

District Councillor's Report to Parish Councils March 2026 Cllr. Diana Garrod - Bumpstead Ward

Scheduled Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders & Roadworks

FYI only: Cycle Route: The Suffolk Spring Classic – Sunday 19th April 2026.

Intended closure of Cornish Hall End Road, Birdbrook Road and Chapel End Way, Stambourne on 4th March 2026 for 1 day while Openreach undertakes cabling and pole testing.

Link <https://one.network/?tm=GB147318843>

Intended closure Maltings, Lane, Sturmer Road, Steeple Bumpstead due to commence on 11th March 2026 for 14 days. The closure is required while Essex County Council undertakes carriageway patching.

<https://one.network/?tm=GB148151761>

Intended closure of Coupals Road, Sturmer due to commence on 16th March 2026 for 5 days while ECC undertakes carriageway patching. Link: <https://one.network/?tm=GB147560587>

Intended closure of Daw Street, Bailey Hill, Birdbrook 23rd – 25th March 2026. The closure is required while Essex County Council undertakes carriageway patching. <https://one.network/?tm=GB148151761>

Intended closure of Ashen Road, Ridgewell & Tilbury Road/Tilbury Green/Meadowend, Ridgewell & Tilbury Road, Tilbury Juxta Clare due to commence on 23rd March 2026 for 10 days whilst Openreach undertakes cabling. Link: <https://one.network/?tm=GB147437068>

Anglian Water works at New England, Sturmer Road (A1017). New underground storage pipes; completed. Their notice says that works should be completed December 2025. It also says:

‘During extreme weather, the sewer network can get overwhelmed, and if all that water has nowhere to go it can cause flooding and pollution. The new underground storage pipes will hold any excess water during storms, storing it safely until the recycling centre can process it and return it safely to the local environment’.

I have been in communication with a ‘Customer Experience Specialist’ at Anglian to enquire about the status of the works, who first told me the works are complete. I send them the photo (here) and received the following response:-

“I apologise for any confusion regarding the status of the works. You are correct that the scheme is not yet fully complete. While the main construction activities have been finished, we are scheduled to return in May, subject to suitable ground conditions, to complete the outstanding field reinstatement”.



BDC Budget & Council Tax 2026-2027

Braintree District Council's element of the overall Council Tax bill will be frozen, keeping the Band D property tax rate at £206.01 (£3.96 per week). To support households on low income with their total bill, the Council has also recently approved continuation of the Local Council Tax Support Scheme which will provide discounts to eligible households. Advice and guidance will be available to those in need of support and, where appropriate, exceptional hardship relief will be considered.

To further support communities with the ongoing challenges from the cost of living, an additional £400,000 is being made available to extend the Cost of Living Fund and the Council will continue to work with key partners in delivering this essential support. This is on the back of an already successful programme of community support which has been delivered using £1 million previously allocated from New Homes Bonus.

To maintain current services, over £2 million is being added to the Budget to meet inflationary pressures, new burdens and other increases in costs or to cover reductions in income. In addition, the Budget proposes almost £1 Million for investment into services to ensure continuous improvement in service delivery, maintain community support, enhance digital services, and meet growing demands on the Council's regulatory services. Additional funding is also being made available to increase capacity in the Council's enabling services given the challenges on the Council, not least preparing for Local Government Reorganisation (LGR).

The successful Councillor Community Grant scheme is being extended for a further two years with an increased allocation of £1,500 to each Councillor per annum to use to support local projects and community groups.

Funding is being made available by the Government to enable the authority to tackle the issues of preventing homelessness and rough sleeping as well as supporting those at risk from domestic abuse. The Budget recognises the increasing cost pressures from the need to provide temporary accommodation, and the Council will continue to explore ways in which it can work with private landlords and other agencies to direct households and those at risk of homelessness into affordable and secure housing solutions.

To maintain progress against the Council's Climate Change Action Plan, an extra £150,000 is being made available, which will fund projects and initiatives including more funding for tree and bulb planting.

Example:- Council Tax rates for Band D Property in Sturmer:-

Essex County Council	Increase 3.75%	£1641.96
Essex Police	Increase 5.74%	£ 275.31
Essex Fire Service	Increase 5.65%	£ 92.52
Braintree District Council	No increase: 0%	£ 206.01
Sturmer Parish Council	Increase 4%	£ 74.32
TOTAL:		£2290.12

Examples:- Precepts for other local parish councils.

Ridgewell Parish Council	£105.76
Gt Yeldham Parish Council	£103.25
Birdbrook Parish Council (including Baythorne End & New England)	£ 83.11
Steeple Bumpstead Parish Council	£ 80.86
Sturmer Parish Council	£ 74.32
Helions Bumpstead Parish Council	£ 69.86
Gestingthorpe Parish Council	£ 65.77
Stambourne Parish Council	£ 57.17
Bulmer Parish Council	£ 43.11

Ashen Parish Council	£ 48.00
Little Yeldham Parish Council	£ 39.99
Belchamp St Paul Parish Council	£ 28.00
Alphamstone & Lamarsh Parish Council	£ 26.62
Belchamp Otten Parish Council	£ 20.63

Braintree Local Highways Panel

Scheduled meetings: 19th March, 25th June, 1st October 2026, 28th January 2027. All starting 17:00.
Email from ECC Cllr. Schwier 13 February 2026:

Following a refresh of the Local Highway Panels (LHP) earlier this year, £6 million has been allocated for the delivery of highway improvement schemes over 2025/26 and 2026/27.

The focus remains on progressing schemes which are deliverable by the end of March 2027, prioritising straightforward, deliverable highway improvements, to support with the reduction in overall process costs, and ensuring timely enhancements that benefit our local communities.

The full work programme for the Braintree LHP to March 2027 has been agreed, therefore new requests for schemes of this nature are currently unable to be progressed.

The service is exploring options for the delivery of low-level, simple, straight-forward safety-related improvements next financial year, such as signing and lining, guard railing, and minor footway improvements. Further detail will be shared once the 2026/27 budget has been agreed.

Scheduled Dates for Local Plan Sub-Committee Meetings (Local Plan)

(Meeting scheduled 26th February 2026 was cancelled). 12th March, 25th March, 18th May, 1st June, 15th June, 29th June, 13th July, 20th July, 30th July 2026 at 18:30. 1st September 2026 (Recommendation to Full Council for Regulation 19) followed by Full Council Meeting 14th September 2026 19:15 (additional extraordinary meeting for Regulation 19 and Submission of the Local Plan).

Whilst it was hoped that the Regulation 18 (6 week) consultation would start around 19th February, there is a delay in receiving the Sustainability Appraisal from consultants. A revised date will be issued soon.

SPOT IT STOP IP Exploitation Awareness Sessions

Braintree District Council and the Braintree Community Safety Partnership are offering free SPOT IT STOP IT (child exploitation) training to local businesses and community organisations. One of our priorities is to protect children and young people from exploitation.

The session will provide:

- An overview of child exploitation
- Tools to spot exploitation
- How to report concerns of child exploitation

Perpetrators will target young people to commit crime, e.g. drug running or get involved in sexual activity; they do this by using grooming techniques, concentrating and targeting on their vulnerabilities.

To sign up to a FREE session please fill out this [form](#) or email lucy.wilson@braintree.gov.uk stating your name and organisation/business.

Thursday 2 April, 6-8pm at Braintree District Council, Causeway House

Cllr. Diana Garrod
Braintree District Councillor - Bumpstead Ward