scouts clearing the wood and pond next to the community centre as well as building bird and bat boxes, coppicing and painting garages.

The final project was on two sites in Hatfield Peverel, one next to the village hall and one at the site for the new football club.

MF

MEMBERS' FOCUS

Here they de-silted the ditches, built a bird hide, reptile hibernaculum and stag beetle pyramids as well as put up a fence and built seating to create a new nature reserve.

Many people turned out to help with these projects, including community wardens, Essex Police, Braintree District Council employees and councillors, Witham Town Council and Hatfield Peverel Parish Council as well as members of the public. Witham businesses Task Force Haulage and K & R Utilities also lent support.

Councillor Wendy Schmitt, cabinet member for public protection and healthy living, said: "These four projects will benefit the Scouts by challenging them and helping them to learn new skills as well as giving them responsibility. I'm sure they will also have great fun at the same time.

"The great benefit for the Braintree district is that all of these projects will help the local communities and will really make a difference to people."

ENDS

For more information contact Angela Norton on 07970 993624.
Issued by Braintree DC PR 6 August 2007

MEMBERS' FOCUS

News

Search is on for barn owls

An appeal has gone out for residents to be on the look-out for barn owls and to report sightings.

The River Colne Countryside Project is working to establish a network of barn owl boxes to help the spread of the much-loved bird and needs help from members of the public.

For the project to be worthwhile it is important to establish where existing populations are so that boxes can be put up near to them. Barn owls will only spread from existing populations and do not suddenly appear in areas where there are no existing owls for miles around.

That is where the public can help out. Project officer Richard Parmee needs information to make sure attention is focused on the right areas to help boost numbers.

There are reports of some owls in the valley but numbers are not high. Traditionally they roost in old barns and hollow trees but numbers have declined for several reasons, including changes in land use and the conversion of barns into houses.

The River Colne Countryside Project is working with landowners in the valley to improve the habitat for hunting and some barn owl boxes have already been put up. Now Mr Parmee is appealing for help in tracking down existing owls, which will indicate the right areas in which to encourage their spread.

Councillor Roger Walters, cabinet member for environment and sustainability, said: "Barn owls are one of our most striking and beautiful birds and also one of the most easily recognisable. Their decline has come about for a variety of reasons, including a reduction in food supply through less rough grassland and fewer roosting sites.

"This is our chance to halt that decline and help to encourage more of these much-loved birds back to the beautiful Colne Valley where they belong."

A bonus with an increase in numbers is that barn owls are good indicators of the general state of the countryside. If numbers are high it shows a plentiful food supply, which in turn indicates good conditions for numerous other species, including many rare or endangered ones.

Anyone who has seen a barn owl within the last year is asked to contact Mr Parmee with details of where, when and how frequently. He can be contacted on 07702 918980 or by email on richard.parmee@colchester.gov.uk

NOTE: The River Colne Countryside Project is managed and funded as a partnership between Braintree District Council and Colchester Borough Council. It has a steering group made up from representatives of the two councils and agricultural and environmental interests.

Its purpose is to help local people to make wildlife, landscape and access improvements throughout the valley from Great Yeldham to Colchester. It does this by supporting people carrying out environmental improvements, offering advice and identifying opportunities on wildlife issues and helping to secure grant funding for projects.

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MEMBERS' FOCUS

News

Switch to green energy

Residents are being encouraged to follow Braintree District Council's lead and switch to green energy.

About 30 per cent of the council's energy comes from a renewable source at no extra cost, thanks to a deal guaranteeing local and central government up to a third from renewable sources until 2011.

The good news for residents is that there should be no premium added to their bills either if they switch supply to a green tariff. In previous years customers often had to pay extra.

Suppliers operate two kinds of green tariff scheme.

In one there is a guarantee that the energy the customer pays for is provided directly from a renewable source. This does not mean that the electricity which comes out of the plug socket is 100 per cent green as the grid has different methods of electricity fed into it.

What it does mean is that the energy supply company will buy 100 per cent green electricity from renewable sources equal to the value of the combined green tariffs from all their customers.

