

COUNCIL AGENDA



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Date: Monday 6th July 2015

Time: 7:15pm

**Venue: Council Chamber, Braintree District Council, Causeway House,
Bocking End, Braintree, CM7 9HB**

Membership:

Councillor J Abbott	Councillor J Goodman	Councillor R Ramage
Councillor Mrs J Allen	Councillor A Hensman	Councillor F Ricci
Councillor C Bailey	Councillor P Horner	Councillor B Rose
Councillor M Banthorpe	Councillor D Hufton-Rees	Councillor Miss V Santomauro
Councillor J Baugh	Councillor D Hume	Councillor Mrs W Scattergood
Councillor Mrs J Beavis	Councillor H Johnson	Councillor Mrs W Schmitt
Councillor D Bebb	Councillor Mrs A Kilmartin	Councillor P Schwier
Councillor R Bolton	Councillor S Kirby	Councillor C Siddall
Councillor K Bowers	Councillor D Mann	Councillor Mrs G Spray
Councillor Mrs L Bowers-Flint	Councillor J McKee	Councillor P Tattersley
Councillor G Butland	Councillor R Mitchell	Councillor Mrs C Thompson
Councillor S Canning	Councillor Mrs J Money	Councillor Miss M Thorogood
Councillor J Cunningham	Councillor Lady Newton	Councillor R van Dulken
Councillor Mrs M Cunningham	Councillor J O'Reilly-Cicconi	Councillor Mrs L Walters
Councillor T Cunningham	Councillor Mrs I Parker	Councillor Mrs S Wilson
Councillor M Dunn	Councillor Mrs S Paul	
Councillor J Elliott	Councillor Mrs J Pell	

Members of the Council are requested to attend this meeting to transact the business set out in this agenda.

Members unable to attend the meeting are requested to forward their apologies for absence to the Governance and Members Team – 01376 552525
email: demse@braintree.gov.uk

N BEACH
Chief Executive

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INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS

Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interest, Other Pecuniary Interest or Non-Pecuniary Interest:-

Any Member with a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest or other Pecuniary Interest to indicate in accordance with the Code of Conduct. Such Member must not participate in any discussion of the matter in which they have declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest or other Pecuniary Interest or participate in any vote, or further vote, taken on the matter at the meeting. In addition, the Member must withdraw from the chamber where the meeting considering the business is being held unless the Member has received a dispensation from the Monitoring Officer.

PUBLIC SESSION:

Pages:

1. Apologies for Absence

2. To receive any announcements/statements from the Chairman and/or Leader of the Council

3. Declarations of Interest

To declare the existence and nature of any Disclosable Pecuniary Interest, other Pecuniary Interest or Non-Pecuniary Interest relating to items on the agenda having regard to the Code of Conduct for Members and having taken appropriate advice where necessary before the meeting.

4. Public Question Time

A period of up to 30 minutes for registered speakers to address the Council in any matters which are the responsibility of the Council or affects the district. In accordance with CPR 15.1 to 15.4.

5. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of Annual General Meeting of the Council held on 28th May 2015 (copy previously circulated).

6. Change of date for the Annual General Meeting for 2015/16

Members are requested to note that the Annual General Meeting for 2015/16 will be held on Monday 25th April 2016.

7. Dissolution of the Joining Order for the Parishes of Foxearth and Liston 1 to 6

8. Issues effecting the District

All Members are invited to participate in an open debate to raise issues effecting the District.

9. Reports from the Leader and Cabinet Members and oral questions from Councillors

To receive the following reports from each Portfolio Holder.

Oral Questions to the Cabinet:

Members are reminded that following the presentation of each Cabinet Member's report, Members may put questions to the Cabinet Member on matters relating to their portfolio, the powers

and duties of the Council or the District. Questions are not restricted to the contents of the Cabinet Member's report.

Where a verbal response cannot be given, a written response will be issued to all Members. (Council Procedure Rules 29.1 to 29.4 apply).

A period of up to 1 hour is allowed for this item.

9a.	Councillor G Butland - Leader of the Council	7 to 11
9b.	Councillor Mrs J Beavis - Health and Communities	12 to 15
9c.	Councillor D Bebb - Finance and Performance	16 to 17
9d.	Councillor T Cunningham - Economic Development	18 to 19
9e.	Councillor Lady Newton - Planning and Housing	20 to 22
9f.	Councillor J McKee – Corporate Services and Asset Management	23 to 24
9g.	Councillor Mrs W Schmitt - Environment and Place	25 to 27
10.	List of Public Meetings Held Since Last Council Meeting	28 to 28

To raise any matters arising from the Minutes of meetings that have been held in Public Session since the Council meeting of 13th April 2015.

11. Chairmen's Statements

To receive statements from those Chairmen who have given prior notification in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 33.1 and to respond to questions on such statements

None have been received.

12. Statement by Members

To receive any statements by Members of which the appropriate written notice has been given to the Chief Executive in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 32.1.

None have been received.

13. External Organisations

To receive reports about and receive questions and answers on the business of external organisations.

None have been received.

14. **Exclusion of Public and Press: - To give consideration to adopting the following Resolution: -**

That under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the relevant paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 12(A) of the Act.

PRIVATE SESSION

15. **Leader's or Cabinet Member Statements - Private Session**

Leader's Statements or statements by Cabinet Members containing exempt information on a key issue.

16. **Policy Recommendations and References - Private Session**

None have been received.

17. **Reports from the Leader and Cabinet Members and oral questions from Councillors. - Private Session**

To receive any reports from the Leader of the Council and each Portfolio Holder containing exempt information and to ask questions on matters contained in the reports.

18. **Private Meetings Held since the Last Council Meeting**

To raise any matters arising from the Minutes of meetings that have been held in Private Session since the Council meeting of 13th April 2015.

19. **Chairmen's Statements - Private Session**

To receive statements containing exempt information from those Chairmen who have given prior notification in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 33.1 and to respond to questions on such statements

None have been received.

20. **Statements by Members - Private Session**

To receive any statements by Members of which the appropriate written notice has been given to the Chief Executive in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 32.1.

None have been received.

