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

Scheduled Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders & Roadworks

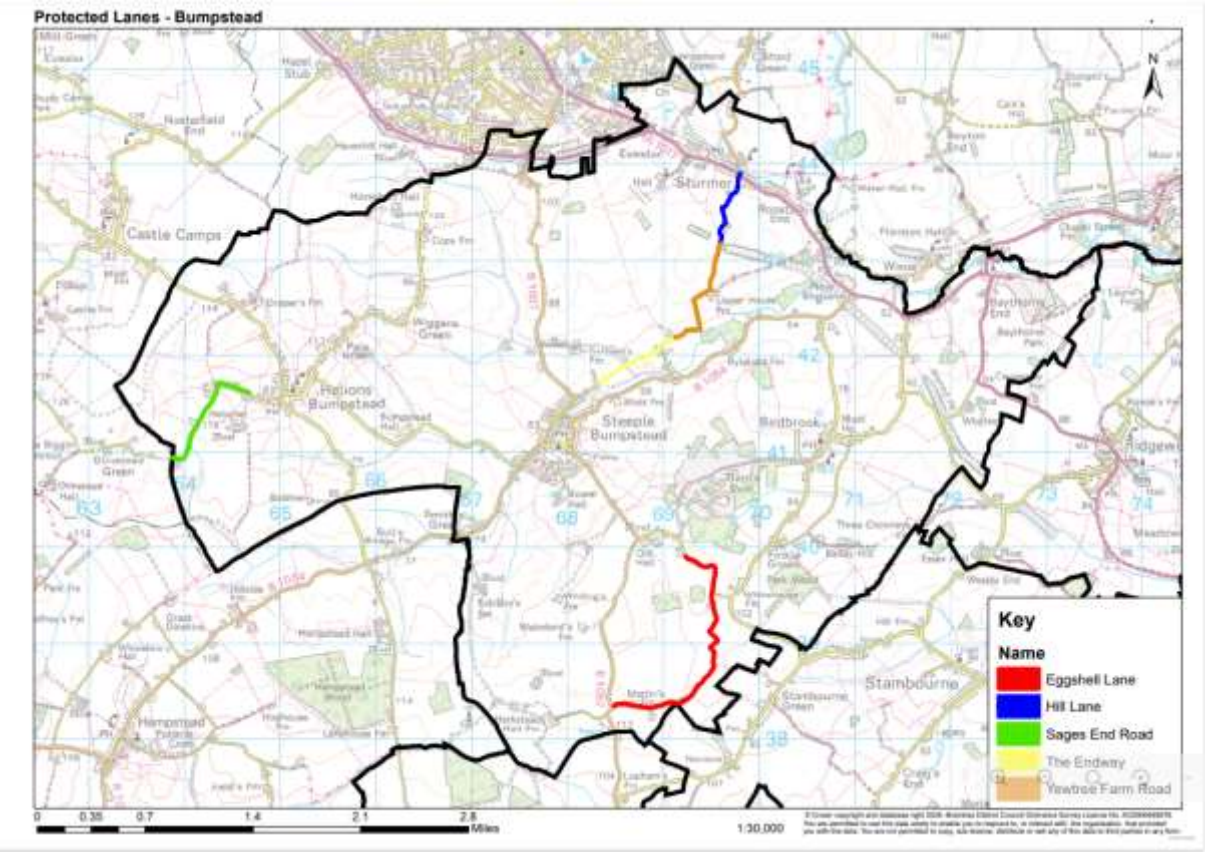
Intended closure of Hill Lane, Sturmer Road, Sturmer 31st August to 2nd September 2026 whilst work is undertaken to the drainage and signage. https://one.network/?tm=GB150520746

Intended closure of Wiggens Green, Helions Bumpstead, scheduled for 22nd October 2026 for 2 days whilst Anglian Water undertakes frame and cover renewal: https://one.network/?tm=GB151604565