Under the other scheme the energy supply company guarantees any profit from the tariff will be ploughed back into the construction of new renewable electricity generation. This type of tariff can have a slightly higher premium and sometimes they match fund the tariff pound for pound for the new investment.

Councillor Roger Walters, cabinet member for environment and sustainability, said: "The great benefit to the environment is that switching to green electricity stimulates demand for continued investment in new renewable energy facilities.

"These then offset the need to provide the traditional electricity generation facilities, which rely on the burning of fossil fuels with the greenhouse gas emissions and other environmental concerns they produce.

"Braintree District Council is delighted it can now take advantage of a green tariff at no extra cost and is encouraging residents to do the same in the battle to cut greenhouse gas emissions."

ENDS

For more information contact Peter Chisnall on 01376 551414.
Issued by Braintree DC PR 15 August 2007

August 2007

MEMBERS' FOCUS

News

Taking charge of community transport

Page 1 of 1

Full responsibility for community transport has been taken by Braintree District Council. The management and operation of Braintree Community Transport has been transferred from Essex County Council.

Both councils had been involved with the scheme on a partnership basis but now Braintree District Council will take the lead and can concentrate on local priorities. Funding from the county council will continue.

Last year the team responsible and around 50 volunteer drivers delivered more than 48,000 passenger journeys in and around the Braintree District and demand for the service continues to grow.

The scheme currently operates five minibuses and supports another used by Halstead Senior Citizens Day Centre. There is also a band of volunteers who use their own cars to help those with restricted mobility, a disability or who are rurally isolated.

Councillor Nigel Harley, cabinet member for enterprise and infrastructure, said: "Community transport provides a lifeline to so many people across our district and its transfer to Braintree District Council provides exciting opportunities to expand the service.

"We welcome the team which runs this invaluable service and also pay tribute to the band of dedicated volunteers who make it all possible."

PHOTO OPPORTUNITY: An official handover is taking place at Causeway House at 11am on Friday August 24 when the chairman of Braintree District Council will accept a set of minibus keys from an Essex County Council representative.

ENDS

For more information contact Tracey Corcoran on 01376 551414.

Issued by Braintree DC PR 2 August 2007.

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MEMBERS' FOCUS

News

A fun day for all

Page 1 of 1

Attractions for all the family are promised at a fun day in Witham.

The Templars Community Association, a group of volunteers, is sponsoring a fun day for all estate residents on Sunday September 2.

It will be held on the central green and include a speed goal competition, face painting, nail art and hair braiding, bouncy castle, wild rodeo and bungee run. There will also be coconut shies, rides for the children and refreshments.

There will be a one-off charge of £3 for each child, which will entitle them to enjoy all the activities – refreshments are extra.

Representatives from the police and Greenfields Community Housing will be on hand to talk to residents about local issues and concerns.

Councillor Jo Beavis, cabinet member for community support and engagement, said: "The fun day gives residents the chance to get together and enjoy themselves and also to find out more about the Templars Community Association, which works so hard for the estate.

"The community partnership agreement Braintree District Council has with the association helps to keep Templars litter-free and a more pleasant place to live. It shows how it can make a real difference when local people get involved in their communities."

PHOTO OPPORTUNITY: Photographers are welcome at the event, which runs from 2pm until 6pm on Sunday September 2.

ENDS

For more information contact Jo Petchey on 01376 551414 x 2120.

Issued by Braintree DC PR 13 August 2007

MEMBERS' FOCUS

News

£300,000 revamp for hall

A full refurbishment costing nearly £300,000 has been completed at Rivenhall Village Hall.

It is the latest project in a four-year programme of renewal and refurbishment of halls across the Braintree district costing £5 million.

The building at Rivenhall is owned by Braintree District Council but leased to and operated by the Rivenhall Playing Fields Association.

Essex County Council has put £15,000 into the project towards the cost of improvements to the parking area. This is where pupils of Rivenhall Primary School gather and form a walking bus as part of the county's safer journeys to school scheme.