Consideration of the Dissolution of the Foxearth and Liston Grouping Order 1976		Agenda No: 7
Portfolio	Overall Corporate Strategy and Direction	
Corporate Priority:	Encouraging flourishing communities Delivering excellent customer service	
Report presented by:	Councillor G Butland Leader of the Council	
Report prepared by:	Ian Hunt Head of Governance Gurvynda Paddan-White Planning and Litigation Law Manager	
Background Papers:		Public Report
Responses from consultation Parish and town councils: recent issues – standard note SN/PC/04827, provided by House of Commons – 4/11/2014 Reports to Developing Democracy Group Minutes from Liston Annual Parish meeting – 28/11/2014 NALC – Powers of a parish meeting in a parish without a separate parish council – April 2011 DCLG Guidance		Key Decision: No
Executive Summary:		
The Parishes of Liston and Foxearth are grouped under a Parish Grouping Order, creating a single Parish Council.		
The Liston Parish Meeting has requested that the grouping order be revoked in order to enable the separation of the two parishes.		
Public consultation and feedback strongly supports the dissolution of the Grouping Order, however the context of statutory guidance argues that any abolition of parishes should not be undertaken unless it is clearly justified, in both relation to a persistent breakdown of relationships in the Parish Council and where there are multiple causes for that breakdown and some local accountability is preserved.		
Decision		
That Members refuse the request to dissolve the Foxearth and Liston Parish Grouping Order 1976.		

Purpose of Decision:

To determine the request of Liston Parish Meeting, to revoke the 1976 Grouping Order to enable the separation of the two parishes, in light of the public consultation and the relevant statutory guidance. Particular note being had to the guidance that creating an area without a Parish Council should be avoided where possible, and whilst noting the disharmony in the joint Parish Council, the recent election has provided an opportunity for a new Parish Council to develop.

Any Corporate implications in relation to the following should be explained in detail

Financial:	The costs of a dissolution process are limited for the District Council and can be met within existing budgets. On the information available there would be limited impact on the Parish Council and Parish Meeting and impacts on precepts will be minimal to the public.
Legal:	The power for dissolution of parish councils lies in Local Government Act 1972 and Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. Relevant guidance has been complied with throughout the consultation period.
Safeguarding	No direct implications, any dissolution would require both now bodies to maintain their own consideration of ongoing issues should these be relevant.
Equalities/Diversity	All defined groups were consulted equally to ensure fair decision making.
Customer Impact:	All relevant customers were involved and included within the consultation process.
Environment and Climate Change:	There are no impacts arising as a consequence of this report.
Consultation/Community Engagement:	Extensive public consultation has taken place, with a high response rate.
Risks:	The Council is obliged to consider and determine the request, with reference to the feedback and results, following extensive and wide consultation, where relevant the risks of various options are contained within the report.
Officer Contact:	Ian Hunt
Designation:	Head of Governance
Ext. No.	2629
E-mail:	ian.hunt@braintree.gov.uk

1. Background:

- 1.1. The Parishes of Foxearth and Liston are currently grouped into a single parish Council serving the needs of both areas. The Grouping Order was made in 1976, and sets both the Council size and allocation of seats on the basis proportionate to the respective sizes of the parishes; the Parish Council has five members from Foxearth and one from Liston.
- 1.2. At the Liston Annual Parish Meeting on Friday 28 November 2014, 34 out of the 38 residents of Liston attended and resolved to request the dissolution of the Grouping Order. 82.9% of residents were in favour of the dissolution. The basis for this was that residents of Liston did not consider the current arrangements served the needs of their community.
- 1.3. The request was made to the district council under section 11 Local Government Act 1972, and is matter reserved for consideration by Full Council.
- 1.4. On the 3rd February 2015 a proposal for the consultation process was considered and approved by the Developing Democracy Group. On the 15th June 2015 they considered the outcome of the consultation process.

2. Relevant Guidance:

- 2.1. The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 provides the supportive legislative framework for considering such issues and has been supplemented with joint guidance from Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) and Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE).
- 2.2. Sections 117 - 124 of the guidance deals with abolishing parishes and dissolving Parish Councils. In summary, the guidance is highly supportive of the principle of Parish Councils and would look to ensure the continuation of such governance in appropriate circumstances. The relevant sections are set out below.
 - 2.2.1. *118 ... However, it is the Government's view that it would be undesirable to see existing parishes abolished with the area becoming unparished with no community governance arrangements in place.*
 - 2.2.2. *119. The abolition of parishes should not be undertaken unless clearly justified. Any decision a principal council may make on whether to abolish a parish should not be taken lightly.*
 - 2.2.3. *120. Exceptionally, there may be circumstances where abolition may be the most appropriate way forward. Under the 2007 Act provisions, the principal council would need to consider local opinion, including that of Parish Councillors and local electors. It would need to find evidence that the abolition of a Parish Council was justified, and that there was clear and sustained local support for such action. A factor taken into account by the Government in deciding abolition cases, was that local support for abolition needed to have been demonstrated over at least a period equivalent to two*

terms of office of the Parish Councillors (i.e. eight years), and that such support was sufficiently informed. This means a properly constituted Parish Council should have had an opportunity to exercise its functions so that local people can judge its ability to contribute to local quality of life.

2.2.4. 121. ... *It is doubtful however, that abolition of a parish and its Council could ever be justified as the most appropriate action in response to a particular contentious issue in the area or decision of the Parish Council.*

2.3. Members are reminded that the guidance and legislation strongly supports and advocates that the abolition of a parish should not be taken lightly; there needs to be just and sufficient reasoning to do so.

3. Consultation and results:

3.1. Given the proximity of the request to the elections in May 2015 it would not have been possible for the Council to have determined the request and implemented a decision prior to the elections, accordingly a consultation strategy which allowed for consideration of the election was adopted.

3.2. A two stage consultation process took place, with firstly an open consultation with residents and interested parties and secondly, a shorter focused check with relevant elected Councillors following the May election.

3.3. Specific consultation took place with the following groups:

- 3.3.1. Foxearth and Liston Parish Council;
- 3.3.2. Essex County Council;
- 3.3.3. Babergh District Council;
- 3.3.4. All Parish Councillors of Foxearth and Liston Parish Council;
- 3.3.5. District Councillors; and
- 3.3.6. The County Councillor.

3.4. The first part of the consultation launched on 6 February 2015 and closed on 20 March 2015 [prior to the election]. 19 responses were received in favour of the dissolution, three were against and one which did not express a clear view.

3.5. The consultation responses reflected the view that had been expressed by the Residents association in the original submissions. The submissions highlighted the numerical relationship in Councillors representing each part of the Parish and argued that this led to the views of Liston being diminished within the Parish Council. It is clear from the responses that prior to the election there were some substantial personality issues both between Members of the Parish Council and with some residents, and that whilst not exclusively these were substantially exacerbated by a single planning issue.

3.6. The second phase of the consultation, namely with councillors and the Residents Association after the election was conducted once the results were known. The Residents Association have confirmed that they are still strongly supportive of the dissolution and do not consider that the result of the election has changed their views. This was supported by responses from Parish Members.

