

SEPTEMBER 2026

CONTACT

YOUR RESIDENTS' MAGAZINE

INSIDE:

Local Plan update
Your new waste service
Students learn about
green futures



Braintree
District Council

Open Events in 2026/27

?

Did you know
our Colchester Campus
is home to our higher
education provision?

University Centre
Colchester



Colchester Campus

Saturday 17th October
10am-1pm

Tuesday 20th October
5-8pm

Thursday 12th November
5-8pm

Thursday 21st January
5-8pm

Braintree Campus

Monday 19th October
5-7pm

Saturday 14th November
10am-12noon

Tuesday 19th January
5-7pm

Thursday 20th May
5-6:30pm

Book now: colchester.ac.uk/events



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Dear residents,

It gives me great pleasure
to write to you as the
new leader of Braintree
District Council.

This edition of Contact Magazine highlights
the many ways we are investing in the future
of our district while continuing to deliver the
essential services residents rely on every day.

Whether it's supporting families through the
cost of living crisis, improving community
facilities, enhancing our towns and villages,
or promoting recycling and environmental
initiatives, we remain focused on making a
positive difference where it matters most.

The latest results from our new recycling
service are encouraging, with recycling rates
increasing and general waste levels falling
across the district. This edition highlights
how your efforts are making a difference and
how we plan to develop the service further.

You'll also find an update on our Local
Plan, which will help shape how our district
grows to 2043, ensuring new homes, jobs
and infrastructure are planned in a way that
supports local communities. Alongside this,
we've included practical advice on staying
warm this winter, improving air quality and
accessing local wellbeing support.

Our communities remain at the heart of
everything we do. We are supporting
local projects through community grants,
strengthening wellbeing and community
connections, improving our town centres and
inspiring the next generation through green
skills and careers events. The stories in this
magazine showcase the people, partnerships
and initiatives helping to create a stronger,
healthier, safer and more sustainable district.

Thank you for your continued support and for
the part you play in making our district such
a great place to live, work and visit.

Tom

Councillor Tom Cunningham
Leader, Braintree District Council

INVESTING IN WHAT MATTERS MOST



Alongside funding the essential services residents rely on every day, we're continuing to invest in projects that strengthen our communities and improve quality of life across the district. This includes supporting local community initiatives, enhancing our towns and villages, helping businesses grow and making council services easier to access.

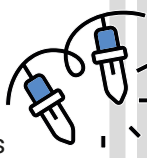
KEY INVESTMENTS FOR 2026-27



A further
£400,000
over two years for
continued cost of
living support

£255,000

over three
years to
fund festive
lights in our
town centres



£1,500

per councillor
to fund local
community projects



£150,000

for environmental
initiatives and
projects, including
a community
tree planting
grant scheme



£3.8m

for projects,
including
improved
playgrounds and
upgrades to recycling
infrastructure



Major changes

to waste and
recycling services
to help increase
recycling
rates and
reduce waste



These investments
complement our existing
£17 million
capital investment
programme

which will see a new
community centre
in Witham, town centre
improvements in Witham
and Halstead and upgrades
to community buildings.



As well as investing in future improvements, we continue to fund the services residents rely on every day. This year, more than £50 million* will be invested in delivering essential services that help keep our district clean, safe and supported - from collecting waste and maintaining green spaces to supporting housing needs, local communities and businesses.

Delivering services residents rely on

More than **£50 million***
will be spent on delivering
over **100 services**, including:

• Refuse & Recycling



• Parks, Cemeteries
& Landscapes



• Street Cleaning
& Litter Control



• Planning & Development



• Environmental &
Regulatory Services



• Democracy & Elections



• Support Services

• Housing & Homelessness

• Local Tax & Benefits



• Community Services
& Support

• Economic Development

• Culture & Leisure



*gross

By freezing our share of council
tax this year, which accounts
for around nine per cent of
the total council tax bill,
residents will continue to
receive more than **100 local
services for just £3.96 per week***.

**PRICE
FREEZE**

*based on the council tax charge for a Band D property.

