

contact

2021

your residents' magazine



How our communities
came together during
the pandemic



ONLINE EVENTS

Find out more
today - visit our
online events page

colchester.ac.uk/2021

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This year we have reduced the size of Contact. We have also made sure we are using sustainable paper. Let us know what you think of our new-look magazine. Email **marketing@braintree.gov.uk**

keep in touch with us

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-  Sign up to our FREE newsletter at www.braintree.gov.uk/tellmemore
-  Braintree District Council, Causeway House, Braintree, Essex CM7 9HB
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NHS

**every mind
matters**

Now, more than ever
For simple steps to look after your mental wellbeing search **Every Mind Matters**

IF YOU REQUIRE THIS DOCUMENT IN ANOTHER FORMAT, PLEASE CALL 01376 552525

The year our communities came together

For some in the district, the pandemic has brought the very worst news. They have lost loved ones and we think of them and their families at this difficult time. For others it has impacted the way they live, their job, their earnings and their plans for the future. For others it has escalated their sense of loneliness or apprehension. For some in our district their homes and relationships haven't been the safe places they should have been. But one thing has shone through and that is the community spirit in our district.

Since March 2020, we have done our best to support the community and businesses. We have administered business grants and support, helped businesses become COVID 19 secure and got rough sleepers off the streets – all while continuing to run our regular services.

We also set up a virtual community hub and we have helped with 384 referrals from the Essex Welfare Service (now called Essex Wellbeing Service)

In addition, we have made welfare calls to more than 3,500 residents.

Elizabeth, one of our community transport customers, said: **“During the COVID 19 crisis you gave me regular phone calls to check that I was OK. I would like your staff to know that all this has been very much appreciated and I would like to send you my heartfelt thanks.”**



Cllr Graham Butland, Leader of Braintree District Council, said:

“This has been a challenging year but receiving positive feedback like Elizabeth’s makes it all worth it. This pandemic will have long lasting impacts on our communities but, together with our partners, we are committed to helping the most vulnerable residents and businesses.”

Could our grant scheme help your community?

Our Councillor Community Grant scheme is focusing on the impact and recovery from Coronavirus. Groups wishing to apply for funding should contact their ward councillor in the first instance. More details of the scheme and contact information for local ward councillors can be found on the Braintree District Council website at www.braintree.gov.uk/councillorscommunitygrants

The community spirit keeps shining



Josh & Grace Meehan, of Booking Hall Café in Rayne said:

“When the first lockdown hit we couldn’t provide ventilators or equipment but we could provide cake! We wanted to put a smile on the face of all those working around the clock to keep us safe by distributing cake to the staff at Braintree Community Hospital, Broomfield Hospital and Braintree Ambulance Station.”



Tina Townsend, from The Witham Hub, said: “A huge thank you to everyone that has helped throughout the year with food, financial

donations and other requests. This has enabled us to carry out thousands of interventions and we have been able to support more than 550 families during one of the most challenging years our world has experienced. Special thanks also to the amazing team of volunteers who help make this happen, we are not just #TeamHub we are a family.”



Cherry McKean created an action response group back in March 2020. She said: “I wanted to help the elderly, vulnerable and other residents

who had to isolate. I wanted them to feel supported and have someone to contact in these scary times. The team of volunteers have been looking after their neighbours and supporting them as best they can. Earls Colne has the most amazing community spirit and I feel so lucky to live here.”



Mary Stopher from Sible Hedingham said:

“I set up the group ‘stitching in the village’ and many ladies joined the group giving up their time to sew during the pandemic. It was an incredibly busy time, we sewed scrubs, wash bags and face coverings for staff working in hospitals and care homes. It helped us get through the pandemic while being isolated from the world.”

BRAINTREE DISTRICT THE NEW HOME OF INNOVATION

Braintree District is the new home of innovation. We continue with our pre-pandemic aim of attracting innovative businesses and high skilled jobs into our district so that our residents can have access to good jobs on their doorsteps.



Innovation in our district has already been recognised by central government after it invested £100m in a facility from the Cell and Gene Therapy Catapult in Braintree as part of the Covid-19 vaccine effort.

Here we look at just some of the other innovation taking place in the Braintree District



Transforming electric charging

Electric Forecourts® make charging electric vehicles as simple as using petrol stations, but with a fantastic retail and customer experience, designed for the modern age.