- 3.7. The responses both pre and post-election, emphasise that Liston residents do not feel their interests are properly represented by the Grouping Order. Further, there has been an erosion of trust and subsequently their views cannot be adequately considered as a result of the makeup of the Parish Council, namely one Liston Parish Councillor and five Foxearth Parish Councillors.
- 3.8. At the election, the makeup of the Parish Council changed with three Councillors being elected, unopposed, one of which being a Liston Parish Councillor. There are three vacancies which the Parish Council is currently considering applications from residents through a co-option process. Those Members who were cited in the consultation responses as being the focus of the disharmony within the Parish did not stand for election and therefore there is an opportunity for the new Council to operate in a way where those issues are not carried forward.
- 3.9. The planning issue at the crux of the dispute relates to Stafford Park, Liston. This has recently been submitted, and relates to a proposal to construct over 100 dwellings on a former factory site within the village of Liston. The application was validated on the 12th June 2015 with planning reference 15/00565/OUT. This application has been subject to extensive pre application discussion both within the community and with officers.

4. Discussion:

- 4.1. The strong support for the dissolution of the grouping order has come from those at a Parish level; namely residents and Parish Councillors. The significant change in the membership of Foxearth and Liston Parish Council at the election will take some time to settle down, although it does create an opportunity for a new working relationship to form between the Members of the Council and residents from both communities. There is a tension between the relative sizes of the two communities which will create a structural difference in the relative strengths of representation of people from each area. However Parish Councillors are appointed to represent the whole of a given ward.
- 4.2. Members must however show due regard to the legislation and guidance as set out above, and particular reference is drawn to paragraph 120 of the DCLG guidance, namely:
- 4.3. *...local support for abolition needed to have been demonstrated **over at least a period equivalent to two terms of office** of the Parish Councillors (i.e. eight years), and that such support was sufficiently informed...* [emphasis added]
- 4.4. The guidance makes clear that support for abolition should be considered over a concerted period. The change in Council membership has been substantial, this would give rise to a clear inference that it cannot be presumed that the new Council will operate in the same way and that the previous views of Members will automatically carry forward to the new administration.

- 4.5. If the Grouping Order were to be dissolved, Liston would only have a Parish Meeting, and not a new Parish Council, due to its population being less than 150. The purpose of a Parish Meeting is to discuss parish affairs and exercise any statutory functions conferred on them. The parish meeting must assemble annually between 1 March and 1 June and on at least one other occasion during the year on a date to be fixed by the Chairman of the meeting.
- 4.6. Members should note that powers of a Parish Meetings are considerably more limited than those of a Parish Council, for example, under the Development Management Procedure Order 2015, Parish Meetings are not a statutory consultee on planning matters. Whilst they may submit a response, there would be no proactive communication to the Parish Meeting by the District Council.
- 4.7. It must be noted that the Parish Meeting continues to operate within Liston as a supplemental voice to that of the joined Parish Council. It is open for them to make comments through the meeting on the current planning application and these would be accorded due weight by the District Council as the Planning Authority.
- 4.8. The Parish of Foxearth is sufficiently large enough to retain a Parish Council should the joining order be dissolved.
- 4.9. If the Grouping Order were to be dissolved, its impact would be to divide the assets and liabilities of the Joined Parish with the remaining Parish Council and the Parish Meeting. The dissolution order would become effective at the start of a financial year (April) and would need to be discussed with the Joined Parish Council to ensure that it appropriately deals with any consequential matters.

5. Recommendation from the Developing Democracy Group:

- 5.1. On the 15th June 2015 the Developing Democracy Group met and considered the request to dissolve the joining order.
- 5.2. Members noted the strong feeling of residents and the Parish Meeting. However they were particularly mindful of the statutory guidance in this matter. It is clear from the supporting information from the Residents Association and the public consultation that the request has been driven in light of some strong concerns with the proposed development in the village and the perception that the personalities on the Parish Council would not allow for there to be a full representation of the views of residents to be expressed through that application. In addition it was seen that the Parish Council was not serving the needs of the residents of Liston generally.
- 5.3. It was noted that there has been a substantial change in the Parish Council and that this may well cause there to be a change in the relationships within the community.
- 5.4. Taken together the Developing Democracy Group determined that it would recommend to Council that the request be declined in light of the statutory guidance.

LEADER'S REPORT TO COUNCIL

Agenda No: 9a

OVERALL CORPORATE STRATEGY AND DIRECTION

1. South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP)

Background/Current Position

Local Enterprise Partnerships were set up in 2011 by the Coalition Government to help determine local economic priorities and lead economic growth and job creation within defined areas. Essex was placed in the SELEP which included the counties and districts of Essex, Kent and East Sussex and the unitary authorities of Southend, Thurrock and Medway.

Kent and Medway indicated several months ago to Essex County Council (ECC) that they intended to take a proposal to government to break away from SELEP and have their own LEP. ECC took a paper to the Greater Essex Business Board on 18 May 2015 asking the board whether there would be appetite from local businesses to take a case to government for a Greater Essex LEP encompassing, Essex, Southend and Thurrock. The majority of businesses agreed with the need to put together an alternative in response to Kent and Medway's position.

I attended the SELEP Board meeting on Friday 22 May 2015, when partners discussed the future of SELEP and reached the conclusion that Kent and Medway and Essex will work up their proposals for new LEP structures, and that these will then be presented to Government. Consequently ECC together with districts is now supporting businesses and other partners across Essex to develop a proposal.

The current position with regards to SELEP:

- Letters have been sent to relevant Government Ministers regarding the need to review current arrangements to delivering economic growth.
- Business leaders have engaged quadrant partnerships across Greater Essex (Haven Gateway; Heart of Essex; South Essex Partnership & West Essex Alliance). Some chairs have engaged with local government and academic partners regarding development of a Greater Essex LEP proposal.
- Kent County Council shared an initial draft proposal for a Kent & Medway LEP with Greater Essex partners on 29th May and a further draft is promised imminently. A Greater Essex LEP (GELEP) proposal will be aligned in style to that of Kent & Medway to demonstrate agreement across SELEP for new arrangements.

- Greater Essex Business Board met at an Away Day on 8th June to begin to shape a proposal including shared economic priorities for businesses across Greater Essex.

Proposed Activity June/September 2015

In order to benefit from likely Government funding opportunities in the autumn (yet to be announced) it is proposed to attempt to gain a formal response from Government regarding a Greater Essex LEP before the summer parliamentary recess (21st July 2015).

