

District Councillor's Report to Parish Councils June 2026

Cllr. Diana Garrod - Bumpstead Ward

Scheduled Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders & Roadworks

Intended closure of Haverhill Road, Castle Camps and Haverhill Road, Shudy Camps as lies between Haverhill Road and Claydon Close, whilst Cambs. Water undertakes works 1st to 5th June 2026. (Not in Braintree District but will affect residents in the Bumpsteads') Ref: AD03166777823_2-02



Intended closure of Ridgewell Road, Birdbrook and Mill Road Baythorne End for 6 nights (20:00-06:00) commencing 23rd July 2026 whilst ECC undertakes inlay surfacing. Link: <https://one.network/?tm=GB150200863>

Intended closure of Mill Road, Birdbrook commencing 17th August 2026 for 5 days while Suffolk County Council undertake railing repairs. Link: <https://one.network/?tm=GB150285330>

Public Path Extinguishment – Helions Bumpstead (Highways Act 1980 Section 118)

Essex County Council has made an Order to extinguish the entire length of the PROW over the land situated between Camps Rd and Drapers Lane known as Footpath 7 in Helions Bumpstead. The footpath passes through the gardens of several properties and the DEFRA Presumptions Guidance applies.

Fixed Penalty Notices for Breaches of Household Waste-Related Requirements

The implementation of Fixed Penalty Notices for breaches of household waste-related Requirements was agreed by Cabinet 20/05/26. This was introduced by Cllr. Tom Cunningham, pursuant to Section 46 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (as amended) and in accordance with BDC's Household Waste and Recycling Collection Policy 2025. It is set to commence from 1st June 2026. Residents have a legal duty of care to present their waste in line with the Council's requirements. Key policy requirements include:

- All household waste shall be placed in the appropriate container designated for its category; recyclable materials in the recycling container, residual waste in the general waste container, and garden waste in the garden waste container; in accordance with the prescribed method of presentation for collection.
- Following collection, waste receptacles must be returned to the curtilage of the property within a reasonable time frame.
- Householders shall not present side waste, defined as any waste not presented in accordance with the prescribed method for collection.

Where a household fails to comply, the Council has powers to issue written warnings for failure to comply with requirements relating to household waste receptacles. Continued non-compliance can result in a Fixed Penalty Notice, which carries a right of appeal to the First-tier Tribunal. Non-statutory guidance on the use of penalties for non-compliance with household waste collection requirements emphasises that enforcement should be proportionate and targeted at cases causing genuine harm to the local environment. Penalties will not be issued for minor issues, including:

- Placing items in the wrong receptacle by mistake.
- Failing to close bin lids.
- Leaving bins out for a short period before collection.

The Council will adopt an educational approach before issuing penalties, such as providing households with written advice or information and including engagement visits. Fixed Penalty Notices under s46 of the Act will only be considered where these educational measures have failed to achieve compliance.

The Fixed Penalty Notice will be for £80, with a discounted rate of £60 for payment within 10 days.

Community Asset Transfer Policy

At the Cabinet meeting held 20/05/26 Cllr. Bowers, Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources and Performance presented a report to Cabinet regarding the Community Asset Transfer Policy for immediate implementation. He said that the purpose of the policy is to provide a clear, fair and transparent framework for assisting requests to transfer Council owned community land and properties to suitable third sector organisations or town and parish councils.

The Council holds a range of assets that can provide community benefit but ownership also carries financial, legal and management responsibilities. This policy is intended to support balanced decision making and is the first of a wider suite of asset-related policies flowing from the Council's asset management policy and strategy. It has been developed to give consistency to the process to guide interested organisations and ensure that applications are considered against an agreed framework rather than on an ad-hoc basis.

The Policy will help the Council to consider potential transfers in relation to relevant Corporate Priorities:

- The need to support communities to feel connected by informing and involving people in local activities.
- Empowering residents to take ownership of local projects and initiatives.
- The importance of helping people to help themselves and have less reliance on Council services.
- The need to use council buildings and land to generate additional income.
- The importance of being more efficient in managing council funds.

The Asset List, as part of the Transparency Code is accessible on the Council's website:

<https://www.braintree.gov.uk/directory/105/our-asset-list>

Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) - Implications

The reorganisation of local government is likely to lead to an increase in the desire for local groups to seek transfer of assets. The draft policy seeks to establish a framework that facilitates decision making having regard to communities and to the fiduciary duties owed to current and successor authorities.

Once the Shadow Authority is in place in 2027 significant decisions, including those with implications of £100,000 or more will have to be considered by the Shadow Authority in addition to the existing governance arrangement. Government guidance on decision making in the period before vesting day is that existing authorities should act as much as possible in the interests of and so as not to fetter the discretion of successor authorities.

More information in the Cabinet agenda 20/05/2026: <https://braintree.cmis.uk.com/braintree>

ECC Leader Opposes Local Government Reorganisation & Declares Pothole Emergency

On 13/05/26 the Leader of Essex County Council, Cllr. Peter Harris (Reform UK) wrote to Steve Reed MP, Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, indicating that the council intends to issue a legal challenge to the Government on its plans for Local Government Reorganisation in Greater Essex. The letter contained:

"Accordingly, as my first formal action as Reform UK group leader at Essex, I yesterday instructed that lawyers prepare a pre-action protocol letter ..." "Please be in no uncertainty. We will resist the premise of LGR robustly ..."

Read the letter in full at: <https://www.essex.gov.uk/news>

Cllr. Harris has written again on 22/05/26, requesting a meeting for 'urgent discussions'.

