

# BRAINTREE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

*Supporting Parish and Town Councils in the District of Braintree*

Chair: Cllr Martin Lee  
email: [balc.clerk@gmail.com](mailto:balc.clerk@gmail.com)  
website: <https://e-voice.org.uk/balc/>

Council Chairman,

A meeting of the Braintree Association of Local Councils is arranged for:

**WEDNESDAY 18<sup>th</sup>. OCTOBER 2023 at 7pm**

via Zoom and in person at Witham Town Hall

BALC is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: BALC Representative meeting

Time: Oct 18, 2023 19:00 London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86040927108?pwd=S3FRby8ybVEzbnZyZzBaU1Z3cU1oZz09>

Meeting ID: 860 4092 7108

Passcode: 265334

Your Council's attendance or apology is invited via [balc.clerk@gmail.com](mailto:balc.clerk@gmail.com)

*KB Money*

Kevin B. Money

Braintree Association of Local Councils Clerk – 6<sup>th</sup>. October 2023

## AGENDA

1. Welcome from the Chairman
2. Apologies for absence
3. Guest speaker Ms. Charlene Slade CEO from EALC
4. Colne Valley Community Energy Project - Cllr Jane Taylor
5. To approve the Minutes of the last meeting of BALC Representatives on 19<sup>th</sup>. July 2023
6. Finance report:
  - a) To receive the Bank reconciliation as at 30<sup>th</sup>. September 2023
  - b) To receive the BALC accounts to 30<sup>th</sup>. September 2023
7. Local Highways Panel
8. BDC Standards Sub Committee
9. EALC Executive report
10. Information Sharing – an opportunity for Councils to ask questions and share their experiences
11. Date of next meeting – **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup>. January 2023 at 7pm**  
Mr. Dan Gascoigne CEO of BDC has been invited to attend this meeting

From Jane Taylor, Chair of White Colne Parish Council .

I am co leader of the Colne Valley Community Energy Project with Jill Bruce who is the Climate Ambassador for the Federation of Essex Wis

The projects aim is to bring solar panels with battery storage to domestic rooftops. The university of East London devised the scheme with backing from the EU, and ECC have acquired the geospatial surveys for every rooftop in Essex. This survey allows us to look at individual roof tops to give us a good indicator of the energy capabilities of the building. ECC have identified an ESCO – an energy supply company skilled in delivering renewable energy, and understanding the logistics of the Project. Their name is Powercircle .

They are able to engage with social impact funders for the project, and work with trusted and capable installers . An ESCO is a not for profit company.

So how does the Project work ?

A householder will have three choices

1 Firstly buy the solar array and batteries out right - due to economies of scale the Project will be able to supply panels and batteries at a lower price than in the open market. Any excess energy generated will be able to be sold, back to the project, known as peer to peer, or to the national grid.

As an illustration of costs , an average 3 bedroom house using around 4500 kWh per year could take an installation of 10 panels at a cost of £5,485 with a 5.2 kWh battery added for an extra £2,999.

2. Or if the householder does not have the means to fund the panels , the Project will be able to fund the supply and installation on a Pay as you Go contract. No upfront cost for the householder and still cheaper than buying electricity from the National Grid. At this stage the Project is suggesting the contract will cost approx £2 - £3 per week. Excess energy is sold by the ESCO to householders without solar (peer to peer) or to the national grid. The pay as you go customer does not receive any payment for the excess energy generated .

3. For those unable to fit solar panels on their roof, for whatever reason, they can still be part of the project by receiving community energy on a peer to peer basis. This will be cheaper than the national grid.

There is also the possibility to have ground mounted panels depending on space and location .

We have taken this message to 7 different parishes, the 4 colnes Gt Tey Chappel and Halstead Town Council. All are supporting the project . Another group is also working in Manningtree. Together we are working to identify the first 50 householders who will self fund and start the project .This will bring confidence to the Project allowing everyone to see for themselves how well everything works .To get investors on board, for the pay as you go contracts, we need to demonstrate that we have 300 properties who want to be funded.

If your Council agrees to supporting the Project then we can organise and lead a public meeting in your town or Parish with presentations from ECC , Powercircle and one of the installers. We have found that a house to house leaflet drop is a good way to advertise the meeting and Jill and I have a budget for printing and venue hire with refreshments . We would however ask if you have a way of delivering leaflets as we are unable to cover that. There will also be a need for volunteers to move the project forward. At the end of the meetings we usually ask residents to send their expressions of interest to a specified email address, and in reply they receive the solar potential for their property. We are not in a position to field all those emails, but would be happy to train and support your volunteers.

