

District Councillor's Report to Parish Councils April 2026

Cllr. Diana Garrod - Bumpstead Ward

Scheduled Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders & Roadworks

FYI only: Cycle Route: The Suffolk Spring Classic – Sunday 19th April 2026.

Intended closure of A1017 at Rowley Hill Sturmer from 20th April until 2nd May 2026 for carriageway resurfacing.

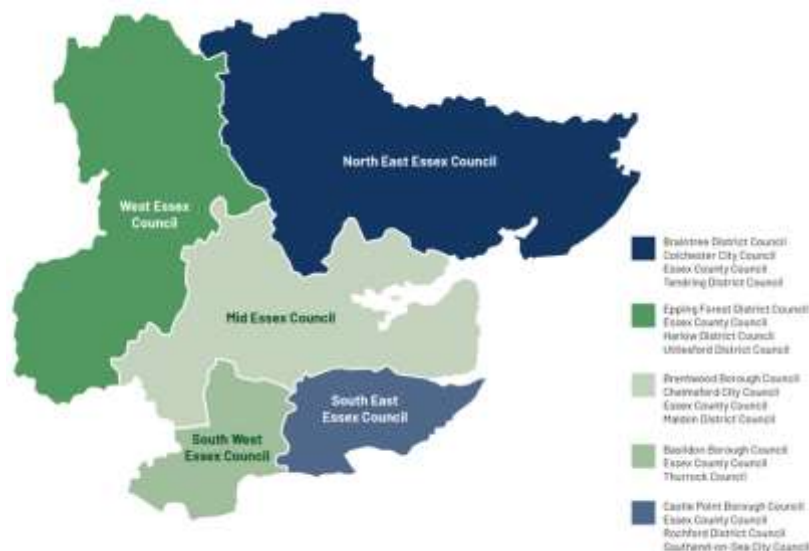
Intended closure of Birdbrook Road and Stambourne Road from 14th to 24th April 2026 for carriageway patching.

Local Government Reorganisation

On Wednesday 25 March

2026 the government confirmed its preference for

five new unitary authorities in Greater Essex. As of 1st April 2028, our existing county and district councils will be abolished and replaced with North East Essex Council. Braintree District Council will join with Colchester and Tendring.



Draft Local Plan

There is just under a week to have your say on the draft updated Local Plan document for the Braintree district, with the **consultation closing at 5pm on Friday 17 April 2026.**

320 & 321 Bus Routes Through Steeple Bumpstead

I have campaigned vigorously for the retention of the 320 and 321; this being the last bus service through Steeple Bumpstead. I felt the first analysis of the passenger data was considerably compromised because the transport route was changed due to months of road closures for Anglian Water works, consequently, ECC's more recent data revealed improved performance across the contract when normal routes were resumed. Steeple Bumpstead has lost its doctor surgery and post office and the 320/321 also provides valuable transport for children to attend school. Thank goodness common sense has finally prevailed. These services will now continue until July 2028.

Essex Police Consultation

Everyone who lives, works and travels in Essex is being invited to help shape a new Safer Speeds Strategy. The public consultation will run for six weeks, closing on Sunday 26 April 2026.

<https://consultations.essex.gov.uk/essex-highways/essex-safer-speeds-strategy/>

BDC & NRLA Landlord Forum (Spring 2026)

The Spring 2026 Landlord Forum with the National Residential Landlords Association (NRLA) will provide information on what you need to know ahead of the Renters' Rights Act being due to be implemented on 1 May 2026. The session will also cover changes to the Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) and the Decent Homes Standard. James Gladwin, Senior Regional Representative of the NRLA, will be presenting on the Renters' Rights Act as well as other upcoming legislation changes landlords should be aware of.

Who Should Attend

- Private landlords
- Letting agents
- Property investors
- Those considering entering the private rented sector

Thursday 16th April 2026, 6 – 8PM at Causeway House, Braintree.

Booking is FREE via Eventbrite:-

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/braintree-district-council-nrla-landlord-forum-spring-2026-tickets-1982873771829?aff=oddtcreator>

Essex County Council Elections Thursday 7th May 2026

There will be 78 county councillors, up from 75, and new division boundaries following a review by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England. Every division will be represented by one councillor. The divisions within the Braintree district area are Bocking, Braintree Eastern, Braintree Town, Halstead, Heddingham, Three Fields & Great Notley, Witham Town and Witham West & Rural.

- Register to vote deadline: Monday 20 April
- Apply for a postal vote deadline: 5pm on Tuesday 21 April
- Apply for a proxy vote deadline: 5pm on Tuesday 28 April
- Apply for free voter ID deadline: 5pm on Tuesday 28 April

Link for further information: <https://www.braintree.gov.uk/elections>

Joint Statement from Braintree District Council and Essex County Council: Poll cards error for Essex County Council elections on 7 May 2026 within the Braintree district division

“We are aware that that the poll cards issued by Braintree District Council for the Essex County Council elections taking place on 7 May – that is for all ECC electoral divisions within the Braintree district – include an error. The poll cards should say that they are for the Essex County Council elections but instead refer to ‘election of councillors to Braintree District Council’. The May 7 elections are for Essex County Council. Braintree District Council and Essex County Council apologise for any confusion. The matter is being investigated by Braintree DC and their print supplier so we can ensure it does not happen again”.

Cllr. Diana Garrod

Braintree District Councillor - Bumpstead Ward