Find out more about our budget
and where your council tax goes:
www.braintree.gov.uk/budget

OUR IMPACT IN 2025/26

£375,100

INVESTED IN UPGRADING
COMMUNITY BUILDINGS



233

AFFORDABLE HOMES DELIVERED
TO SUPPORT FAMILIES



THREE

3G FOOTBALL PITCHES
SUPPORTED WITH SECTION 106
FUNDS FROM DEVELOPERS



£445,800

IN GOVERNMENT GRANTS AWARDED
TO BUSINESSES, COMMUNITY
GROUPS AND PROJECTS



394

STUDENTS INSPIRED AT ECO
AND STEM EVENTS



134

HOUSEHOLDS AT RISK OF
HOMELESSNESS SECURED
ACCOMMODATION



814

PEOPLE CONNECTED WITH
EMPLOYERS AT 4 JOB FAIRS



£60,997

AWARDED TO COMMUNITY
PROJECTS THROUGH
COUNCILLOR GRANTS



200

HOUSEHOLDS REDUCED ENERGY
CONSUMPTION AND LOWERED
THEIR HOUSEHOLD BILLS



£326,000

INVESTED IN INITIATIVES TO
SUPPORT RESIDENTS WITH THE
COST OF LIVING CRISIS



£10,000

IN GRANTS FUNDING PROJECTS
AIMED AT REDUCING HEALTH
INEQUALITIES



435

BUSINESSES STRENGTHENED
WITH BUSINESS SUPPORT



LOCAL PLAN UPDATE:

HELPING SHAPE THE FUTURE OF OUR DISTRICT

We continue to make strong progress on updating the Local Plan, an important document that will help guide how and where the district grows up to 2043

The Local Plan sets out where new homes, jobs and infrastructure should be built across the Braintree district. Once adopted, it will become the main document used to guide planning decisions.

Having an up-to-date Local Plan helps ensure growth takes place in the right locations, supported by the infrastructure communities need, and local communities shape the area's future rather than ministers. Without one, the district faces a greater risk of speculative development, reduced local influence over planning decisions and possible intervention from central government – a pattern seen across the country when plans fall out of date.

While housing targets are set nationally, it is the Council's responsibility to plan how that growth is delivered locally. To meet Government requirements, the district must plan for 1,132 new homes a year up to 2043. Some development will continue in areas already allocated for growth, while other sites are newly proposed. The Local Plan helps ensure this growth is directed to the most appropriate locations and supported by the infrastructure communities need.

How we've reached this stage

The updated Local Plan has been shaped by extensive engagement over several years, including feedback from residents, businesses, community organisations, developers, infrastructure providers and statutory consultees. Thank you to everyone who has been involved to date.

Comments received through previous consultation stages have helped inform changes to policies and site proposals. We have also commissioned and reviewed a wide range of evidence and technical studies covering topics including:

- Transport
- Education
- Healthcare
- Utilities
- Flood risk
- Biodiversity and the environment
- Economic growth

This evidence helps ensure the Plan is robust, deliverable and based on the latest available information.



Infrastructure remains a key priority

Infrastructure continues to be one of the issues residents raise most often when discussing future growth.

The Local Plan is supported by evidence from infrastructure providers and identifies significant investment requirements across a range of areas, including:



We continue to make the case for investment in key infrastructure projects, including improvements to the A12 and A120, and for national housing requirements to be matched by the infrastructure funding communities need.

What happens next?

We are currently preparing the next stage of the Local Plan Review process.

Subject to approval by Full Council in September, we expect to publish the Regulation 19 version of the Local Plan for comments the same month.

Regulation 19 is the final stage before the Local Plan is submitted to the Secretary of State for independent examination. Subject to Full Council approval, residents, businesses and stakeholders will have an opportunity to review the document and



submit comments before it again comes to Full Council in December, where we hope it will be agreed a final time and sent to the Planning Inspectorate for examination.

At this consultation stage, comments focus on whether the Plan meets legal requirements and whether it is considered "sound" under national planning rules.

Details of the consultation period, supporting documents and how to submit comments will be published through our communication channels.

Why your views matter

The Local Plan will help shape planning decisions across the district for years to come.