We are thrilled that GRIDSERVE chose our district to bring their leading retail, service and technology giants to deliver a “world-class” customer experience at the UK’s first Electric Forecourt®, in Braintree.

“Our UK-wide network of over 100 customer-focused Electric Forecourts® will eliminate range and charging anxiety by making it easier and cheaper to charge an electric vehicle than to fuel a petrol or diesel alternative,” said Todington Harper, Founder and CEO of GRIDSERVE.

Flagship centre for construction innovation

Building work has started on the I-Construct hub - a £2.3 million centre of excellence for construction innovation in Braintree.

The two-storey building will be an exceptional example of a modern, environmentally friendly building benefiting from innovative construction techniques. Inside, innovative construction ideas, technology and techniques – such as robotics, 3D printers and modelling software – will be shared and celebrated. The centre will be home to



the I-Construct team who offer 1:1 mentoring, grant funding and support to small construction businesses and industry suppliers. I-Construct aims to support over 350 businesses, launch 150 new products and create up to 130 new jobs.

www.i-construct.org.uk

**£2.3 MILLION CENTRE
OF EXCELLENCE
FOR CONSTRUCTION
INNOVATION IN
BRAINTREE**



“

We continue to attract businesses and high skilled jobs into our district so that our residents have access to good jobs on their doorsteps. This is even more important since the COVID-19 pandemic,

Cllr Graham Butland.

”

Setting the standard for modern business parks

The Horizon 120 Business & Innovation Park is set to become a major new employment park setting the standard for modern business. Situated in Great Notley, the park is proving very popular with businesses looking to move into the district because of its highly accessible location, close to the A120. Businesses based here will share state of the art facilities while feeling closely connected to carefully landscaped grounds that blend into the beautiful Great Notley Country Park. The park will bring more jobs and opportunities to residents in our district.



www.horizon120.com



ENHANCING OUR ENVIRONMENT

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT IS UP TO US



Braintree District Council has declared a climate emergency and we are trying to make our activities, as far as possible, carbon neutral by 2030. But it isn't something we can do alone.

A number of people from across the district, representing businesses, residents and community organisations are working with us on a Climate Change Strategy for the whole district.

Half a million pounds has been earmarked for climate change initiatives including increasing the number of electric charging points, creating a community tree and bulb planting scheme and investing in cycling as a sustainable method of transport.

As Sir David Attenborough says, we are now at a tipping point and we all need to play our part to manage our impact on earth.

In a recent documentary he said: **"THE LIVING WORLD IS A UNIQUE AND SPECTACULAR MARVEL BUT THE WAY WE HUMANS LIVE ON EARTH IS SENDING IT INTO A DECLINE"**

But he also said we have one last chance to make amends. **"ALL WE NEED, IS THE WILL TO DO SO".**

HERE ARE FIVE WAYS YOU CAN HELP:

1 Always turn off the lights

when you leave a room. Don't leave appliances on standby and remember not to leave laptops and mobile phones on charge unnecessarily.



2 Save water

Save water by installing a water butt, fix dripping taps and consider installing a water meter. Try to fill the washing machine and dishwasher with every use, one full load uses less water and energy than two half loads but always read through your appliance instruction booklets.



3 Make your home more energy efficient

Consider insulation, draught proofing, boiler replacements and renewable energy generation eg heat pumps and solar. Funding could be available, call our sustainability team on 01376 552525. When buying appliances, check the energy rating labels and consider the size of the appliance that you need.

4 Reduce your waste

Think about the packaging on the items you buy, is there a similar product with less packaging? If you have something you no longer want, sell it or give it away. There are lots of options including giving to charity shops, selling on Facebook or sites such as www.ilovefreegle.org



5 Buy local produce

Reduce food waste by creating an 'eat me first' shelf in your fridge to put food that is close to its use by date. Or when you get home from the shop, put your newly bought food at the back of the shelf to ensure your older food is brought to the front to help you to remember to use up your food before it goes off.



FACT

If everyone in the UK was able to recycle just one more drinks can, it would save enough energy to power an electric train from Leeds to Brighton (and back) 6,000 times.