GEBB and partners are preparing a draft proposal for a GELEP, in line with proposals also being developed in Kent and Medway. This will set out a clear rationale for the proposals, demonstrating a joined up case across the SE LEP area and a clear mandate for change led by the business community. In particular, it will set out:

- A Greater Essex Plan for Growth - why Greater Essex is a functional economic area; including strengths, opportunities and priorities for growth. As part of this, ECC will need to ensure there is a clear vision that partners across the whole Greater Essex area are signed up to.
- Proposals for a new GELEP – articulating the challenges of the current SE LEP arrangements; how the GELEP arrangements will operate and why this will be a more effective solution.
- Transition arrangements – providing assurances to Government that the SE LEP partnership will effectively manage the transition, including financial and legal responsibilities, and cause minimum disruption to existing arrangements.

Risks/Issues

Potential risks and issues include:

- We know that East Sussex intend to lobby government to retain the current LEP arrangements and Southend and Thurrock could do the same.
- Southend and Thurrock have publicly stated that they will not work with Essex on a Greater Essex proposal which would make taking a proposal to government that not all partners are signed up to challenging.
- Southend and Thurrock are exploring the plausibility of a South Essex combined authority and could formulate proposals for a South Essex LEP that would be co-terminus with this.
- The next round of Growth Deal funding is likely to be released this autumn and if Government is still considering alternative LEP proposals, this could have a negative impact on the region's ability to attract funding.

- Government could decide, as they did five years ago, that partners need to continue working together through a SELEP.

Key Messages

In all engagement across Greater Essex partners, the messages coalesce around the following:

- The Greater Essex area has to develop a plan for LEP arrangements. Having no plan in place given the potential reformation of SELEP creates substantial risks to economic growth funding and delivery.
- Many business leaders in Essex feel that a Greater Essex LEP (GELEP) would be more agile; locally responsive and thus a more suitable vehicle for delivery than the current arrangements
- GELEP would reflect a functional economic area with the scale and capacity to make a significant impact to the local and national economies
- Local partners, led by businesses, will need to work together to co-design the new partnership arrangements for Greater Essex
- Local partners will need to agree the principles of any new partnership at pace – it is vital that we can agree a way forward and position any new partnership to benefit from the next round of Growth Deals (time table to be announced)
- A Greater Essex LEP would focus on combining and strengthening local partnerships and localising decision-making so we can work more effectively in the natural markets and clusters that constitute Greater Essex
- Local authority partners must consider how changes to SE LEP might inform partners' wider work on devolution with prospects for significant devolution likely to be contingent upon the development of integrated governance structures – most likely a combined authority (CA).

2. Devolution of Powers to Greater Essex (GE)

At the Leaders and Chief Executives meeting held on the 18th June 2015, a presentation was made by Nicola Beach, as Chairman of the Essex Chief Executives Association, to update Leaders on the emerging national picture for devolution and progress to date on the GE programme; the key messages were:

- The Cities and Local Government Devolution Bill will enable devolution to county, two-tier areas as well as cities; the bill has had its second reading in the Lords and now moves to committee stage for further debate;
- GE Chief Executives have had several meetings with civil servants from DCLG and BIS to discuss early proposals on subjects such as skills, apprentices, housing and infrastructure;

- Greg Clark, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government is leading on devolution with a focus on decentralisation and housing; he is taking a 'bottom up' and bespoke approach to the development of devolution deals for each area, so there is no fixed framework;
- As well as developing the offers and asks of any devolution deal, GE authorities must also develop a governance approach to demonstrate to Government that the GE partnership has robust and accountable arrangements in place through which it would make decisions and deliver the outcomes, one option being explored is a Combined Authority model, but a number of options will be considered and debated with Leaders;
- Thurrock and Southend Councils continue to be actively involved in GE devolution discussions (as do all Essex authorities) and at the same time are exploring alternative arrangements;
- Leaders agreed for the GE devolution programme to continue and to reconvene on the 9th July for a more in-depth debate on the key issues;
- Leaders also supported the engagement of the wider partnership in this work such as health, police, police and crime commissioner and businesses;
- Engagement with local MPs and Ministers was also discussed and will be co-ordinated so as to be as effective as possible.

3. Essex Police & Crime Panel

I attended a meeting of the above Panel on 28th May 2015. For new members, the Police & Crime Panel consists of a representative from each of the 15 local authorities across Essex. The purpose of the Panel is to hold the Police & Crime Commissioner to account.

The agenda contained the following main items:

- (i) A finance update from the Commissioner
- (ii) A report on Child Abuse & Sexual Exploitation
- (iii) A report detailing the current position on the Police Estate Strategy.

The minutes of the meeting have yet to be produced but as soon as they are I will arrange for them to be placed on the members' portal for information.

Members may however be interested in the following key messages emerging from the Estate Strategy

The current Police Estate is:

- Inefficient - less than 70% Net to Gross
- £1.75 million extra revenue required each and every year just to "stand still"
- £5.5 current backlog maintenance with future liabilities exceeding £20 million in the medium term (2020)
- Over 80 properties, dated cellular accommodation

- Sustainability is poor, the majority of accommodation more than 50 years old
- Too many small dispersed assets
- Underutilised by the workforce

The emerging Estates Strategy seeks to employ a hub and spoke type model with a single, large and centrally located Headquarters building. Around the new HQ will be 'Hub' Police Stations which will house the majority of operational officers. There will also be approximately 14 strategically located smaller police premises which will maintain a policing presence in local communities. This will see the portfolio reduce to around 30 core buildings from a current total of 80. The Commissioner believes that some £2 million per annum can be released to support policing activity in the county.

Councillor Graham Butland
Leader of the Council

Contact:	Councillor Graham Butland
Designation:	Leader of the Council
E-mail:	cllr.gbutland@braintree.gov.uk

**REPORT TO COUNCIL – PORTFOLIO AREA OF HEALTH
AND COMMUNITIES**

Agenda No: 9b

Health Improvement

Since the introduction of the Health and Social Care Act 2012 the role of Braintree District Council (BDC) and Essex County Council (ECC) in Health Improvement has increased. The introduction of this act has resulted in the creation of Healthwatch Essex: establishment of Essex Health and Wellbeing Board, appointment of a Director of Public Health at ECC and the creation of Mid Essex Clinical Commissioning Group (MECCG).

MECCG covers the Braintree, Chelmsford and Maldon Districts and is one of the most challenged health economies in the country and has recently been identified along with Northern, Easter and Western Devon and North Cumbria for the NHS Success Regime. The Success Regime was first set out in NHS Five Year Forward and will provide support to areas with long-standing and deep-rooted issues. The Success Regime is being supported the Chief Executive of the NHS Simon Stevens.