We'd encourage everyone with an interest in the future of the district to follow the Local Plan Review and take part at the relevant stages.

How to stay updated

visit: www.braintree.gov.uk/localplanreview for updates and opportunities to get involved

Sign up: Register for our planning email newsletter to receive the latest updates, consultation announcements and opportunities to get involved.



LET'S CLEAR THE AIR

Poor air quality can have a long-term negative impact on your health, especially if you have health conditions or are very young or old. Sources of air pollution are all around us, but the good news is that you can improve your own air quality just by making a few small changes to your behaviour.

BURP YOUR HOME

A common practice in Germany, 'burping' your home means opening windows at least once a day and allowing fresh air to flow through. This helps to reduce condensation and mould, which are common causes of indoor air pollution. But remember to pay attention to the outside air quality before you do this!

THINK TWICE ABOUT THE WOOD BURNER

They give a cosy glow but homes with wood burners are 30% more polluted than those without. They are also almost always more expensive to run than central heating. According to the government, lighting fires in our homes is one of the largest sources of fine particle air pollution in the UK.

STOP SMOKING INDOORS

If you smoke, the best thing you can do for your health is to stop. Smoking outdoors helps to limit the impact of second-hand smoke on others in your home.

PLANT TREES

Trees in urban areas form a barrier between people and sources of air pollution. This autumn we will be awarding £75k in grants to community groups for tree-planting – find out if there's a project near you: **SCAN THE QR CODE**



STOP IDLING YOUR CAR

Idling the engine (leaving it running when your car is not moving) needlessly pollutes the air inside your car and out, can damage your engine, wastes fuel and can be illegal. Read about our schools anti-idling project and take the pledge to stop idling your car: www.braintree.gov.uk/dropoffpledge

COOK WITHOUT GAS

Gas cookers and hobs release pollutants into your home, which can be especially dangerous for asthmatic people. If you have the choice, electric cookers are much cleaner. If not, try to keep the kitchen well ventilated when cooking by opening windows and doors.

Find out what more you can do to increase the air quality for you, your family and your community with a personalised clean air planner: <https://planner.cleanairhub.org.uk>

THANK YOU

FOR SUPPORTING YOUR NEW WASTE SERVICE

PULL OUT PAGES AND KEEP

Thank you for embracing the new collection service that started in June. We understand changing collection arrangements is a big adjustment and we appreciate the effort residents have shown during the transition.



The Environment Act and Simpler Recycling in England

Following changes in national legislation, all councils are required to collect a wider range of recycling materials at the kerbside and reduce the amount of non-recyclable waste sent for disposal. To meet these requirements, we introduced our new collection service, to enable you to recycle more from your door. For more information, visit www.braintree.gov.uk/wastechanges.

Your efforts are making a difference

The figures below compare tonnages collected during June and July 2026 with the same period in 2025. Although the data is not fully validated, they provide an encouraging indication of how the new service is bedding in across the district.

Paper and card and mixed recycling increased in total by around

128%

Increased recycling means more materials can be given a new life instead of being wasted.

Glass collected through bottle banks in June and July 2025 has been included to ensure a fair comparison.



Food recycling increased by around

35%

Recycling more food waste helps generate renewable energy for homes, and fertiliser for Essex farms.



Non-recyclable waste decreased by

19%

A reduction in non-recyclable waste means less materials are being thrown away, helping to reduce environmental impact.



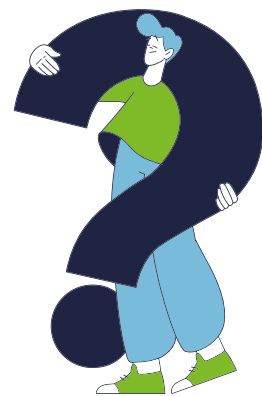
GOOD NEWS!



In June and July, the paper and card collected from your door was of excellent quality, with a contamination level of less than 4%.

Thanks to you, we're creating a more sustainable future.

HELPING YOU RECYCLE RIGHT



Can I recycle plastic film and cling film?

