

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GROUP AGENDA

Wednesday, 7th April 2021 at 7.15pm

In accordance with the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020, this meeting will be held via Zoom and by the Council's YouTube channel – Braintree District Council Committees.

Members of the public will be able to view and listen to this meeting via YouTube.
To access the meeting please use the link below:

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

Members of the Community Development Group 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 I Parker
Councillor Mrs J Pell

Councillor Mrs L Walters
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 by 3pm on the day of the meeting.

A WRIGHT
Chief Executive

INFORMATION FOR MEMBER – DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI), Other Pecuniary Interests (OPI) or Non-Pecuniary Interests (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:

In response to the Coronavirus the Council has implemented procedures for Public Question Time for its virtual meetings which are hosted via Zoom.

The Agenda allows for a period of up to 30 minutes for Public Question Time.

Participation will be via the submission of a written question or statement which will be read out by an Officer or the Registered Speaker during the meeting. All written questions or statements should be concise and should be able to be read **within 3 minutes** allotted for each question/statement.

Members of the public wishing to participate are requested to register by contacting the Governance and Members Team on 01376 552525 or email governance@braintree.gov.uk by midday on the working day before the day of the Committee meeting. For example, if the Committee meeting is due to be held on a Tuesday, the registration deadline is midday on Monday, (where there is a bank holiday Monday you will need to register by midday on the previous Friday).

The Council reserves the right to decline any requests to register for Public Question Time if they are received after the registration deadline.

Upon registration members of the public may indicate whether they wish to read their question/statement or to request an Officer to read their question/statement on their behalf during the virtual meeting. Members of the public who wish to read their question/statement will be provided with a link to attend the meeting to participate at the appropriate part of the Agenda.

All registered speakers are required to submit their written questions/statements to the Council by no later than 9am on the day of the meeting by emailing them to governance@braintree.gov.uk. In the event that a registered speaker is unable to connect to the virtual meeting their question/statement will be read by an Officer.

Questions/statements received by the Council will be published on the Council's website. The Council reserves the right to remove any defamatory comment in the submitted questions/statements.

The Chairman of the Committee has discretion to extend the time allocated for public question time and to amend the order in which questions/statements are presented to the Committee.

Documents: Agendas, Reports, Minutes and Public Question Time questions and statements can be accessed via www.braintree.gov.uk

Data Processing: During the meeting the Council will be collecting performance data of participants' connectivity to the meeting. This will be used for reviewing the functionality of Ms Teams/Zoom and YouTube as the Council's platform for virtual meetings and for monitoring compliance with the legal framework for Council meetings. Anonymised performance data may be shared with third parties.

For further information on how the Council processes data, please see the Council's Privacy Policy. https://www.braintree.gov.uk/info/200136/access_to_information/376/privacy_policy

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

1 Apologies for Absence

2 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.

3 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Community Development Group held on 17th February 2021 (copy previously circulated).

4 Public Question Time

(See paragraph above)

5 Scrutiny Review into Cycling and Walkin in the Braintree District - Evidence Gathering Session

Mr Peter Kohn, representative from the Earls Colne to Kelvedon Cycleway Project, has been invited to attend the meeting as part of the evidence gathering sessions for the Scrutiny Review.

During this session, Mr Kohn will speak to Members on the Cycleway Project and his experiences thus far, the successes and challenges and the impact on both residents and local communities. Members will then be invited to ask their questions of Mr Kohn.

6 Scrutiny Review into Cycling and Walking in the Braintree District - Online Resources from Essex County Council

7 - 10

7 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.

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

Financial:	No matters arising out of this report.
Legal:	No matters arising out of this report.
Safeguarding:	No matters arising out of this report.
Equalities/Diversity:	No matters arising out of this report.
Customer Impact:	No matters arising out of this report.
Environment and Climate Change:	No matters arising out of this report.
Consultation/Community Engagement:	No matters arising out of this report.
Risks:	No matters arising out of this report.
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Designation:	Governance and Members
Ext. No:	2607
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Scrutiny Review into ‘Cycling and Walking in the Braintree District’ Research into the Online Resources from Essex County Council

Officers in the Governance and Members Team have worked jointly with Councillor Miss M Weeks to carry out research into the online resources available in respect of information on cycling and walking. This reports sets out the findings of the research into Essex County Council’s website.

Members are asked to note that this report contains a number of website and documents links to enable Members to review and consider in the context of the terms of reference for this scrutiny review.

Essex County Council is the Highway and Transport Authority and the Authority responsible for the Definitive Map of Public Rights of Way for the Braintree District.

Essex County Council’s website is challenging and appears to rely upon the user having a level of knowledge to successfully navigate to the desired content on the subsidiary website of Essex Highways - <https://www.essexhighways.org/>, which contains information on Cycling and Walking which is accessed via the “[getting around](#)” section of the website.

Walking

The information on walking is set out in two sections, [Public Rights of Way](#) and [Walking](#). The content of these webpages focus on the “leisure and recreational” walking, providing useful resources for walkers including links to the Definitive Map of Public Rights of Way, Maps for walks and guidance for responsible use of the Public Rights of Way network.

These pages also provide links to other websites for recreational walking such as Visit Essex and Essex Country Parks and contact details for national walking groups and initiatives such as the Health Walking Groups.