Construction costs for the hall project amounted to £280,000 and the building has been totally refurbished inside and out. A small extension was built to house new toilets.

Other work included new roof coverings and insulation, new windows and doors, kitchen, floor coverings and full redecoration. Extensive mechanical and electrical alterations were made, including a new heating system.

Outside the old gravel car park has been extended and reconstructed with self-draining concrete block paving.

Councillor Jo Beavis, cabinet member for community support and engagement, said: "The hall and parking area have been transformed and the improvements will make a huge difference to the many different groups who use the hall.

"Improving community facilities and making them accessible to everyone is one of our priorities and the programme of renewals and refurbishments is continuing. The good news for council tax payers is that we have managed to carry out all of this work at no extra cost to them."

ENDS

For more information contact Simon Taylor on 01376 551414.
Issued by Braintree DC PR 9 August 2007

MEMBERS' FOCUS

AREA: Community Safety & Development

Dated 15th August 2007

CORPORATE THEME HEADING: Meeting Community Needs

SUBJECT: How To Engage with the Police Community Safety Tasking Groups	CONTACT OFFICER: Helena Goodwin
TEL/EMAIL No.: x2756 Helena.Goodwin@braintree.gov.uk	
<i>INFORMATION: How to Engage with the Braintree Division Police Community Safety Tasking Groups – Braintree District Community Safety Partnership (CDRP)</i>	
<p>What is the Purpose of Police Community Safety Tasking Groups (PCSTGp)? - The PCSTG works to reduce crime, nuisance and disorder and tackle other community safety issues in support of the Community Safety Strategy 2005 - 2008. It achieves this by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identifying crime, nuisance and disorder hotspots, prolific or other problem offenders, or individuals who are emerging as such.• Using SARA methodology to problem-solve (Scan, Analyse, Response & Action).• Create and deliver action plans aimed at specific issues.• Share information with the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership and its sub-groups. (CDRP). <p>Who Organises Them? – The PCSTGs are administered by Essex Police and are chaired by the Police Area Inspector.</p> <p>Membership</p> <p>There are two levels of membership -</p> <p><u>Core membership.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• District council - Community Safety ASB Liaison Officer; Representative of Housing.• Essex County Council - Representative of Youth Service; Youth Offending Team.• Essex Police - Section Inspector; ASB Officer; Representative from the Community Policing Team. (Ps, Pc or PCSO); Crime Reduction Advisor.• Children's Trust. <p><u>Other membership.</u></p> <p>This group will include representatives of any group or body that might assist in tackling the issues under investigation. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• District Council - Planning, environmental services, legal advisor etc.• Essex County Council - Road Safety Officer; Highways Officer; Education or Schools Officer.• Essex Police - Schools Officer; Community Officer; Road Policing; CID Officer.• Town and Parish Councillor Members and Officers.• Business Sector – Town Centre Manager etc.• SEAMS Mediation Service.• Learning Disabilities Action Group.• Victim Support.• Neighbourhood Watch.	

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This list is not exhaustive. The meetings are about effectively and quickly identifying problems and possible solutions, hence, the attendance and level of representatives from agencies fluctuates in accordance with demand and outputs.

Research is undertaken before the meetings and is brought to the table by the most appropriate people from necessary agencies. It is not necessary for each person to present what he or she knows personally.

When Do the PCSTGps Meet? – There are three PCSTGps to cover the whole of the Braintree District. The meetings will meet at regular intervals and not less than 8 times per year. To ensure the progress of action plans the groups currently meet monthly: -

Halstead – 10.30am on the first Tuesday of Every Month – The Mill House, The Causeway, Halstead

Witham – 10.30am on the first Wednesday of Every Month – Bramston School, Spinks Lane, Witham

Braintree – 10.00am on the first Thursday of Every Month – Braintree Police Station, The Avenue, Braintree

How Do I Get an Item onto the Agenda? – The agendas are uniform to cover the essential elements of the meetings. Under **Hotspots**, any issues that are brought to an Officers notice (BDC, ECC, Police etc.) are completed onto a form that is circulated one week prior to the meeting (personalised information is shared with Core Members only). This means that other agencies can seek information from their own agency and attend the meeting with outcomes of the research. This maximises the effectiveness of the meetings.