YES. Plastic film, including the plastic covering meat and fruit trays and cling film, can be recycled in your **blue-lidded bin**, even if it is coloured. If it has a foil lining, place it in your grey bin instead.



Can I recycle padded envelopes and Jiffy bags?

YES, but you'll need to separate the materials first. Please put the bubble wrap in your **blue-lidded bin** and the paper envelope in your **red-lidded bin**.



Can I recycle bread bags and frozen food bags?

YES. Plastic bread bags and frozen food bags can be recycled in your **blue-lidded bin**. Please make sure they are empty before recycling.



Can I recycle crisp packets, biscuit wrappers, coffee pouches and pet food pouches?

NO. If the packaging has a silver foil lining, it cannot be recycled and should be placed in your **grey bin**.



Can I recycle tissues, kitchen roll, toilet roll or Napkins?

NO. Tissues, kitchen roll, toilet roll and paper napkins cannot be recycled, even if they are clean and unused. The paper fibres are too short to be made into new paper products, so they should be placed in your **grey bin**.



ADDITIONAL RECYCLING CAPACITY

We know some households may need extra recycling capacity. Since the new service launched, we have been reviewing collection data alongside resident feedback to help shape how the additional capacity scheme will operate.

From this autumn, households will be able to apply for additional bins or boxes, provided they meet the criteria. More information on how to apply will be shared nearer the time.

TIPS ON HOW TO MAXIMISE YOUR RECYCLING CAPACITY

Flatten cardboard
You can fold and break up cardboard



Squash plastic bottles
and replace the lids to keep them compressed



Stack tubs/plastic containers
that are of a similar size and shape



Squash cans
to help save space



KEEPING RECYCLING CLEAN, DRY AND LOOSE

Paper and card should always be kept clean and dry. Wet or greasy items such as pizza boxes, takeaway packaging or food-stained cardboard should go in your grey bin, not your paper and card recycling bin. Food residue and grease can damage the paper fibres and contaminate other recycling, which can sometimes result in entire loads being rejected.

Before putting items in your mixed recycling, **make sure containers are empty and free from food residue.** Removing leftover food can help reduce unpleasant smells.

Please place mixed recycling loose in your blue-lidded bin or recycling box. Sorting equipment can identify individual items such as glass, plastic, cans and cartons, but recycling placed inside bags cannot be identified and may not be recycled.

PLACE RECYCLING LOOSE IN BINS OR BOXES



DON'T PLACE RECYCLING INSIDE BAGS



NO GREASY FOOD PACKAGING



REMOVE TRACES OF FOOD



FLATTEN CARDBOARD BOXES

KEEP UP TO DATE

WITH SERVICE CHANGES

SCAN THE QR CODE

and subscribe to our Bins, Recycling and Environment email newsletter.



