

District Councillor's Report to Parish Councils May 2026

Cllr. Diana Garrod - Bumpstead Ward

Scheduled Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders & Roadworks

Intended closure of Camps Road, Helions Bumpstead, due to commence on 26th May 2026 for 1 day whilst Openreach undertakes pole testing.

Intended closure of Station Road, Moat Road Birdbrook whilst Anglian Water undertakes works 18th to 20th May 2026. Ref: AD03166777823_2-02

Outline Planning Application for Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND) School

Town and Country Planning Act 1990

Please find details below of an application/s received within the ward of Bumpstead.

APPLICATION NO: 26/00731/OUT

DESCRIPTION: Outline application with all matter reserved except access, for the change of use of Sturmer Hall and associated buildings to a Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) school, erection of new hydrotherapy and wellness centre, 7 no. detached buildings for student accommodation and associated access arrangements.

LOCATION: Sturmer Hall, Church Walk, Sturmer, Essex. CB9 7XD

Please note that the public expiry date for consultation on this application is 19th May 2026.

<https://www.braintree.gov.uk/planning-building-control/view-comment-planning-applications>

Essex County Council Elections Thursday 7th May 2026

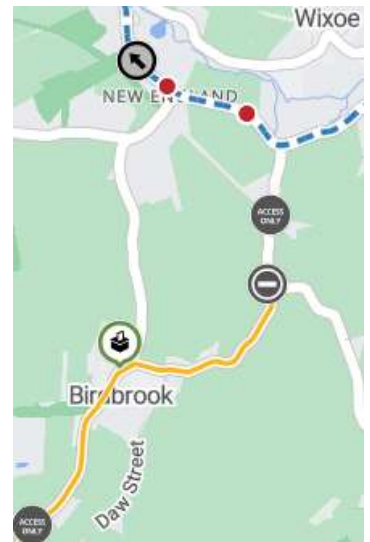
Elections will take place across the Braintree District on Thursday 7 May 2026 to elect Essex County Councillors. Voters are now required to show photographic identification at polling stations before they are given a ballot paper.

Overseeing the coordination of the Community Safety Action Plan to increase awareness of child exploitation, domestic abuse, fraud and cybercrime.

The Community Safety Officer from Braintree District Council continues to attend the monthly 'Parish Council Forum' facilitated by Essex Police. This forum provides an opportunity to discuss community safety concerns and explore preventative measures collaboratively with Parish Councils, Essex Police, Braintree District Council and other members of the Community Safety Partnership.

There are currently 2 Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews in progress for the Braintree District and 14 ASB Case Review requests have been received since 1 April 2025. During the third quarter the national 16 days of activism against gender-based violence campaign took place between 25 November and 10 December 2025. As part of this, the Council hosted three Domestic Abuse Awareness Days at the three main towns: Braintree, Witham and Halstead. The events provided an opportunity to promote Domestic Abuse related support services to members of the public. The specialist Domestic Abuse Officer, Community Safety Officer and partners including Essex Police, Fire Safety, Essex COMPASS, SET DAB, Eastlight Community Homes, Cranstoun and the Dogs Trust were also in attendance to promote their services and advise members of the public on the help available. Across the three days of action:

- Approximately 200 residents engaged with the events.
- Five individuals disclosed domestic abuse, including one perpetrator who was referred to Phoenix Futures and later supported into emergency accommodation.
- Several residents received Home Fire Safety Checks, including one vulnerable person with no working smoke alarms.



- A range of crime-prevention materials were distributed, such as purse bells, carddefenders and anti-spiking kits.
- The Dogs Trust helped five residents learn about fostering arrangements for survivors' pets.
- The Council ran a social media campaign regarding domestic abuse across the 16 days which reached more than 74,000 people, significantly boosting engagement and awareness. Essex Police have provided the following figures for the 2025 year, relating to Domestic Abuse: 1,115 arrests were made and 471 domestic abuse perpetrators have been brought to justice.

The above is a sample of the Third Quarter Performance Management Report 1st October to 31st December 2025 which can be viewed in the agenda of the Cabinet meeting 16th March 2026.

London Stansted Airport Community Trust Survey

As part of their "Local Voices" commitments within their 'MAG Sustainability Strategy 2025 – Creating a Sustainable Future for all', they want to hear from local communities. Every other year they run a Community Survey to understand what members of the local community think about the work they are doing and to help shape what they do next.

The survey will be open for 6 weeks and will close on Monday 1 June 2026. Results of the survey will be published on our website here in Summer 2026. Link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RZBYJWZ>

Renters' Rights Act 2025

In November, the Government published their Implementation Roadmap, which set out their planned phased implementation of the Renters' Rights Act 2025:

- Phase 1, on 1 May 2026, introduction of a transformative new tenancy system, empowering tenants to challenge poor practice in the sector. Landlords will no longer be able to evict tenants without a lawful reason, and tenants will be able to leave contracts when they need to. There will also be a ban on rental bidding and end discrimination against tenants on benefits or with children.
- Phase 2, from late 2026, will see the introduction of a new Private Rented Sector Database, providing local authorities with much better data to enforce in their areas. The Government will also introduce a new Ombudsman to support tenants and landlords to resolve disputes more quickly.
- In Phase 3, the Government will focus on raising standards through the extension of Awaab's Law, with the timescale for this subject to consultation. The Government will also introduce a modernised Decent Homes Standard to the private rented sector from 2035.

Through the Act, the Government are extending civil penalties and rent repayment orders and enhancing councils' powers of investigation to make enforcement easier. Allocations for 2026/27 reflect that the large majority of new duties and responsibilities under the Act rest with local housing authorities, but that the duty to enforce the new rent in advance provisions sits with weights and measures authorities. The Government are already monitoring local authority enforcement activity and outputs as part of the new private rented sector enforcement data collection to ensure local authorities are meeting their duties.

The financial allocation for 2026/27 for Braintree District Council is £73,020 (FYI: West Suffolk Council: £131,407).

Homelessness as a result of the Renters' Rights Act

In February, the Government also announced £49.65 million across 2026/27 and 2027/28 to support local authorities with carrying out their homelessness duties, as a result of the Renters' Rights Act. The funding confirmed above will be in addition to the above.

Small, Medium and Large Grants – National Churches Trust

The National Churches Trust offer two types of grant:

- Medium grants - this programme offers grants of up to £10,000 towards urgent and essential maintenance and repair projects costing up to £80,000. Also project development and investigative work up to RIBA planning stage 1, to support churches preparing for a major project, and in developing their project to the point at which they can approach a major grant funder. Grants will never exceed 50% of the net project costs (for this phase). The next deadline for applications is 14 April 2026.
- Large grants – this programme offers grants up to £50,000 towards the cost of major urgent structural repair projects costed at more than £80,000 including VAT. Grants of £40,000 to £50,000 are extremely limited and reserved for cases which demonstrate a very high case for investment. They will also consider projects that introduce kitchens and accessible toilets to enable increased community use, costed at more than £30,000 including VAT. Grants will never exceed 50% of the project cost. The next deadline for applications is 7 July 2026.

<http://www.nationalchurchestrust.org/our-grants>

Fund raiser for the Two Rivers Benefice

Robbie Gladwell; former lead guitarist/vocalist with Steve Harley & Cockney Rebel and former lead guitarist/vocalist with Suzi Quatro, will be playing at Steeple Bumpstead Village Hall on Saturday 9th May. Tickets £15 available from Dee Robertson-Hughes T: 07512 842577.

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