

# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE AGENDA

Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021 at 7.15pm

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

This meeting is open to the public - This meeting will be available to view via the Council's  
webcast and YouTube channel

<http://www.braintree.gov.uk>

<http://www.braintree.gov.uk/youtube>

---

**Members of the Community Development Scrutiny Committee are requested to attend  
this meeting to transact the business set out in the Agenda.**

Councillor Mrs C Dervish  
Councillor Mrs D Garrod (Chairman)  
Councillor A Hensman (Vice Chairman)  
Councillor Mrs A Kilmartin  
Councillor W Korsinah

Councillor Mrs J Pell  
Councillor Miss M Weeks  
Councillor Mrs S Wilson  
Councillor B Wright

Members unable to attend the meeting are requested to forward their apologies for absence  
to the Governance and Members Team on 01376 552525 or email  
[governance@braintree.gov.uk](mailto:governance@braintree.gov.uk) by 3pm on the day of the meeting.

A WRIGHT  
Chief Executive

## **INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS - DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

### **Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI), Other Pecuniary Interest (OPI) or Non- Pecuniary Interest (NPI)**

Any member with a DPI, OPI or NPI must declare the nature of their interest in accordance with the Code of Conduct. Members must not participate in any discussion of the matter in which they have declared a DPI or OPI 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 Question Time – Registration and Speaking**

Members of the public wishing to speak are requested to register by contacting the Governance and Members Team on 01376 552525 or email [governance@braintree.gov.uk](mailto:governance@braintree.gov.uk) by **midday on the second working day** before the day of the Committee meeting.

For example, if the Committee Meeting is on a Tuesday, the registration deadline is midday on Friday, (where there is a Bank Holiday Monday you will need to register by midday on the previous Thursday).

The Council reserves the right to decline any requests to register to speak if they are received after this time.

Registered speakers will be invited to speak immediately prior to the relevant application/item. Registered speakers wishing to address the Committee on non-Agenda items will be invited to speak at Public Question Time. All registered speakers will have 3 minutes each to make a statement.

The order in which registered speakers will be invited to speak is: members of the public, Parish Councils/County Councillors/District Councillors, and then Applicant/Agent.

The Chairman of the Planning Committee has discretion to extend the time allocated to registered speakers and the order in which they may speak.

**Documents:** There is limited availability of printed Agendas at the meeting. Agendas, Reports and Minutes can be accessed via [www.braintree.gov.uk](http://www.braintree.gov.uk)

**Substitute Members:** Only the named Substitutes on this agenda can be appointed by a Member of the Committee to attend in their absence. The appointed substitute becomes a full member of the Committee with participation and voting rights.

**WiFi:** Public Wi-Fi (called BDC Visitor) is available in the Council Chamber; users are required to register when connecting.

**Public Attendance at Meeting:** Public attendance is welcomed but is subject to restrictions due to the Council's arrangements for keeping Causeway House COVID secure and visitors' safe.

Public attendance is limited and will be on first come first served basis with priority given to public registered speakers. In order to maintain safe distances, the Council may have to refuse entry to members of the public. The public will not be able to sit in the Council Chamber, but will be permitted to observe the meeting from a public gallery through a large screen. Alternatively, the Council meetings are webcast and are available via the Councils YouTube Channel and can be viewed by the public as a live broadcast or as a recording following the meeting.

Public speakers and public attendees are required to attend on their own, and where possible only one representative of any community group, family household or Company should attend.

Members of the public intending to come to Causeway House to observe a meeting are recommended to watch the meeting via the webcast or to contact the Governance and Members team to reserve a seat within the public gallery.

**Health and Safety/COVID:**

Causeway House is a Covid secure building and arrangements are in place to ensure that all visitors are kept safe. Visitors are requested to follow all instructions displayed at Causeway House or given by Officers during the course of their attendance. All visitors will be required to wear a mask or face covering, unless an exemption applies.

Anyone attending meetings are asked to make themselves aware of the nearest available fire exit. In the event of an alarm you must evacuate the building immediately and follow all instructions provided by staff. You will be directed to the nearest designated assembly point until it is safe to return to the building.

**Mobile Phones:** Please ensure that your mobile phone is switched to silent during the meeting in order to prevent disturbances.

**Webcast and Audio Recording:** Please note that this meeting will be webcast and audio recorded. You can view webcasts for up to 6 months after the meeting using this link: <http://braintree.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>. The Meeting will also be broadcast via the Council YouTube Channel.

**Comments and Suggestions:** We welcome comments to make our services as efficient and effective as possible. If you have any suggestions regarding the meeting you have attended, you can send these to [governance@braintree.gov.uk](mailto:governance@braintree.gov.uk)

## **PUBLIC SESSION**

### **1 Apologies for Absence**

### **2 Declaration of Interests - Scrutiny Committee**

1. To declare the existence and nature of any interests 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.
2. To declare the existence and nature of any instruction given by or on behalf of a political group to any Councillor who is a member of that group as to how that Councillor shall speak or vote on any matter before the Committee or the application or threat to apply any sanction by the group in respect of that Councillor should he/she speak or vote on any particular matter.

**3**

### **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Community Development Scrutiny Committee held on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2021 (copy previously circulated).

### **4 Public Question Time**

(See paragraph above)

### **5 Scrutiny Review into Cycling and Walking - Third Evidence Gathering Session**

Officers from Essex County Council's Sustainable Transport team have been invited to attend the meeting as part of the evidence gathering sessions for the Scrutiny Review.

The Officers to attend are:-

- Tracey Vickers, Head of Sustainable Transport
- Kris Radley, Cycling Strategy Lead

During the session, Members will be invited to ask questions of the Officers to fill in any knowledge 'gaps' around the design concept of highways in the District, and on any current and/or emerging initiatives around cycling and walking which the District Council could potentially link in with or support. Members are reminded to refer to the Terms of Reference for the Scrutiny Review (attached).

### **6 Urgent Business - Public Session**

To consider any matter which, in the opinion of the Chairman, should be considered in public by reason of special circumstances (to be specified) as a matter of urgency.

## Terms of Reference for Scrutiny Review

### Community Development Group – ‘Cycling and Walking in the Braintree District’

#### *Key questions for Scrutiny Review:*

- What are the perceived barriers to increasing cycling and walking provision for local residents and communities in the District? Limitations? (E.g. costs, look at ‘E-Scooter’ project results, etc)
- What action is currently being undertaken by the Council in order to link in with the Government’s new cycling and walking initiative, ‘Gear Change,’ as well as other Local Authority initiatives? (Look at Dutch Roundabout)
- What policies/criteria does the Council currently have in place in relation to cycling and walking and is there a need for the Council to improve its policies to further support the provision for cycling and walking in the District? (E.g. Planning policies, Local Plan policies regarding pedestrianisation/cycling, etc)

**Key contacts:** Planning Policy Team, Councillor Ricci (Cabinet Member for Communities, Culture and Tourism), Health and Wellbeing Team, Sustainability Team, Parish and Town Councils.

**Notes:** Members are asked to explore the topic of cycling and walking in the District from the perspectives of both leisure provision and pedestrianisation (e.g. leisure vs. commuting, transport and connectivity between towns and villages). Members are also reminded to avoid any overlap with the work of the Climate Change Working Group.