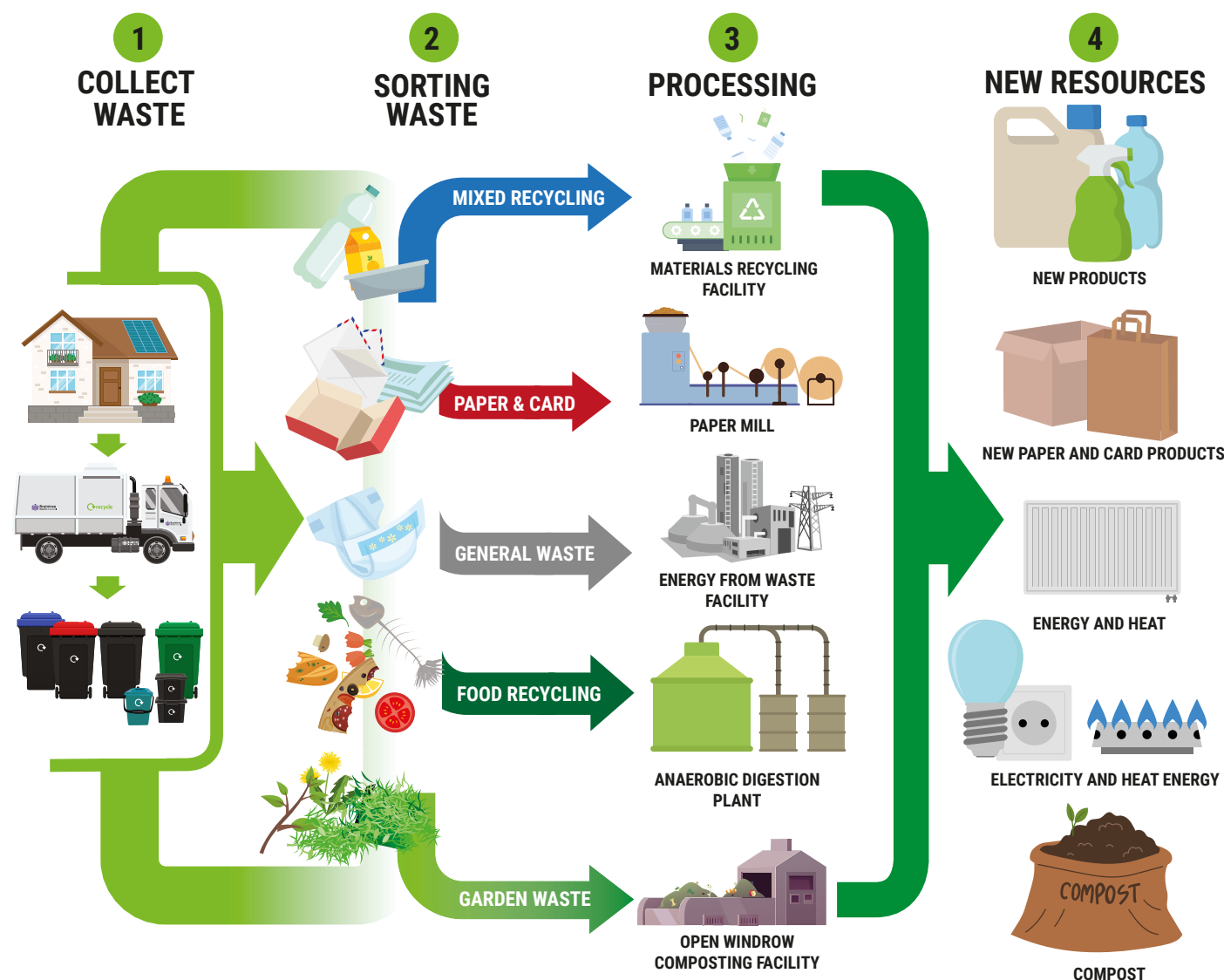
REMEMBER, small recycling habits make a big difference:

- ✓ Keep paper and card clean and dry
- ✓ Food containers should be free of food
- ✓ Put mixed recycling in loose, not in bags
- ✓ Remove any packaging before using your food caddy



WHERE YOUR RECYCLING GOES:

When you put the right item in the right bin it can be processed correctly. Here's where it goes:



DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know recycling symbols don't always match your local recycling service?

Different recycling services accept different materials, so always check our **A-Z DIRECTORY** rather than relying solely on the symbols or numbers printed on packaging.



HELP TO STAY WARM FOR LESS THIS WINTER

Heating our homes can be costly for a few reasons:

- energy costs are high
- our homes are not always well insulated
- our home heating systems are not always efficient.

This July, the Energy Price Cap also went up by 13%, raising costs even further for the approximately 60% of homes on a price-capped energy tariff.

Having a cold, damp home is not just uncomfortable; it can also affect your health, especially if you suffer from existing health conditions, such as asthma or COPD, or have a weakened immune system.