At ECC's Annual General Meeting held Thursday 28 May, Cllr. Peter Harris used his first act following confirmation as Leader to set out the new administration's immediate priorities, with road conditions placed at the top of the agenda in response to resident feedback. He said *"This declaration acknowledges that the current state of our roads is not good enough. We need to change how we work – from our policies and procedures to how we deliver services – to provide the standard Essex residents expect and deserve"*.

The Pothole Emergency declaration will be accompanied by a comprehensive action plan. This will be aimed at improving the condition of roads and pavements across Essex. The move reflects residents' concerns.

Dog Control Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) - Public Consultation

Braintree District Council has a public consultation on a proposed district-wide Dog Control Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO). The consultation will run to Monday 15 June 2026.

I encourage people to respond to this consultation and be mindful that PROW around our rural fields are also 'public spaces'.

<https://www.braintree.gov.uk/council/public-spaces-protection-order-pspo-consultation>

Council Adopts Two Year Plan 2026-2028

The Two-year plan 2026-28 (the Plan) proposes Braintree District Council (the Council) activities and performance measures to support the final two years of the Corporate Strategy taking the Council through to March 2028. The activities and performance measures are aligned to each Corporate Strategy:

1. Communities 2. Prosperity 3. Environment; which the key activities feed into.

The Plan sets out the delivery ambitions of the Council up to the formation of the new North-East Essex Unitary Council. The Plan has been adapted to include sections on the work required to support Local Government Reorganisation and Devolution over the next two years alongside a revised Fit for the Future programme to reflect changes in priorities for the next two years.

More information in the Cabinet agenda 20/05/2026: <https://braintree.cmis.uk.com/braintree>

Essex County Council Elections Held Thursday 7th May 2026

Elections took place across the Braintree District/Essex on Thursday 7 May 2026 to elect Essex County Councillors. Cllr. Nathan Robins (Reform UK) is the new the ECC Councillor for the Hedingham Division with 2746 votes. Joanne Bevis (Independent) received 2049 votes and our former ECC Cllr. Peter Schwier (Conservative) received 1876 votes. The electorate was 14,557 and the turnout was 51.40%.

Nearby Three Fields & Great Notley (3 fields comprising Finchingfield, Bardfield, Wethersfield) now has Cllr. Carl Johnson (Reform) as their County Councillor with 2837 votes. The former division member, Cllr. Tom Cunningham (Conservative) received 2159 votes.

The electorate was 15,012 and turnout 50.03%.



Cllr. Robins also sits on Stambourne Parish Council and won a by-election for a seat at Braintree District Council in March 2026 for the Coggeshall Ward. He was made Deputy to the Deputy Leader of Essex County Council (Cllr. Russell Quirk) at their AGM. Cllr. Robins is 19 years old and is an apprentice mechanic and now also now the Essex County Councillor for the Bumpstead Ward.

Email: cllr.nathan.robins@essex.gov.uk for all enquiries regarding highways, footpaths, road signs, child and adult social care, education, etc.

Braintree District Council and Essex County Council – New Posts for Members

The new Cabinet and their portfolio roles at **Braintree District Council** are:

- **Cllr. Tom Cunningham** - Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Strategy & Change
- **Cllr. Kevin Bowers** - Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance, Assets & Performance
- **Cllr. Gabrielle Spray** - Cabinet Member for Planning
- **Cllr. Frankie Ricci** - Cabinet Member for Transformation & Future Working
- **Cllr. Charley Dervish** - Cabinet Member for Communities
- **Cllr. Peter Schwier** - Cabinet Member for Pride in Place
- **Cllr. Toby Williams** - Cabinet Member for Leisure & Wellbeing
- **Cllr. Lynette Bowers-Flint** - Cabinet Member for Housing and Environmental Health
- **Cllr. Justin Wrench** - Cabinet Member for Economic Growth

Chairman of the Council – Cllr. Richard van Dulken

Vice-Chairman of the Council – Cllr. Graham Butland

The new Cabinet and their portfolio roles at **Essex County Council** are:

- **Cllr. Peter Harris** - Leader of the Council
- **Cllr. Russell Quirk** - Deputy Leader of the Council
- **Cllr. Bo Davis** - Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Services
- **Cllr. Paul Godfrey** - Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care
- **Cllr. Sue Truman** - Cabinet Member for Children and Families
- **Cllr. Sam Journet** - Cabinet Member for Education, SEND and Skills
- **Cllr. Mark Webster** - Cabinet Member for Highways and Infrastructure
- **Cllr. Christopher Benn** - Cabinet Member for Waste and Recycling
- **Cllr. Chris Hossack** - Cabinet Member for Residents and Community Services
- **Cllr. – Jeff Bray** Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Planning and Heritage

Chairman of the Council – Cllr. Karen McIvor

Vice-Chairman of the Council – Cllr. Pat Murray

Finchingfield and Wethersfield Neighbourhood Plan Consultation

As Steeple Bumpstead is close to Finchingfield, I felt I should advise the parish council that Braintree District Council are seeking views on the proposed Neighbourhood Plan until 5pm on Wednesday 1st July 2026. Documents can be viewed and comments can be made at

<https://.braintree.gov.uk/policyconsultation>

Hard copies of the documents and response forms are also available at:

- Wethersfield Club Shop, Old Mill Chase, Wethersfield, CM7 4EB Mon-Fri (except Wednesdays) 10.00-16.00, Tuesdays 18-20.00, Saturdays 10-13.00, Sundays 10-11.00
- Freshwell Health Centre, Wethersfield Road, Finchingfield, CM7 4BQ Mon-Fri 8.00-18.30
- Braintree Council Offices, Causeway House, Bocking End CM7 9HB during opening hours.

Cllr. Diana Garrod

Braintree District Councillor - Bumpstead Ward