During the last Council Councillors robustly highlighted the need for more GP's and better health facilities in the District. MECCG and NHS Property Services are engaging in the new Local Plan process and are aware of the challenges facing the Braintree District. Encouragingly recently the Essex Primary Care Inter Professional Centre (EPIC) has been established for workforce development in Witham. The scheme is aimed at attracting new GPs and Nurses and enhancing the skills of the wider primary care workforce. EPIC has been formed through a collaboration between the seven Essex CCGs, NHS England (Midlands and East) and Health Education East of England. The pilot runs for two years and will focus on general practice and extended to pharmacists, dentists and optometrists.

Braintree has again been appointed a nominated seat on the Essex County Council Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee. I'm delighted, once again, to be the Council's nominated representative.

At a District level on the 15th July 2013 Braintree District Council's Cabinet approved the establishment of a **Braintree District Health and Wellbeing Panel**. The aim of the Panel is to coordinate health improvement and wellbeing activities across the District for the local population. Through the NHS annual health profile for the Braintree District the Panel has identified two priorities these being to reduce the levels of obesity in the District and to reduce the levels of hip fractures in the over 65's. The Panel is currently developing with an action plan against these priorities with its partners utilising the external funding of £150,000 it has levered in.

Active Communities

Leisure Services

The Council operates 4 leisure facilities in Braintree, Halstead and Witham and on the 1st September 2012 signed a 10 year Leisure Contract with Fusion Lifestyle to operate them. The contract with Fusion Lifestyle is focused on health improvement and increasing participation in the leisure activities across the District. The contract also includes developing sport development initiatives throughout the District Councils. Fusion have made an excellent start to the contract and the participation rates increased by over c20, 000 visits to our leisure centres compared to the same quarter last year. All target groups specified in the leisure contract have seen a healthy increase as well, compared to the same quarter last year, with female participation increasing the most, by c16, 000 visits.

As well as the partnership with Fusion Lifestyle it is important that we develop a strong partnership with the voluntary sports club network within Braintree District. As part of the national strategy for sport Essex has established a network called Active Essex. I'm delighted to have recently been accepted onto their Board.. At the Braintree level we have established the Active Braintree District Network which brings together local sports clubs to work in partnership with various agencies to increase sporting opportunity in the District.

I am currently working on a proposal to establish a Leisure and Wellbeing strategy for the District. As part of this I am considering with Officers establishing a Member Working Group to steer the Leisure and Wellbeing Strategy. I would be pleased to hear from any Members who would like to be involved in this.

Over recent years it has been an absolute privilege and a pleasure to oversee, in a partnership approach, the delivery of 2012 Braintree District Olympic Torch Relay and the 2014 Tour de France. Carrying on with the good news, I am pleased to say we successfully hosted stage 2 of the National Women's Tour Cycle race. Large crowds lined both the start venue in Braintree Town centre and along our part of the route. The race director commented on local television how pleased he was with the large numbers of spectators who turn out to welcome the cyclists in Braintree; he was especially pleased with the amount of school children who line our part of the route. Following closely on the heels of the Women's Tour was the family cycling festival put on by Braintree Council in association with Greenfields and the Cycling charity CTC - "Pedal in the Park". The event was held in Weavers Park on the following Saturday to celebrate the Women's Tour coming to Braintree and giving families the opportunity to get together to celebrate everything, cycling and much more.

These global events are designed not only to encourage residents to become more active and lead healthier lifestyles, but also bring economic benefits to the District and are a tremendous source of great publicity for the Braintree District.

Heritage Services

Braintree District Museum Trust (BDMT) operates the Braintree Museum and Warner Archive. The Council is currently working closely with the Trust on an Improvement Plan. I am delighted to have become the Council's nominated Director for the BDMT. I will update the Council more regularly once I have attended my first meeting of BDMT.

I was delighted that Museum Services recently won two awards at the East of England SHARE volunteer awards against competition including Imperial War Museum at Duxford. Recently I was delighted to be the guest speaker at St. Nicolas Church, Castle Hedingham to celebrate the 800th anniversary of Magna Carta.

Community Services

The Council's approach to working with Communities is coordinated by the Active Communities Group. Myself and Cllr. Tattersley have been invited to join the group and I will report back on its work moving forward. Current workstreams include:

Voluntary and Community Sector

The Council continues to financially support the work of the Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) and the Braintree District Voluntary Support Agency (BDVSA). The Council has long-standing Service Level agreement arrangements with both organisations and these are regularly monitored against performance and targets. A current volunteer initiative we are working on with BDVSA is called Time Bank. This is a scheme that encourages individuals to join so they can build up time credits for volunteering they do which can then be for services the individual requires.

The Mi Community scheme is the Council's grant programme for local community projects. It is led by a Working Group of Members and has supported a wide range of successful projects over the past 4 years. Members are involved in sponsoring projects put forward for funding and the next round will begin in September with £100,000 to distribute.

Community Transport

There are three subsidised transport services for those with mobility difficulties, wheelchair users or non-profit making groups.

- Social Car Scheme - for individuals. Run by volunteers using their own cars.
- Dial a-ride - For wheelchair users in a specially equipped minibus.
- Minibus Scheme - for non-profit making groups for day trips and social events.

Last year we delivered 62,000 journeys. All services are supported by either volunteers, and it is funded by Braintree District Council and Essex County Council.

Older People

The Keep Safe project for older people continues to grow with over 2,400 successful applicants now enjoying the benefits of the scheme. The scheme originated by Officers at Braintree District Council is now being rolled out pan-Essex and supports older people to feel safe and confident when out and about in the District. The Older Peoples Mini Guide which is delivered to the over 60's in a partnership approach, is currently being updated and will soon be available. I will ensure that all members receive a copy.

Children and Young People

An audit of young peoples services is currently being undertaken in the District by officers. This will then be used to focus resources on the gaps in provision in the District that are identified.

Safeguarding

The Council takes its responsibilities around safeguarding very seriously and has a statutory duty to ensure robust safeguarding policies are in place to protect the most vulnerable within our District. The Council has a Safeguarding Leads Group and they are currently looking at refresher training for all Staff and Members incorporating the wider safeguarding agenda (Child Sexual Exploitation, Modern Slavery, Human Trafficking, etc).

Community Led Planning

The Department of Communities and Local Government continue to offer grants for supporting Neighbourhood Plans and the Council has recently established a small grants scheme for Parish or Community Action plans.

Rural

The Rural Community for Essex and the Essex Rural Partnership, supported financially by Essex County Council, are currently consulting on a new Essex Rural Strategy. I will update Members when additional information is available.