Protected and Quiet Lanes in the Bumpstead Ward

BDC Protected Lanes Assessments July 2013
https://www.braintree.gov.uk/downloads/file/2089/bdc038-braintree-protected-lanes-report-july-2013

LANE_ID	LOCATION	NAME	LENGTH
BTELANE62	Helions Bumpstead	Sages End Road	2719.00
BTELANE63	Steeple Bumpstead	The Endway	1899.30
BTELANE58	Steeple Bumpstead	Eggshell Lane	5527.68
BTELANE65	Sturmer	Hill Lane	1673.02
BTELANE64	Sturmer	Yewtree Farm Road	2632.47

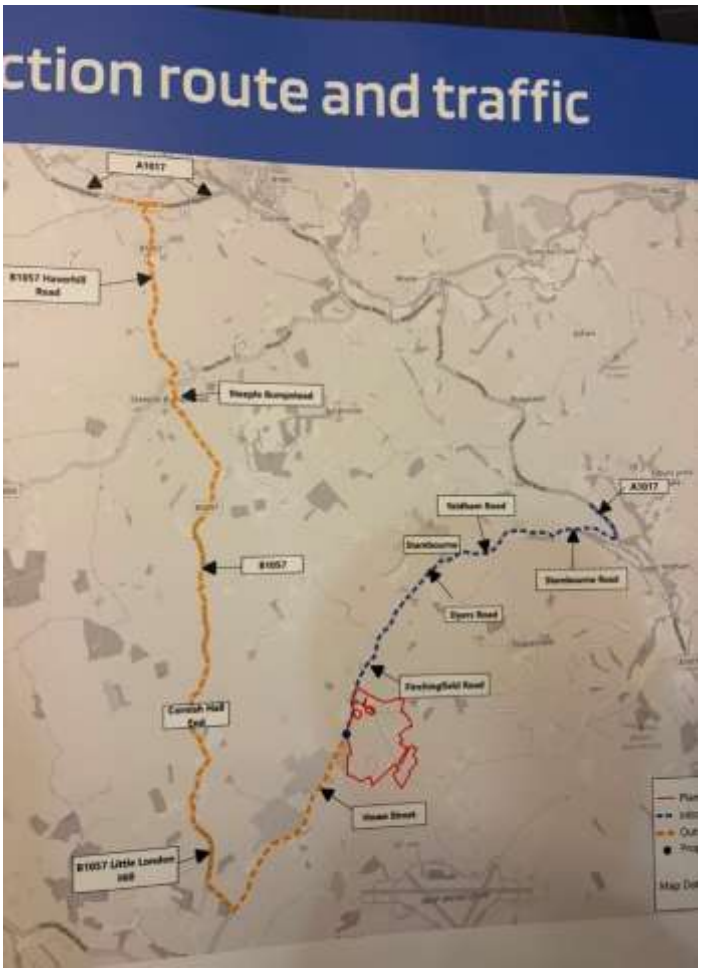


Braintree Local Highways Panel Ref: LBRA172006 designation of a Quiet Lane 2023

20	Sage End Road, Helions Bumpstead-Quiet Lane	Implementation of a Quiet Lane	The lane is frequently used by walkers, cyclists and horse riders	Helions Bumpstead Parish Council	Helions Bumpstead	LBRA172006

Proposed 60mW Solar Farm - Robin Hood

I attended the Planning Forum at BDC on 11th August to ask questions to Qualitas Energy about their proposals for the Robin Hood Solar Farm, at Robin Hood End, Finchingfield Road. I am particularly interested in their transport proposals as two other solar farms already have permission granted for their construction traffic route via Steeple Bumpstead (and Sturmer A1017) these are Water Hall, Wixoe and Land West of Hill Lane, Sturmer. It appears that Robin Hood will be the third. They intend to commence by using HGV vehicles some 16.5m in length. Whilst their representative said he had driven the proposed 'in-out, circular route', I questioned how these HGV vehicles would navigate the hairpin bend at Little London and suggested that they drive their proposed route using a like-for-like vehicle before confirming their plans. I have also spoken with the ECC Councillor Nathan Robins and asked him to convey my concerns to the Highways Authority that all three solar farms, if built together or consecutively, would have a detrimental impact on the village of Steeple Bumpstead; a conservation area with narrow roads.