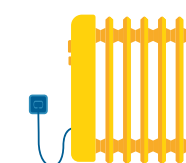
How we can help

- **The Government offers one-off Winter Fuel Payments** of between £250 and £600 to help with energy costs during the cold weather. Find out more: www.gov.uk/winter-fuel-payment
- **The Green Doctor service**, run by charity Groundwork East, offers free energy saving measures, personalised advice and support, referrals to further support and more – read about the scheme: www.groundworkorg.uk/greendoctor
- **Braintree District Council has a handyman scheme**, offering a free service for residents aged 65 and over or vulnerable owner occupiers and private tenants to help with radiator bleeding, fitting hot water tank jackets, replacing curtain rails and clearing lofts to enable loft insulation to be installed. Contact the Sustainability Team on **01376 552525** for information on criteria and eligibility.
- **Warm Home Discount Scheme**
This scheme opens in October 2026 and offers a one-off £150 discount off your electricity bill. If you're eligible, your electricity supplier will apply the discount to your bill. For more information visit www.gov.uk/the-warm-home-discount-scheme

Here are some practical TIPS TO HELP RESIDENTS REDUCE ENERGY COSTS AT HOME:

Turn your thermostat down by 1°C

- even a small reduction can make a noticeable difference to energy bills



Only heat the rooms you're using and keep internal doors closed

Take shorter showers and consider fitting a water-efficient showerhead



Only heat the water you need

This can help save energy and also cut your household costs.

Switch to LED bulbs, which use significantly less electricity and last longer



Wait until the washing machine or dishwasher is full before running a cycle

Air dry clothes instead of using a tumble dryer whenever possible



Draught-proof doors, windows and letterboxes and ensure loft insulation is adequate

Boil only the amount of water you need in the kettle.



MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

IN THE BRAINTREE DISTRICT

Looking after our mental wellbeing is just as important as caring for our physical health.

Sometimes, support comes from a conversation, a new activity, practical advice, or simply feeling part of a community. Across the Braintree district, there are a range of local organisations, groups and services that can help you build connections, improve your wellbeing and find support when you need it.

Sometimes, the most powerful thing we can offer is not a perfect answer, but a genuine invitation to connect: 'I'm here. Would you like to talk?'

Mid and North East Essex Mind

When someone is struggling, would you know how to help?

Most of us have experienced a moment when someone we care about seems different. A friend appears withdrawn, a neighbour seems unusually quiet, or a colleague admits they are finding life difficult.

Knowing how to respond can feel daunting. We often worry about saying the wrong thing, making matters worse, or not having the answers.

Yet mental health professionals remind us that helping someone often starts with something simple: noticing, asking and listening.

You do not need to be a mental health expert to make a difference. Taking the time to ask how someone is feeling, listening without judgement and helping them find support can reduce feelings of isolation and remind people they are not alone.

Mid and North East Essex Mind encourages local people to develop their confidence in supporting both their own wellbeing and that of others. Through Mental Health Toolkit workshops and Suicide Awareness training, residents can learn practical skills that help them recognise when somebody may be struggling and respond with compassion.

This autumn, fully funded places are available to people living or working in the Braintree district.

FIND OUT MORE:

mnessexmind.org
@training@mnessexmind.org



LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

supporting mental wellbeing in our district

BRAINTREE COMMUNITY GARDEN

A welcoming outdoor space where people can enjoy the therapeutic benefits of gardening, spend time in nature and meet others in a relaxed environment.

The garden helps improve confidence, supports mental wellbeing and creates meaningful social connections through shared activities.

Please check out The Wilderness Foundation on their website www.wildernessfoundation.org.uk for further details



THE WITHAM HUB

The Witham Hub offers a friendly and inclusive space where local people can access support, activities and community services.

From drop-in sessions to practical assistance and social opportunities, the Hub helps people feel connected and supported when they need it most.



HALSTEAD COMMUNITY SHED

Built on the simple idea of "somewhere to go, something to do, someone to talk to", the Community Shed brings people together through practical projects, social activities and wellbeing initiatives.

The organisation provides opportunities to learn new skills, meet others and improve both physical and mental wellbeing.

AGE WELL EAST DIGITAL FRIENDS SERVICE

For many older people, technology can feel overwhelming. Age Well East's Digital Friends Service helps residents aged 60 and over build confidence using digital devices through one-to-one support. By helping people stay in touch with family and friends, access services and engage online, the service can play an important role in reducing loneliness and isolation.

SUPPORT WHEN YOU NEED IT - MID AND NORTH EAST ESSEX MIND

A local mental health charity providing counselling, wellbeing services, training and crisis support across the region.