Councillor Mrs Joanne Beavis
Cabinet Member for Health and Communities

Contact:	Councillor Mrs Joanne Beavis
Designation:	Cabinet Member for Health and Communities
E-mail:	cllr.jbeavis@braintree.gov.uk

**REPORT TO COUNCIL – PORTFOLIO AREA OF FINANCE
AND PERFORMANCE**

Agenda No: 9c

Provisional Financial Outturn

The provisional financial outturn for 2014/15 shows a positive variance on the revenue account of £547,100 or 3.6% of the net budget of £15.2million. The variance was as planned and is only marginally higher than that projected as at the end of the third quarter, of £540,000.

The variation against budget is due to increased income of £686,800 partially offset by a negative variance on expenditure of £139,700. The higher than anticipated level of income resulted mainly from actions agreed by the Council during the course of the year, principally: investment income from funds placed in Pooled Funds (equities and property) and rental income from the purchase of 870 The Crescent, Colchester Business Park, and as a result of increased demand for some services, principally: Development Control, Refuse and Recycling and Land Charges.

The accounts will be audited by the Council's appointed external auditors, BDO LLP, over a four-week period commencing today, 6th July 2015.

Business Rate update

The beginning of year collection rate of business rates is lower than expected – reasons are being investigated but this will in part be due to an increase in the amount collectable.

The change to the amount of business rates collectable include over 200 businesses added recently to the Rating List by the Valuation Office Agency. The majority of these result from reports made by our business rates collection staff following a focused investigation across the whole of the District. This, together with some recent revaluations, result in a marked forecast increase in business rate gross income from £48.6m to £51.3m.

We have recently responded to a government consultation on reform of business rates.

For the Braintree District, the total rateable value for the 4,742 business properties, as at June 2015, is £105,409,645. Over the last ten years, this is an increase of £21,118,557, or 25%, in rateable value and an increase of 681, or 16.8%, in the number of business properties.

Icelandic Banks update

We have accepted an offer from Deutsche Bank to acquire our remaining funds in Icelandic Krona (approx £77,000) held in Iceland. By accepting now this avoids waiting till foreign currency restrictions are lifted (with the high possibility of a stability or exit tax

being applied to withdrawals from Iceland). This just leaves the finalisation of the investment with Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander (which we estimate further payments of about £30,000).

Single Fraud Investigation Service and introduction of Universal Credit

Discussions are in hand with the DWP on the transfer arrangements to a Single Fraud Investigation Service which will be responsible for all investigations of alleged housing benefit fraud. One Housing Benefit Fraud Investigator will be transferring to the DWP on 1st September 2015.

Discussions are also in hand in relation to our role in the roll-out of housing benefit being incorporated in Universal Credit and administered by DWP from October, initially just for single claimants.

Commercialisation

Work is in hand on the evaluation of options for income generation through commercialisation of certain of BDC services. Further updates will be given in subsequent reports.

Councillor David Bebb
Cabinet Member for Finance and Performance

Contact:	Councillor David Bebb
Designation:	Cabinet Member for Finance and Performance
E-mail:	cllr.dbebb@braintree.gov.uk

**REPORT TO COUNCIL – PORTFOLIO AREA OF
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Agenda No: 9d

Business Support

A guide for businesses on their broadband options, produced jointly by the District Council and Superfast Essex, has now been finalised. Members can access a copy of the brochure at <http://www.superfastessex.org/en-gb/forbusiness.aspx>

A grant agreement has been agreed for the first phase of the £100,000 Industrial Estate Improvement Programme. A grant of £25,000 is being provided to undertake work on the Witham Industrial Estates as part of the Witham Industrial Watch programme, and works are nearing completion. We are informed that a camera installed as an early part of that programme has already provided evidence that may lead to a prosecution.

Economic Development

Work is progressing well on the Braintree Enterprise Centre extension on Springwood Drive in Braintree. Groundworks and the installation of pre-cast concrete floors have been completed and superstructure brickwork and retaining wall work is now underway. We are currently on track to complete the extension by 29th January 2016.

An initial feasibility study on the potential for an enterprise centre in Witham is complete demonstrating the need for such a centre, and that demand would be sufficient to make the facility viable. Essex County Council have agreed further funding of £10,000 to match District Council funding of £20,000 (from New Homes Bonus funds) for business planning and detailed design.

Business Engagement

I attended the Haven Gateway Partnership Board meeting on 11th June where Gary Horne, Vice Principal at Colchester Institute gave a presentation on the College at Braintree's Science, Technology, Engineering and Manufacturing Centre. The STEM Centre has now had £4m funding from the South East Local Enterprise Partnership confirmed and will provide a state of the art training facility to meet the needs of District employers in the engineering and scientific sectors. The Board also received an update on the A120 improvement campaign and considered the Partnership's economic priorities.

I will be attending the Braintree District Business Leaders Board on 7th July where we are due to discuss how we can meet the current and future skill needs of the District's employers, and future support for business start-up and enterprise.

Regeneration

Public consultation on a package of regeneration schemes for Witham was extended in May and is generating significant local interest. The Proposals include re-instatement of the medieval Market Place to create a 'heart' for the town and a new location for the market, and improving pedestrian links between the Newlands and Grove shopping

centres. Public consultation on a package of improvements in Halstead is underway and will end formally on 15th June 2015 - these include public realm improvements at the top of the High Street to reduce the dominance of traffic and an improved environment for the market.

Business Plans have been submitted by the 3 Town Teams for 2014/15 and I am arranging to meet the Town Team Chairs to discuss their plans for use of remaining 'Portas Pilot' funding and the £1,000 grant offered by the Council for the current financial year.

Councillor Tom Cunningham
Cabinet Member for Economic Development

Contact:	Councillor Tom Cunningham
Designation:	Cabinet Member for Economic Development
E-mail:	cllr.tcunningham@braintree.gov.uk

**REPORT TO COUNCIL – PORTFOLIO AREA OF
PLANNING AND HOUSING**

Agenda No: 9e

INFRASTRUCTURE

Roads

Members will recall that Highways England (formerly the Highways Agency) was due to undertake works to improve the Marks Farm roundabout on the A120 to address both safety and congestion issues, in late 2014. That work has not been undertaken and I have been clarifying with Highways England the reasons for that delay. Highways England have informed me that an electrical fault has developed along the section between the A120 Marks Tey and Galleys Corner roundabouts which will impact on the programming of the Marks Farm roundabout (and on other planned works along this section). This needs to be rectified before the Marks Farm works can be undertaken. At the moment, Highways England is unable to say when those works will commence but it is likely to be some months. I have arranged to meet the Regional Director of Highways England to discuss the need for improvements to strategic routes in the District.