For more recycling facts visit www.recyclenow.com

Keep up to date with our climate change work by signing up to our Environment, Refuse, Recycling e-newsletters www.braintree.gov.uk/tellmemore



How satisfied are you?

with Braintree District Council

Survey

Your feedback is important to us so we know how we are doing - whether you are satisfied with the main services we provide and if you think we are providing value for money.



Thank you for your time.

1 How satisfied are you with your local area as a place to live?

- ☐ Very satisfied
- ☐ Fairly satisfied
- ☐ Fairly dissatisfied
- ☐ Very dissatisfied
- ☐ Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied

3b Recycling & Waste Collections?

- ☐ Very satisfied
- ☐ Fairly satisfied
- ☐ Fairly dissatisfied
- ☐ Very dissatisfied
- ☐ Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied

2 Overall, how satisfied are you with the way Braintree District Council runs things?

- ☐ Very satisfied
- ☐ Fairly satisfied
- ☐ Fairly dissatisfied
- ☐ Very dissatisfied
- ☐ Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied

3c Parks and Open Spaces?

- ☐ Very satisfied
- ☐ Fairly satisfied
- ☐ Fairly dissatisfied
- ☐ Very dissatisfied
- ☐ Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied

3 How satisfied are you with each of the following main services provided by Braintree District Council:

3a Keeping our District clear of Litter?

- ☐ Very satisfied
- ☐ Fairly satisfied
- ☐ Fairly dissatisfied
- ☐ Very dissatisfied
- ☐ Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied

3d Do you use the Council's leisure facilities? If so are you...

- ☐ Very satisfied
- ☐ Fairly satisfied
- ☐ Fairly dissatisfied
- ☐ Very dissatisfied
- ☐ Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
- ☐ Do not use Sports/Leisure facilities

4 To what extent do you agree that Braintree District Council provides value for money?

- ☐ Strongly agree
- ☐ Tend to agree
- ☐ Neither agree or disagree
- ☐ Tend to disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree
- ☐ Don't know

5 How informed do you feel about the services available from Braintree District Council?

- ☐ Very informed
- ☐ Fairly informed
- ☐ Fairly uninformed
- ☐ Very uninformed
- ☐ Neither informed nor uninformed

6 What impact has the Coronavirus pandemic had on:

6a Your household income?

- ☐ Increased
- ☐ No change
- ☐ Decreased

6b Your job security?

- ☐ Improved
- ☐ No change
- ☐ Worsened

7 Braintree District Council produces email updates on a range of topics you can choose from, e.g. job alerts, refuse & recycling, planning, events and news. Would you like to sign up for this service?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

*If yes please supply your email address in box on the right. (You can opt out at any time)

So we can analyse the data, as a minimum, please let us know which town/village you live in.

Town/Village:

Postcode:

*Email:

Gender: ☐ Male ☐ Female
☐ Prefer not to say

Age group: ☐ 16-24 ☐ 25-44
☐ 45-64 ☐ 65-79
☐ 80+ ☐ Prefer not to say

Date:

You can complete this survey online
www.braintree.gov.uk/css2021

DATA PROTECTION

Braintree District Council is a data controller for the purposes for data protection. Some of the details you provide on this form may be personal data, which will be stored and used by the Council in relation to this project. For further details on how your information is used, how we maintain the security of your information and your rights, including how to access information we hold on you and how to complain if you have any concerns about how your personal details are processed, please visit www.braintree.gov.uk/privacy. By completing this form, you are providing your consent for the Council to store and use the personal data you have provided.

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. Please return to Freepost plus address below (no stamp necessary):
Freepost plus RTHE-ABHH-BUUA,
Marketing & Communications Team,
Braintree District Council, Causeway
House, Braintree, Essex, CM7 9BR

EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT **FOR YOU**

Returning to work having been unemployed, made redundant or staying at home to bring up or look after family can feel scary – but HeadsUp are here to help!

We work with people in Essex, Southend and Thurrock helping to build confidence and resilience along with providing practical job seeking advice on CV's, job searching and interview skills.

Why not contact us to find out more

ENABLEEAST.ORG.UK/HEADSUP

heads@enableeast.org.uk

01206 489912

 /HeadsUpEssex

 @HeadsUpEssex

HeadsUp is funded by the European Social Fund and the National Lottery Community Fund.