For the project to be successful in your Parish or Town , we would therefore ask first for your Council to support the scheme and secondly to agree to find a group of volunteers to work with us.

# BRAINTREE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

*Supporting Parish and Town Councils in the District of Braintree*

*Chair: Cllr Martin Lee*

*Association Clerk: Kevin B. Money  
7 Roach Vale, Colchester, Essex. CO4 3YN  
email: [balc.clerk@gmail.com](mailto:balc.clerk@gmail.com)  
website: <https://e-voice.org.uk/balc/>*

## **MINUTES OF THE REPRESENTATIVE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 19<sup>th</sup>. JULY 2023 VIA ZOOM AND IN PERSON AT WITHAM TOWN HALL AT 7pm**

In attendance: Martin Lee (Chairman), Paul Lees (Vice-Chairman), Mark Lovell Gt. Yeldham, John Kelly Silver End, Matt Burgess Kelvedon PC, Ian Pleasance Greenstead Green PC, Mike Eldred Rayne PC, Matt Burgess, David Smith Gestingthorpe PC, Graham McCoyd Halstead TC, Ann Wood and Susan Pedder both Black Notley PC, Garry Warren Halstead TC, Roger Duffin Finchingfield PC, Peter Gentry Lt. Yeldham, Bob Turner Rivenhall PC, Emma Goodings Head of Planning and Economic Growth at BDC & Kevin B. Money (BALC Clerk)

**1. Welcome from the Chairman.** The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and especially Emma Goodings from BDC and apologised for the delay in starting the meeting due to technical issues

**2. Apologies for absence** were received from Derek Hambling Greenstead Green and Halstead Rural PC, Andrew Hull Shalford PC, Jane Taylor White Colne, Paul Heath Witham TC, Ken McDonald Silver End, John Warner Finchingfield PC, Kerry Barnes Steeple Bumpstead PC.

**3. Guest speaker** from Emma Goodings Head of Planning and Economic Growth at BDC Emma Goodings supplied a comprehensive s106 planning presentation slides which can be found at <https://e-voice.org.uk/balc/braintree-district-council/>

Questions were then asked by members to Emma on a variety of planning issues

- BDC planning department is under-manned
- Recruitment in BDC planning department is taking place but BDC finds it difficult to hold onto planning officers
- s106 officer does not give confidence to Town and Parish Councils
- Over £8m is held by BDC in s106 monies
- Large towns have more s106 monies allocated to them
- A numerous number of complaints have been put into BDC planning department
- s106 monies not being delivered across the County
- If timeframe is expired any s106 monies is returned to the developer
- Can s106 monies be broadened to other areas?
- Sarah Burder is s106 spreadsheet officer – s106 email contact is on BDC website
- Would more money be secured using CIL money against s106. CIL way forward is better
- Is any money for s106 for a travellers site? Many different rules apply but homes under 10 cannot have any s106 monies allocated to the site
- If a shop is converted to residential flats, then no s106 money can be allocated to the site
- With planning application additional response from Town or Parish Council's then send an email to case officer directly can be made
- Planning budget is always under pressure
- Infrastructure levy coming in in April 2026
- 9-10 vacancies in Emma's department from a total amount of 60 officers. Therefore, 10% shortfall in staffing
- What pressure can BDC place on developers to hand over s106 monies. Depending on the way the agreement was set up but are limited legally on what BDC can do.
- Would Emma or Dominic Collins be prepared to attend Council meetings? Emma informed the meeting that she would but to have in-house training for Councillors at BDC offices.
- 5 year housing stock level as at today. 5 year housing supply will be abolished for BDC who have a Local Plan. September 2023 figure is just under a 4.8 year supply.