Prevalent areas (top ten) become part of the Pre SARA process and then become an agenda item.

Information is sourced from

- The BDC Siebel database (calls to the customer contact centre),
- Work on localities and individuals coming to the notice of the ASB Officers.
- Persistent locations and names going through to the Police Service Desk.
- ASB Diary log sheets received from the public.
- ASB related emails (where appropriate).

SYSTEMS CURRENTLY BEING SET-UP

- A specific ASB email address for Members to report ASB is to be set-up (Town, Parish & District). This would be through to Customer Contact Centre and then forwarded in accordance with the responsible area e.g. Environmental Health, Housing, RSL or Community Safety & Development Team.
- A template to be piloted to encourage Parish & Town Councils and District Councillors to complete when ASB incidents are being brought to their attention by their constituents. This information will be taken to the Police Community Safety Tasking Group (see Annex 1).

Representation at the PCSTGps

Parish, Town and District Councils are able to attend the meetings to discuss

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persistent problems within their area. However, with the number of Councillors across the Braintree District it is imperative that the meetings are manageable in terms of size, focus, agenda and outputs. Hence, Parish Councils must contact the Area Police Inspector and request to attend the meeting if there is a specific need. The Town Councils should have a nominated representative to attend again, if there is a need. The Cabinet Members for Public Protection and Healthy Living, Councillor Wendy Schmitt , attends every Police Community Safety Tasking Group whenever possible.

Where a pre SARA is being considered, the Parish Council Chair will be contacted and consulted.

Some issues may be able to be resolved prior to the meetings, or in many cases, background work, research and action plans may already be in place.

What Feedback Will I Receive? – Feedback will be provided via the PCSTGp minutes, which are now available on the BDC intranet.

Minutes will be recorded that reflect the outcomes and actions, including named individuals responsible for the progression of work.

prepared by: H Goodwin – Community Safety & Development Manager ext. 2756

MEMBERS' FOCUS

Reporting Individuals Causing ASB to Police Community Safety Tasking Groups.

For Parish Councils / Town Councils / District Members

DATE	ALLEGED PERPETRATOR	ADDRESS OF PERPETRATOR	REPORTED PROBLEMS	ANY ACTION TAKEN / REPORTED TO

Date:.....

Completed

By:.....

.....

**Representing (please indicate Parish /
Ward)**.....

MEMBERS' FOCUS

Reporting ASB in Locality Areas to Police Community Safety Tasking Groups.
**For Parish Councils / Town Councils / District
 Members**

DATE	LOCATION	REPORTED / IDENTIFIED PROBLEMS	ANY ACTION TAKEN / REPORT TO

Date:.....

Completed

By:.....

.....

Representing (please indicate Parish / Ward):.....

MEMBERS' FOCUS

AREA: Community Safety & Development

Dated: 15th August 2007

CORPORATE THEME HEADING:

SUBJECT: Police Community Safety Tasking groups - new info	CONTACT OFFICER: Helena Goodwin
TEL/EMAIL No.:Ext 2344	BACKGROUND PAPERS:
INFORMATION: Change of where to obtain feedback from the Police Community Safety Tasking group	
Feedback will be provided via the Police Community Safety Tasking Group minutes which are now available on the BDC intranet.	

MEMBERS' FOCUS

AREA: **District-wide**

CORPORATE THEME HEADING:

Create a better place to Live, Work and Play; Improve Performance and Deliver Better Value

SUBJECT: The Planning White Paper: Planning for a Sustainable Future	CONTACT OFFICER: Kathryn Carpenter
TEL. 01376 551414 ext 2564 E-MAIL kathy.carpenter@braintree.gov.uk	BACKGROUND PAPERS: The Planning White Paper, published by Department for Communities and Local Government, May 2007 http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1510503

INFORMATION:

Background:

The Government has published a White Paper on proposed changes to the planning system. It draws upon the findings of the Barker Review of Planning and the Eddington Report on Transport, both of which recommended streamlining the approval process, in particular for large infrastructure projects. The White Paper also reflects concerns about climate change and pressure on environmental resources; future energy supply; economic development needs and the current housing shortage. The White Paper aims to make it easier for households and businesses to pursue minor developments, including the installation of micro-generation equipment. There are also proposals to simplify the current complex and unwieldy system for preparing Local Development Frameworks. The most controversial proposal is that of establishing an independent Infrastructure Planning Commission to decide on major infrastructure projects of national significance.