Their work aims to ensure nobody has to face mental health challenges or loneliness alone.

Visit: mnessexmind.org

Tips on how you can help look after your mental wellbeing:

Stay connected with family and friends



Spend time outdoors and in nature



Keep physically active



Talk openly about how you feel



Ask for support when you need it



Reach out to local community groups



Eat nutritious meals





BRAINTREE TOWN CENTRE PSPO UPDATED

The Braintree town centre PSPO was updated in May, a year and a half after first coming into force. The updated PSPO features a change to the consumption of alcohol prohibition and the requirement to stop drinking and surrender any containers believed to contain alcohol when made to by an authorised officer.

It also includes the addition of a prohibition preventing a person from sleeping in a public place within the town centre in a manner that has a detrimental impact on the quality of life of others.



Meet the Braintree Town Street Scene Protection Officer



Derek Lewin is the Braintree Town Street Scene Protection Officer. He has over twenty-four years of experience in policing and is hugely experienced in community policing, making him an ideal fit for his new role focusing on enforcing the town centre Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO).

What does your role entail?

My role entails foot patrol in Braintree Town centre. Providing re-assurance to visitors, residents, and business owners. Providing advice and if necessary, carrying out enforcement action relating to the PSPO legislation, which includes tackling ASB, consumption of alcohol and the use of controlled drugs.

How can people report antisocial behaviour and what should they keep in mind for reporting it?

People can report ASB to me in person when I'm on patrol. I welcome reports when out on patrol as I can potentially deal with the situation there and then. Otherwise, you can report ASB to BDC by contacting Customer Services either by phone or by completing an online report. People can also report ASB to Police. I work closely with Braintree neighbourhood policing team.



Taking action on nuisance vehicles

We know that antisocial use of vehicles has had an impact on communities throughout the district. We now have a Vehicle Nuisance PSPO in order, covering the entire district.

The Council held a consultation in August last year, where 84% of respondents said they were supportive of this PSPO and had witnessed behaviour such as motor vehicles being raced against one another, excessive speed, revving engines (as to cause a public nuisance) and stunts such as dough-nutting, drifting, skidding, handbrake turns and wheel spinning.

The Order applies to all public highways and public places within the entire Braintree District. Penalties include a Fixed Penalty Notice of up to £100; or Prosecution leading to a fine of up to £1,000 (Level 3).

The Order will be enforced by Police Officers and authorised Officers of Braintree District Council.

Councillor Community Grants increase to £1,500!

In 2025/26, we awarded
£60,997
in Councillor Community
Grants, funding 86
community projects.

We funded projects from as little as £100, all the way up to £4,100.

Each ward councillor had a maximum of £1,250 to give to local organisations and councillors can pool their budgets together to joint fund projects.

Projects funded included sports activities, children's activities, refurbishment projects, sensory equipment, training initiatives, garden and environmental projects, community celebrations, bereavement cafés and dementia activities.

As well as local community groups, seven parish councils had projects supported via this scheme.

We're pleased to share that the Councillor Community Fund budgets have been increased to £1,500 for 2026/27 so they can fund more or larger projects.

Projects funded so far this year included football kits for Hatfield Peverel Football Club, heating and improvements for 1st Braintree Scouts Group and a wheelchair accessible picnic table for Bocking Windmill.

Do you have a project that could benefit from a Councillor Community Grant? Visit our website or speak to your local councillor.



BUILDING A MORE COMPASSIONATE BRAINTREE DISTRICT

Over the past year, Braintree District Council has been working alongside residents and partners to help create a more compassionate and connected district through the Compassionate Communities Development Programme.

The aim is to encourage open conversations about loss, bereavement, ageing, caring responsibilities, and social isolation, while strengthening local support networks and community resilience.

Across six workshops, partners from a wide range of organisations explored how communities can play a greater role in supporting people through life's challenges. A key feature of the programme was the inclusion of people with lived experience, whose personal stories helped shape discussions and ensured that learning remained grounded in real-life experiences.

One particularly powerful session featured Sharron Goldstone who shared her experience of bereavement. She spoke openly about the loss of both of her parents and, tragically, the death of her son, Theo, while he was on holiday in Thailand.