**citizens
advice**

**Braintree
Halstead
& Witham**

**Need help with a problem?
Worried about your job or making ends meet?
It's a difficult time at the moment
- give us a call and we can help**

**Call our friendly team
on 0344 499 4719
We're here to help
www.citizensadvice.org.uk**



Great reasons to home compost

Reduces your waste

**Produces your own compost
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Standard cost from BT landlines is 5p per minute plus setup charge. Other providers may charge more.



HOW TO TREAT CORONAVIRUS SYMPTOMS AT HOME

TEMPERATURE



✓ **Get lots of rest.**



✓ **Drink plenty of fluids** (water is best) to avoid dehydration - drink enough so your pee is light yellow and clear.



✓ **Take paracetamol or ibuprofen** if you feel uncomfortable.

COUGH



✓ **Lie on your side or sit upright instead.**
Avoid lying on your back.



✓ **Try having a teaspoon of honey** to help ease a cough. But do not give honey to babies under 12 months.

If this does not help, ask a non-isolating friend or family member to seek advice from a pharmacist on your behalf.

BREATHLESS



✓ **Keep your room cool.**
Try turning the heating down or opening a window.
DO NOT use a fan as it may spread the virus.



✓ **Try breathing slowly in through your nose** and out through your mouth, with your lips together.



✓ **Sit upright** in a chair relaxing your shoulders.



✓ **Lean forward slightly** - support yourself by putting your hands on your knees or on something stable like a chair.

Try to stay calm if you're feeling breathless. Anxiety can make it worse.

Call 999 for an ambulance if you or someone you care for:

- are struggling to breathe
- are coughing up blood
- have blue lips or a blue face
- feel cold and sweaty, with pale or blotchy skin
- have a rash that does not fade when you roll a glass over it
- collapse or faint
- become confused or very drowsy
- have stopped peeing or are peeing much less than usual

Tell the operator you might have coronavirus symptoms.

DO NOT GO TO A PHARMACY

If you or someone you live with has coronavirus symptoms, you must all stay at home.

If you're concerned about your symptoms and need medical advice, **use the NHS 111 online coronavirus service.**

GETTING HELP WHILE YOU'RE STAYING AT HOME

The Essex Wellbeing Service can help you while you have to stay at home (self-isolate).

Call 0300 303 9988 8am to 7pm (Mon to Friday), 10am to 2pm (Weekends)



NEW LOOK

for BRAINTREE TOWN CENTRE

Work on two multi-million pound projects is due to finish this year.

The Victoria Square regeneration will bring new apartment homes, a much needed health facility and improved services into the area behind the library. While the pedestrianisation scheme will see pavements levelled and resurfaced and a new public space created to

host community events and markets.

These changes form part of a wider plan to attract more people into the heart of our town when it is safe to do so, subject to COVID-19 restrictions. The increase in footfall will not only generate trade for existing shops and restaurants, but could pull new businesses into our town too. The character of our towns are changing and by making these investments we are doing our part in keeping it alive.

Convenient, clean and cost-effective travel
e-scooters come to Braintree



Last year, the Department for Transport encouraged councils to get involved with its e-scooter rental trials as a method of clean and inexpensive travel that can also help ease the burden on transport networks. Braintree will join Basildon, Brentwood, Clacton, Chelmsford and Colchester to become pilot areas. As a district council we are particularly interested in how e-scooters could help link key employment areas in Braintree town with the local transport hubs and the town centre with the aim of reducing car traffic. We will keep you up to date with this project as it rolls out.

LOCAL PLAN LATEST

Our joint Section 1 Local Plan for North Essex has now been adopted following an examination by an independent Planning Inspector. Section One contains overall strategic direction for growth, while Section Two will cover more localised aspects. Section 2 will now go through its public examination later in the year. This will take place later this year. If you are interested in Planning news please sign up for our planning e-newsletter by visiting www.braintree.gov.uk/tellmemore

Polling stations will be safe, but there are other ways to vote.



**Want to vote by post?
Apply early**

Find out more at www.braintree.gov.uk/votingoptions



Discover the district **BY BIKE**

Flitch Way

The pandemic has led to more and more people rediscovering the joy of cycling.