The Council's response

A response has been submitted that welcomes:

- the proposal to streamline the LDF preparation process;
- the commitment to retaining the "town centres first policy" in relation to retail development
- the emphasis on the role of local authorities in tackling climate change and energy efficiency
- the greater role intended for renewable energy sources and the support given to micro-energy generation
- the proposal to increase planning fees so that they more closely match the actual costs incurred by councils

gives qualified and cautious support to:

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- simplifying the application and appeals process particularly for small developments
- planning performance agreements, whereby the deadline for determination of major applications can be longer than 13 weeks by agreement

and opposes:

- the principle of an Infrastructure Planning Commission, and presses for improved consultation on National Policy Statements if established
- the implied predict and provide approach to transport including airports
- the introduction of a presumption in favour of development, which is a move away from a plan-led system.

In order to meet the consultation deadline the response was agreed with the Cabinet Member, as it was not practicable to refer the consultation beforehand to the Local Committees.

MEMBERS' FOCUS

AREA: All

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

SUBJECT: Summer Activities 2007	CONTACT OFFICERS: Tony MacDonald, Mark Aldous
TEL/EMAIL No:	BACKGROUND PAPERS: None
INFORMATION: This year we have provided various activities for young people during the summer of 2007. These activities were Activity Days, Cricket Camps, Multi Sport/Skills Camps, Netball, Girls Football and the NACRO Community Sports Project. <u>Activity Days:</u> These take place every day during the summer holidays. All parishes were invited to host an Activity Day and each date was filled. A team of leaders were recruited mainly from staff employed in previous years. In total 29 parishes decided to accept the Activity Days. In the first four weeks over 600 children between the ages of 5 and 11 had attended the 20 events. Each day starts at 10:30 am and following registration, a short game and introductions, the NACRO representative leads some sports activities. Sports activities include rounders, dodgeball and quick cricket. After lunch the children partake in various arts and crafts consisting of such things as painting, origami, mask making and other activities. The day ends at 3:30 pm. For more information or enquiries contact: Tony MacDonald, Leisure Development Officer, 01376 551414 Ext 2313 or tonma@braintree.gov.uk Summer Sports Camps A number of camps have been organised for the summer period with the highlight being the 5 Years to the 5 Rings event at Braintree Leisure Centre on 27 th July. This day marked exactly 5 years until the	

MEMBERS' FOCUS

opening ceremony for the London 2012 Olympics and was organised in conjunction with the following partners: Tabor Science College, DC Leisure, Braintree Supporting Sports Partnership, North West Essex School Sports Partnership, sportessex, Nike Braintree and Braintree BMX Club.

The day was open to boys and girls of all abilities aged 9-14 and everyone had the opportunity to take part in the following Olympic and Paralympic sports: Judo, Table Tennis, Sitting Volleyball, Basketball, Hockey and BMX Cycling.

Winner of 7 Paralympic medals Giles Long visited the event as part of the Sporting Champions scheme and spoke to the children about his experiences and success in his sport of swimming.

The Braintree Supporting Sports Partnership was also launched at the event. This group's aim is get local businesses to provide sponsorship for some of the many talented athletes that we have in the district.

The day proved a great success with over 80 children in attendance. Like all the camps throughout the summer links are created with local clubs so that there is an exit route for all participants to continue their involvement in that sport.

For more information or enquiries contact: Mark Aldous, Sports Development Officer, T: 01376 551414, E:

mark.aldous@braintree.gov.uk