Her story resonated deeply with everyone in the room and served as a reminder that compassion is not only a professional responsibility but a human one. It highlighted the importance of reaching out to those who are grieving rather than waiting for them to make the first move.

One key message from the session was simple but profound: if you know someone who has been bereaved, do not be afraid to make contact. A phone call, a visit, or a simple conversation can mean far more than you realise. She also encouraged people not to be afraid of mentioning the name of the person who has died, as many bereaved people value the opportunity to talk about their loved one and keep their memory alive.

We are delighted to share that Braintree District Council has successfully secured funding from Essex County Council to continue developing Compassionate Communities programmes across the district.



Young learners discovered sustainability and future green careers at

ECO-THEMED ACTIVITY DAY



More than 300 pupils from across the district took part in a day dedicated to sustainability, innovation and green skills.



Organised in partnership with the Braintree District Cultural Education Partnership, the Green Skills, Careers and Tech Day welcomed children from seven primary schools, alongside pupils from Edith Borthwick School, for a series of interactive workshops designed to inspire the next generation of environmental leaders.

The event gave children the opportunity to explore how sustainability connects to a wide range of real-world careers. Throughout the day, they took part in eight hands-on workshops covering topics such as biodiversity, pollination, environmental monitoring, renewable energy, sustainable design and clean technology.

Activities included building wind turbines and solar-powered models, creating eco-friendly costumes and wildlife habitats, and getting a close-up look at an electric vehicle. Through these practical experiences, the children developed new skills, gained a better understanding of environmental challenges and discovered the role they can play in shaping a greener future.

The initiative aims to encourage children to consider the rewarding opportunities available within the growing green sector and the important role they can play in building a more sustainable future.



Justin Wrench,
Headteacher at Great Bradfords
Junior School, said:

Events like this are invaluable for our pupils. They open children's eyes to the real-world impact of sustainability and show them how the skills they learn in school connect to exciting future careers. The children came away inspired, curious, and full of ideas about how they can play their part in creating a greener future.



This event received
£6,260 from the UK
government through
the UK Shared
Prosperity Fund



Funded by
UK Government



BRAINTREE STREET. MARKET 2026

**FOOD, GIFTS,
HOMEWARE
AND MORE**

SATURDAY

31 OCTOBER
14 NOVEMBER
(CHRISTMAS MARKET)
28 NOVEMBER
19 DECEMBER

[braintreestreetmarket](https://www.instagram.com/braintreestreetmarket)

SOCIAL SUPERMARKET

SUPPORTS RURAL AREAS WITH
AFFORDABLE SHOPPING

In 25/26, our Cost of Living Fund has helped set up two Social Supermarkets in White Colne and Sible Hedingham.

The Braintree District Social Supermarket, operated by Maldon & District CVS, is designed to support individuals and families facing the challenges of the rising cost of living by offering access to low-cost essentials as well as finding out about local support in a welcoming environment.

In 2025/26, these social supermarkets saw 5,466 items distributed, 103 households supported and £1,171 total savings to members.

White Colne Village Hall
11am to 12.30pm,
2 & 16 October, 6 & 20 November,
4 & 18 December.

Sible Hedingham Baptist Church
11am to 12.30pm,
9 & 23 October, 13 & 27 November,
11 December

Ridgewell Village Hall
11am to 12.30pm,
5 & 19 October, 2 & 16 November,
7 & 21 December.

NEW

Call 01621 851891
or **SCAN THE
QR CODE** for
more information



It's **GAME OVER** for smelly bins

POWER UP!

by using your **WEEKLY** food
recycling collection



Beat smells with **WEEKLY** food recycling
collections and unlock the next level:
a fresher general rubbish bin.

Did you know?

When you recycle your food, it's taken to
an anaerobic digestion facility in
Dagenham. Here, it is turned into energy
for homes and fertiliser for Essex farms.



Last year, Braintree District
recycled enough food to
power around 50,000 fridges
for a month!



For more information, or to order
a new food recycling caddy, visit:



loveessex.org/caddy

Working in partnership with



Braintree
District Council