Traffic congestion on the Springwood Drive industrial estate roundabout has emerged as a major issue for businesses on the estate. The County Council as the Highway Authority has agreed to address this and will commence survey work by end the end of June for a 6 week period. This work will inform design options for works to the roundabout.

Rail

Three bidders have been short-listed for the Anglia Rail Franchise (Abellio & Stagecoach, First Group and National Express East Anglia Trains), and we are in the process of inviting each bidder to discuss how their bids can assist in delivering the District's strategic growth ambitions.

Broadband

Members will recall that the District Council has committed £250,000 match funding towards an extension to the BDUK broadband roll out. Initial mapping has been completed by Superfast Essex that indicates that a total of around 11,000 additional premises will be enabled through the programme, over and above the main BDUK programme, the highest additional number in any Essex District.

PLANNING POLICY

The results of the Local Plan Issues and Scoping consultation were reported to the Local Plan Sub Committee meeting on the 11th June 2015. Responses were received from over 300 individuals and groups to the issues that were set out in the Plan and these are available in full on the website. Officers will be taking these responses into account when drafting the new Local Plan.

The number of completed homes in the District has risen substantially. For the year

ending 31st March 2014, 410 new homes were completed. This compares with just 182 in the previous year.

The community in Borley have produced a Village Design Statement(VDS) which has now been approved. The document will help guide development in the Parish.

The District currently has 4 Neighbourhood Plans formally underway, where a neighbourhood plan area has been agreed by the Council. These are Cressing, Hatfield Peverel, Kelvedon and Feering

HOUSING

Homelessness & Temporary Accommodation

Between April 2014 and the end of March 2015 the Council accepted 140 households as being eligible, homeless and in priority need, this compares with a total number of acceptances for 2013/14 of 166 households. The Housing Options Team has continued to work hard to prevent homelessness occurring and this, together with a higher number of new social homes for rent being advertised over the course of the year, has enabled the number of homeless applications to be minimised.

At the end of March 2015 the number of households in temporary accommodation was 58 and this had fallen to 43 by the end of May. This figure includes: households awaiting a decision on their homeless application, those accommodated for a reasonable period after an adverse decision and those waiting to be moved on to more settled accommodation after being accepted under homeless provisions.

Braintree Emergency Provision

Discussions have been undertaken with New Direction to enhance the working relationship between the two organisations . The aim is to improve the opportunities for homeless single people who approach the Council to access New Direction but also for the Council to provide assistance to scheme residents who are ready to move on.

Affordable Housing Development

Completions

There were 173 affordable housing completions during 2014-15, with a wide range of schemes that included rural schemes in Stisted, Ridgewell and Great Bardfield, a major re-development of homes in Walford Way, Coggeshall and developments in Braintree, Witham and Halstead. The Council has worked closely with Greenfields, Home Group, CHP, Hastoe and Colne Housing on this programme, which included 21 homes for shared ownership.

New Developments Starting

Family Mosaic is starting on the Rayne Road site (opposite the Lidl supermarket). The scheme of 20 flats is new temporary accommodation for homeless households. The scheme is highly flexible, with a mix of studio, one bed and 2 bed flats and will enable the closure of the Craig House hostel in Manor Street. The scheme is likely to be completed in 2016.

Greenfields' development programme continues with schemes either on-site or shortly to start on site in Braintree, Kelvedon and Witham. In addition, the Oxford Meadow site in Sible Hedingham can now be developed as the action to have the land designated as having village green status was rejected.

The Housing Register

Between 1st April and the end of May 2015, 151 housing association homes were let in the Braintree District via the Gateway to Homechoice, , Choice Based Lettings scheme.

As at the end of May 2015 there were 2,456 applicants on the Housing Register consisting of:-

- 105 – Band A
- 227 – Band B
- 633 – Band C
- 135 – Band D
- 1329 – Band E
- 27 – Band F

Band F is used for applicants for 'non-bidding' schemes such as Helen Court in Witham

Councillor Lady Newton
Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing

Contact:	Councillor Lady Newton
Designation:	Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing
E-mail:	cllr.ladynewton@braintree.gov.uk

**REPORT TO COUNCIL – PORTFOLIO AREA OF
CORPORATE SERVICES AND ASSET MANAGEMENT**

Agenda No: 9f

Governance and Members, Legal

There are no major issues to report for the Governance or legal services. All teams have a substantial workload with a number of projects underway.

The Governance and Members team has been leading on the delivery of the Member induction process and ensuring that appropriate preparations and appointments have been made for the Annual Council and first meetings of Cabinet and other committees.

To supplement the existing in house legal provision in relation to property, contract and governance areas the team has recently appointed a solicitor to lead on planning and litigation. The recruitment will support a more cost effective service delivery model than using external legal suppliers. This is being well received from internal teams and the focus is now on building those working relationships and developing the workloads.

Elections

The May 7th Election for parliament, district and parish was a key activity and was conducted without incident despite this being the first time an election was managed at local (District, Parish) and parliamentary on the same day. The team are currently closing down the process and ensuring that the election accounts and reporting requirements are finalised.

Customer Services and ICT

There have been no major issues with the Customer Services or the ICT service and the focus of current activity is extending flexible working for staff and upgrading our ICT infrastructure to improve efficiency. The Member IT project is underway and the use of Mobile Iron (allowing safe access to Braintree District Council email from personal devices) has been implemented and is being tested with internal staff and members before being rolled out more widely across the organisation.

The Long Term ICT arrangements are under review and a series of start-up meetings are under way with Colchester Borough Council and Castle Point Borough Council to prepare proposals and recommendations on the options for each authority. Officers have been consulting across each organisation to produce a high level specification for the service which can then be used to evaluate options.

Asset Management

The Councils Corporate Management Board has reviewed the space usage in Causeway House and has asked Asset Management to find a suitable tenant for ICONS space due to its underutilization by both Essex County Council and BDC. A

small graphic design / Web design company has viewed the space and made an offer which is acceptable and will reduce the cost of running the building thus saving the taxpayer money. References are being sought before proceeding further.

Councillor John McKee
Cabinet Member for Corporate Services and Asset Management

Contact:	Councillor John McKee
Designation:	Cabinet Member for Corporate Services and Asset Management
E-mail:	cllr.jmckee@braintree.gov.uk

**REPORT TO COUNCIL – PORTFOLIO AREA OF
ENVIRONMENT AND PLACE**

Agenda No: 9g

Environmental Services.

Flooding Hot Spots.