Rivenhall Waste Incinerator

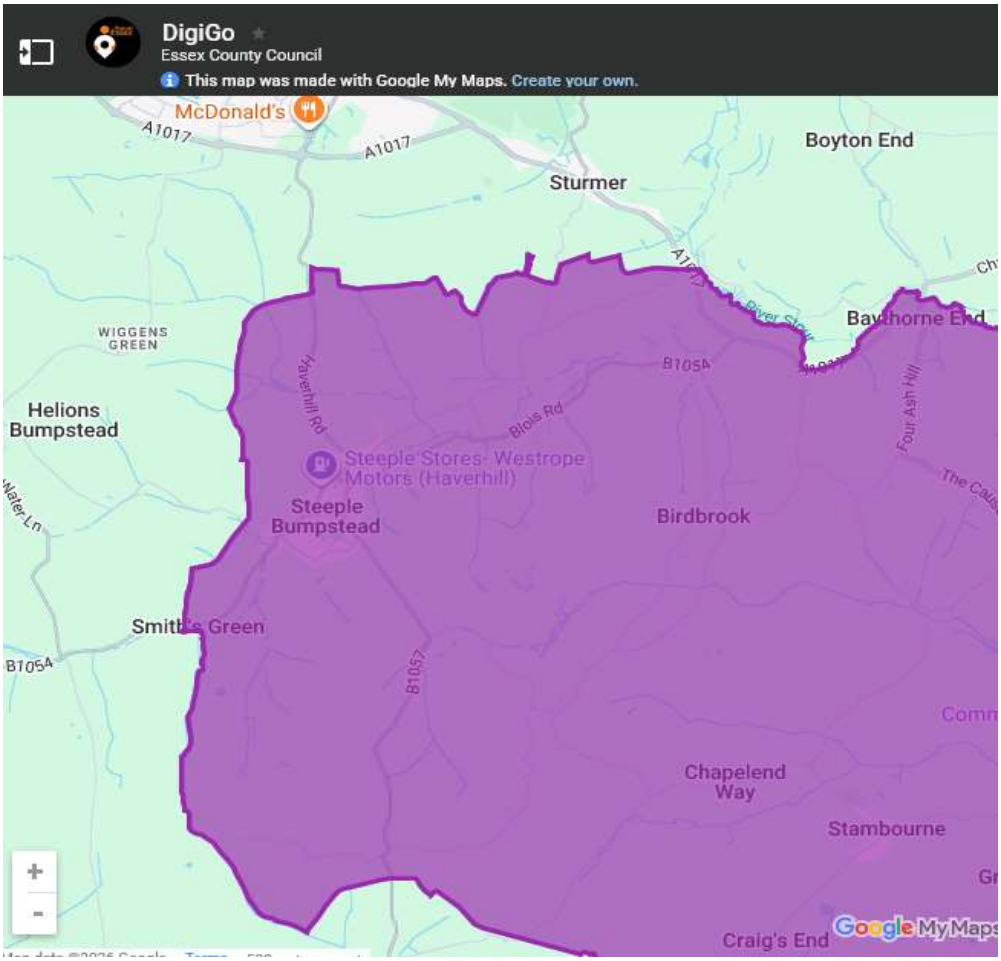
The Rivenhall Integrated Waste Management Facility (IWMF) in Essex burns roughly 595,000 tonnes of non-recyclable household rubbish each year, destroying black-bag and commercial residual waste that cannot be recycled. Braintree District Council has renewed its request for the Government to call in a series of planning applications relating to the facility following a review of amendments made to the proposals. The Council originally objected to the facility when it was considered by the Secretary of State in 2010. The development was approved and the Council has continued to work with the statutory planning and licencing bodies, Essex County Council and the Environment Agency, to minimise potential impacts on local communities, infrastructure and the environment. Since that decision, the owners of the Rivenhall site have submitted a number of applications seeking to amend various elements of the scheme. In 2025, BDC requested that the Secretary of State call in the latest applications for determination. In response, the Council was advised that any request should await the final form of the applications closer to their determination by ECC.