- Inconsistencies use of NP by BDC. Smaller Councils find there is a resistance at BDC with a NP but larger Councils seem to get a positive response from BDC regarding their NP
- NP has equal weight to the local plan. Without the 5-year housing supply it is more difficult to refuse a planning application.
- Are officers still working from home. Yes, BDC are using the hybrid system
- BDC are finding it difficult to retain their officers

The Chair thanked Emma for giving the presentation and answering all the questions fully and honestly. Emma Goodings then left the meeting

**4. To approve the Minutes of the last meeting of BALC Representatives on 25<sup>th</sup>. May 2023. All Agreed**

**5. Finance report:**

- a) To receive the Bank reconciliation as at 30<sup>th</sup>. June 2023

Members noted the Bank reconciliation as at 30<sup>th</sup>. June 2023

- b) To receive the BALC accounts to 18<sup>th</sup>. July 2023

Members noted the BALC accounts to 18<sup>th</sup>. July 2023

**6. Local Highways Panel**

A further representative will be nominated by Halsted TC.

Jane Taylor to go onto the LHP panel. **All Agreed**

An update from LHP – New projects were discussed. Some projects were removed from the list.

LHP will, in the future, have a greater say. Only ECC Councillors can vote on the LHP panel.

Halsted TC have no right to be on the LHP. Only 3 BALC representatives can attend such meetings

**7. BDC Standards Sub Committee**

Nothing to report

**8. EALC Executive report**

EALC met last week. AGM on 21<sup>st</sup>. September at Colchester Community Stadium

No cost to EALC as it is being fully funded by sponsorships. EALC is getting better. More forward planning.

The Chair of BALC is now on the EALC finance committee as well as Vice-Chair of BALC.

EALC is imposing a 3 month timescale to send in annual subscription.

Training is good and is being promoted regularly. If large number of Councillors who want training are in one area EALC will do out-house training. Micro grants going to £1000. Biodiversity policy by 2024

New website being launched in October '23

ECC going for devolution

**9. Information Sharing – an opportunity for Councils to ask questions and share their experiences**

BALC met BDC Chief Executive on Monday 10<sup>th</sup>. July he was open with all his answers

Chief Executive has agreed to attend the next BALC meeting on 18.10.23

Local elections procedures were poor and he recognised their failure. No further excuses were made.

Clerks only Forum – No feedback from BDC.

Communication must be circulated by the Clerk some Clerks are not passing it onto Councillors

Council Chairmen to email their Clerk requesting that all communications are passed onto Councillors

BDC has a £2m deficit

Green charges are coming in to pay for the green bins. Early bird discount for 2023 £27 in 2024 the cost will be £60 and £65 in 2025. All year round except for 2 weeks at Christmas.

No evidence in extra Fly-tipping in BDC area

Annual Parish Assembly held virtually by Feeing PC which had 250 attendees.

BDC Enforcement is letting down Councils. Local BDC Councillors who serve on the BDC planning committee refuse to assist Councils with planning issues.

They should not absolve themselves from their duties to local Councils.

**10. Date of next meeting – Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup>. October 2023 at 7pm**

BDC Chief Executive attending meeting

The Chairman then closed the meeting at 9.25pm and thanked everyone for attending

Signed

**Martin Lee  
Chairman**

18<sup>th</sup>. October 2023

# Your Account Statement



For Businesses. For Communities. For Good.

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Mr Kevin Barry Money  
7 Roach Vale  
COLCHESTER  
CO4 3YN

**Date:** 30/09/2023

**Account Name:** Braintree Association Of Local Councils

**Swift Code (BIC):** NWBKGB2L

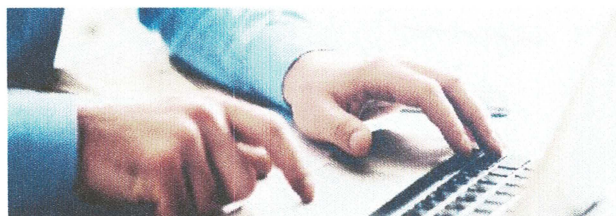
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Call us: **0345 140 1000**



Email us: [us@unity.co.uk](mailto:us@unity.co.uk)



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## Your Current T1 account transactions:

Date	Type	Details	Payments Out	Payments In	Balance
03/09/2023		Balance brought forward	£0.00	£0.00	£1,058.98
18/09/2023	Transfer	B/P to: Witham Town C	✓ £24.00	£0.00	£1,034.98
19/09/2023	Direct Debit	Direct Debit (CLOSEBROKERBILITY)	✓ £33.68	£0.00	£1,001.30
30/09/2023	Fee	Service Charge	✓ £18.00	£0.00	✓ £983.30

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