National schemes such as the Big Bike Revival are helping people with bike safety checks, repairs and bike loans (www.cyclinguk.org/bigbikerevival).

You only have to visit Knead Food at The Blue Egg in Great Bardfield (a favourite of professional road cyclist Alex Dowsett) to realise that our district is a magnet for cyclists. In fact, the district has a host of cafes which all welcome cyclists - part of the Cake Escape.

We want to build on this love of cycling because it is good for tourism, it is good for businesses and it is good for people's health.

We are working with Essex County Council to identify how cycling infrastructure can be improved in urban and rural areas and how to make active travel a realistic alternative for more people. Our ultimate goal is for district wide connectivity for safer and greener travel.

If you don't want to cycle alone, the Braintree Easy Riders group is open to everyone of all ages and abilities. The group was established in 2013 to help get more people cycling.

Handy links:

www.cyclinguk.org/bigbikerevival
www.thecakeescape.org.uk
www.braintreeeasyriders.org

Why is cycling so good?

- ✓ It reduces the risk of chronic illnesses such as heart disease, type 2 diabetes and stroke
- ✓ It boosts your mood and keeps your weight under control
- ✓ It is easy to fit into your daily routine by riding to the shops, park, school or work
- ✓ It is low impact- it causes less strain and injuries than most other forms of exercise
- ✓ It is a fun way to get fit

5 PLACES TO CYCLE WITH YOUR FAMILY

- 1 Flitch Way, Braintree through to Rayne
- 2 Bocking and Blackwater Open Space and Nature Reserve
- 3 Great Notley Country Park
- 4 Halstead River Walk
- 5 Witham River walk

Your stories:

Elsie's wish to play on the swings with her sister comes true

Braintree District Council has installed a swing suitable for disabled children in one of its play areas after being inspired by a little girl called Elsie.



Silver End Parish Council and Braintree District Council jointly funded the swing that is accessible for both disabled and able bodied children. Three year old Elsie who lives in Silver End found it difficult to access some of the play equipment in the Silver End Memorial Gardens and really wanted to be able to enjoy playing on the swings with her sister.

Working together, the Parish Council and District Council made the three year old's wish come true. Braintree District Council is committed to providing more inclusive play equipment in play areas in future.

Silver End Memorial Gardens has many special features including three children's play areas, a range of seating and a pond, all set amongst extensive grassed areas surrounded by lime and chestnut trees with a central double avenue of poplar and cherry trees as well as glorious specimen trees, mixed borders, rose and heather gardens, a pergola and a Japanese Garden.

www.visitbraintreedistrict.co.uk



Free funding for young entrepreneurs

Lee Carter, from Cressing, has become the first successful applicant to be awarded a £3,000 grant from Braintree District Council's Young Entrepreneur Programme.



Lee has dreamt about starting his own business in the music industry for 10 years and with the support of this grant is now able to fast track plans to create his own music production studio. Old Workshop Studio, is a recording and rehearsal facility, and will be the first of its kind in Halstead. Other budding young entrepreneurs should visit www.braintree.gov.uk/yep for full details of the fund.

Homes designed for a comfortable retirement



A brighter retirement lifestyle is coming to Braintree

- Polly's Field Village, opening early 2022
- 99 affordable, 1 & 2 bedroom apartments
- Rental and shared ownership options available
- A host of social opportunities and leisure facilities
- Gym, village hall, activities room, hairdressing and beauty salon, bistro & bar, library & IT room, landscaped gardens, greenhouse and a guest room
- Help and support should you need it

Register

your interest 01376 77 30 20 or for more information and to take a virtual tour of the village visit www.pollysfieldvillage.com

Abbeyfield

Making time for older people

The Abbeyfield Braintree, Bocking and Felsted Society



Company Number: 945603.
Registered Charity Number: 257782.
Housing Corporation Number: H0340

Over 5 million homes and businesses are at risk of flooding.

Don't assume it's not you.

Know how to Prepare. Act. Survive.



PREPARE

Prepare a bag that includes medicine and insurance documents



ACT

Move things upstairs or to safety



SURVIVE

Follow advice from emergency services

FLOOD

PREPARE. ACT. SURVIVE.

♻️ Please recycle this when you have finished with it.

BRAMIASMZ