To inform new Members a list of local highways flooding hot spots was compiled in 2014 and a joint fund of £100,000 from Braintree District Council (BDC) and Essex County Council (ECC) was made available to remedy these. Several places on the list were then dealt with directly by ECC utilising their budgets as they were part of County's normal highways works programme and others for example Humber Rd Witham and Alderford Street, Sible Hedingham have been completed by BDC. As other schemes have now been identified officers from BDC and ECC are in the process of putting together a revised list for consideration for funding from the remaining fund. Once this revised list is produced I will circulate it to members.

In addition ECC have approved a Capital programme of £90,000 per annum over next 5 years for flooding focussed on protecting properties. The funding will be made available for storm water schemes, community and parish led schemes. The funding will be primarily for property level protection (not river or coastal) and partnership schemes will be prioritised (highways, Environment Agency etc.) However, there will be a lower limit of a minimum of 25 properties that will be protected from flooding. A local problem that will be funded is a scheme at Foxearth to line the old Victorian culvert that is the cause of the flooding in the village.

Community Safety.

The annual report 2014/15 has been agreed by the RAG (Responsible Authority Group) of the Community Safety Partnership and was taken to Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 10th June. Task & Finish Groups for the 2015/16 priorities of Domestic Abuse, Sexual Offences and Violent Crime have met twice and are progressing with delivering against the action plan. Confirmation of funding has been received from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner; the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) will receive an annual allocation of £20K.

A joint bid with Epping Forest CSP was also submitted to the Police & Crime Commissioners Community Safety Development Fund for the continuation of the YPISVA (Young Persons Independent Sexual Violence Advisor) post until March 2016. This was successful and we received a further £20k to match fund the allocation from both the CSP's.

The launch of the radio link project took place at Wetherspoons, Braintree. Four licensed premises within Braintree Town Centre (The Bull, Boars Head, Wetherspoons and The Lounge) have signed up to BARC (Braintree Against Retail Crime) and will receive a digital radio. This will enable the premises to communicate with each other

and George Yard Security should any issues or concerns arise as part of the night time economy.

An Emergency Services and Crime Prevention Day was held Wednesday 17th June in Braintree Town Centre. The event enabled members of the community to meet and hear about the work from a range of services including Essex Police, Essex Fire Service, St Johns Ambulance, Safer Places, Crimestoppers, Open Road/EYPDAS, BDC Keep Safe and the Community Safety Team. Local businesses were also on board including Natwest Bank who provided information around fraud and counterfeit notes.

The Police and Crime Commissioner will be holding his next District Meeting on the 9th July from 6.30 to 8.30 at Braintree Town Hall Centre.

Operations.

Car Parking.

Planning for the second year of the Car Parks Improvement Plan is underway and includes a trial to open the ground floor of George Yard Multi-Storey car park 24/7, to facilitate overnight parking and internal redecoration works of the car park. There are also plans to install directional signage on the main highway routes leading to our Pay and Display carparks in Braintree and Witham.

Refuse & Recycling.

The project to introduce flats recycling and food waste collections from schools around the District has now commenced, using grant funding allocated by the Department for Communities and Local Government over the next 2 years. We will be sharing knowledge and experience with our project partners Essex County Council, Epping, Harlow and Tendring District Councils, to help us deliver the most efficient and effective recycling schemes, with the aim of boosting recycling which has seen a downward trend across the County and nationally over the past 18 months.

The annual delivery of recycling sacks to residential properties commenced on 22 June 2015 (in Witham) and is due to be completed across the whole District by the end of September.

Parks & Open Spaces.

The annual programme for the Spring cut of the highway verges in the District was completed in June. As usual, our staff litter-picked in advance of cutting and cleared any litter evident following cutting.

Essex County Council has completed the installation of the new Sky Trail and Sky Tykes Adventure Courses at Gt Notley Country Park. This exciting new facility should prove a big draw and is scheduled to be opened to the public in July. New parking arrangements including cashless parking is also being introduced. This will offer greater flexibility and more convenience to customers depending on their length of their stay at the country park. This flagship country park offers a great opportunity to everyone to enjoy some recreational time and have fun as well.

Landscape Services.

Horse Chestnut Leaf Miner A potentially resistant horse chestnut has been found to the leaf miner problem in Hampstead, London, Shaun Taylor contacted the scientist involved and has offered to grow on some of the seed from the 'resistant' tree in a bid to help cure this serious problem.

Halstead River Walk: A summary of all the comments received during the recent public consultation on the draft Management Plan for the Halstead River Walk will be circulated to all respondents by the end of June. The summary will include any advisory comments or points for action and will be presented to the local Town Council as part of the adoption process for the Management Plan.

Tree Strategy: There will soon be a consultation on the revised draft of the Council's Tree Strategy. The document aims to provide a comprehensive approach to the management and maintenance of trees in the geographical area administered by Braintree District Council. The strategy has been prepared in two parts, firstly to provide a policy framework that supports the Council's Core Strategy planning document and secondly to give practical guidance for the protection and management of trees. It is intended as an advisory (and informative) document for all those who wish to carry out works to trees or plant new ones in the District. An advisory letter will be sent out to all Parish/Town Councils, tree wardens, conservation and friends volunteer groups advising on the consultation period for the document which will be made available on the Council's website.

Councillor Mrs Wendy Schmitt
Cabinet Member for Environment and Place

Contact:	Councillor Mrs Wendy Schmitt
Designation:	Cabinet Member for Environment and Place
E-mail:	cllr.wschmitt@braintree.gov.uk

COUNCIL
6th July 2015



LIST OF PUBLIC MEETINGS HELD SINCE LAST COUNCIL MEETING		Agenda No: 10
Corporate Priority: Not applicable		
Report presented by: Not applicable		
Report prepared by: Emma Wisbey – Governance and Member Manager		
Background Papers: Published Minutes of the meetings listed within the report below.		Public Report
Options: Report for noting		Key Decision: No
Executive Summary: Since the last Council meeting held on 28 th May 2015, the following Minutes have been published for meetings held in public session: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Planning Committee – 14th April 2015 (2) Planning Committee – 28th April 2015 (3) Licensing Committee – 29th April 2015 (4) Council AGM – 28th May 2015 (5) Planning Committee – 9th June 2015 (6) Overview and Scrutiny – 10th June 2015 (7) Local Plan Sub-Committee – 11th June 2015 (8) Cabinet – 15th June 2015 (9) Planning Committee – 23rd June 2015 (copy to follow) (10) Braintree District Local Highways Panel – 25th June 2015 (copy to follow) (11) Governance Committee – 2nd July 2015 (copy to follow) 		
Decision: Members are invited to note the Minutes published.		
Purpose of Decision: Not applicable		
Officer Contact:	Emma Wisbey	
Designation:	Governance and Member Manager	
Ext. No.	2610	
E-mail:	emma.wisbey@braintree.gov.uk	