There was little information which could be found in respect of walking as a means of transport within this section of the website, however a link was provided to the County Council’s [Essex Walking Strategy](#).

The Essex Walking Strategy has been produced by Essex County Council in response to the Government’s requirement for Highway Authorities to produce a walking strategy as part of their Local Transport Plan (LTP).

The website states that the Strategy...“outlines in detail the steps being taken to encourage walking at present and the direction that will be taken in the future. The Walking Strategy outlines the problems and opportunities associated with walking in Essex. It brings together all Essex County Council’s policies concerning walking and puts them into a national context.

The document contains objectives and targets set for walking and identifies the strategies for achieving them. It also states how the strategy will be implemented and monitored in order to ascertain whether it has been successful in meeting the targets”...

The Walking Strategy is dated August 2001 and appears to be the current strategy.

The Essex Transport Strategy and the Local Transport Plan for Essex, is also available on the Essex Highways' website.

The [Local Transport Plan](#) sets out the County Council's approach transport in Essex.

The website states the Local Transport Plan:

"...sets out our aspirations for improving travel in the county, demonstrating the importance of meeting these aspirations to achieving sustainable long-term economic growth in Essex and enriching the lives of our residents

...This third Local Transport Plan is wider in scope than previous plans, providing a framework for the effective and efficient delivery of all transport services provided by or on behalf of the Council. It will inform and guide our work with other organisations and local communities across Essex, ensuring that transport services are delivered in ways which effectively respond to local needs and offer good value for money to local taxpayers

..The publication of the plan will not be the end of the process; we will continue to monitor and report on the delivery of the local transport plan. Each of the five outcomes will be monitored by a suite of performance indicators that will together give a broad measure of the effectiveness of our plan allowing Essex residents to assess the performance of the local transport plan and compare Essex against similar authorities elsewhere in England. It will require us to continue to work together with transport operators, borough and district councils and our wider partners."

The Local Transport Plan is dated June 2011 and appears to be the current Plan.

While both the Walking Strategy and Local Transport Plan have been place for some time, they are relevant documents which set out the County Council's policies and strategies for pedestrian routes and networks, improving the environment for walking, pedestrianisation and recreational walking and walking for health. While these documents are prepared for the whole of the County, they are relevant to the District.

Cycling

This part of the website contains substantial information about Cycling in the County which spans from [local Map and initiatives](#) (which has a section for each of the Districts/Boroughs in Essex), information on strategies, [Cycling Programme](#), cycle education and guidance including [Cycle training](#), maintenance, cycling to school and work and route planning.

The website includes links to a number of external organisations, including cycling charities, such as Active Essex, British Cycling and Sustrans.

This page also has a link to the Cycle Essex social media platform which includes post by Essex Highways in respect of Cycling and walking

It should be noted that there was much more information available on the ECC website in terms of cycling than walking.

The [Essex Cycling Strategy](#) (November 2016) is also published on the website.

This Strategy has been produced in conjunction with County Council, the 12 Essex Districts/Boroughs, the two Unitary Authorities (Southend-on-Sea and Thurrock) and other key stakeholders. It states that it takes into “*account of current UK policy, data on cycling levels within Essex and best practice from around the world.*”

The strategy document contains three sections:

Section 1 Explains why cycling is important to Essex, summarises its main benefits and highlights its importance to Essex County Council’s seven key Outcomes.

Section 2 Sets out the nine areas of strategic action that we believe are necessary to deliver the growth in cycling we want to see as a local authority.

Section 3 Summarises the monitoring regime we will adopt to assess the effectiveness of the Strategy and the Performance Indicators we will use to track progress. This section also outlines potential funding options.

Braintree ‘Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan

The Essex Highways website also provides information on the [Braintree ‘Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan’ \(LCWIP\)](#) developed by Essex County Council to encourage and make walking and cycling safer.

A Government led initiative, LCWIPS look to support a move to more sustainable forms of travel, particularly for shorter journeys. They are designed to improve the links to key destinations that people need to get to, whether for work, education, shopping or for other reasons¹.

Currently information on the websites includes the improvements to London Road, Braintree.

¹ Local Cycling and walking Infrastructure Plans – [Technical Guidance for Local Authorities](#) - April 2017

Additional Resources for Scrutiny Review into Walking and Cycling

List of 'Cycling' Links and Resources:

- <https://www.essexhighways.org/getting-around>
- <https://www.essexhighways.org/discover-essex-by-bike>
- <https://www.essexhighways.org/routes-and-maps>
- <https://www.essexhighways.org/getting-around/cycling/routes-and-maps>
- 'Cycling Map' for Braintree and Witham:



Braintree-Witham.pdf

List of 'Walking' Links and Resources

- <https://www.essexhighways.org/public-rights-of-way>
- https://www.essexhighways.org/uploads/downloads/essex_walking_strategy.pdf
- <https://www.essexhighways.org/groups-and-organisations>

General 'Cycling and Walking' Links and Initiatives

- Landing page for 'Accessible Transport' on ECC Website:
<https://www.essex.gov.uk/accessible-transport>
- Information on the Braintree 'Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan' (LCWIP) developed by Essex County Council:
<https://www.essexhighways.org/london-road-braintree>