Having now reviewed the amended applications, the Council has written again to the Secretary of State requesting that the applications be called in for determination. Whilst the council acknowledges that some of its previous concerns have been addressed, it remains firmly of the view that the "cumulative effect of the proposed changes would fundamentally alter the development approved by the Secretary of State".

The Council's concerns focus on the continued "substantial departure from the form, operation, phasing and environmental assumptions that underpinned the original consent", and that changes would result in a "continued erosion of the planning safeguards secured through the Secretary of State's decision", reflecting on a scheme that has "evolved significantly beyond that originally considered and approved".

DigiGo: https://www.travelessex.co.uk/digigo/4

In this zone, DigiGo operates 7 days a week from 7am to 10pm (excluding bank holidays). Whether you're commuting, shopping, attending appointments, visiting friends and family, or exploring the local area. Journeys can be booked up to 7 days in advance by calling **03330 137 138** (Monday–Friday, 9am–5pm). Next day journeys must be booked by 5pm on the previous working day. Once things bed in (from September), they plan to introduce the TravelEssex app for the new Travel Zones too.



Where IS covered in the Bumpstead Ward?

☑ Birdbrook
☑ Baythorne End
☑ Steeple Bumpstead

NOT
☒ Sturmer
☒ Hellions Bumpstead

Where can I get to?

As well as travelling between destinations within the zone, DigiGo can take you to key TravelEssex Connect Points, making it easier to continue your journey further afield, including:

- Haverhill Bus Station
- High Street, Halstead
- Halstead Hospital
- Halstead Youth Centre
- Halstead Leisure Centre
- Sudbury Bus Station
- Sudbury Train Station
- Sudbury Community Health Centre
- Ormiston Sudbury Academy
- Clare Memorial Bus Stop
- Stour Valley Community School

What is a TravelEssex Connect Point?

A TravelEssex Connect Point offers the opportunity for onward travel to key destinations further afield. This could be through a variety of modes, whether that is by bus, train, walking or cycling. Connect Points will typically have real-time public transport information displays and be located near food and drink retailers, as well as toilet facilities.

Essex Signs Buried in Vegetation A1017 at Sturmer

I would like to inform parish councils and residents that I have photographed a number of signs along the A1017 at Sturmer and have raised concerns and reported them to the Leader of BDC for submission to Essex County Council, Highways Authority for their urgent attention. Example photos below:-







Former Woodlands Hotel Site, Coupals Road, Sturmer

I reported concerns about the former Woodlands Hotel site to BDC and West Suffolk Council, who own the site. When I visited, I found evidence of some dangerous items and a large square hole cut in the security fence which naturally concerned me as schools broke up for the Summer. WSC have given assurance that they are taking steps to secure the site and tidy up the rubbish that has accumulated. Rubbish and waste is around the rear of the site and on Sturmer's Village Green which is the responsibility of Sturmer Parish Council. WSC have also arranged for fencing to be repaired and windows and doors to be bricked up in an effort to prevent further unauthorised access and reduce the risk of additional break-ins. WSC would like to develop the site. However, Sturmer Parish Council decided to halt the deregistration of the strip of land in front of the site, which had been negotiated since 2019. The Parish Council had also previously agreed to taking on a piece of land at the rear in what they called a 'land swap'.







REAR

Braintree District Local Plan Update

The next key date is 17th September meeting of the LPSC when the Evidence Base documents will be discussed and a vote taken to approve the draft Plan going forward to the Extraordinary Full Council meeting scheduled for 21st September. At this meeting, Councillors will be asked to agree that the Regulation 19 consultation starts on 23rd September for 6 weeks.

Cllr. Diana Garrod
Braintree District Councillor - Bumpstead Ward