

Report from Braintree District Councillor Iona Parker for 18 October 2022 PC meeting

Here is a brief report for tonight's meeting:

- Regrettably the Council no longer has a 5 year housing land supply. Following recalculation of the number of new dwellings likely to be completed in the next 5 years, and having taking advice from specialist planning barristers, the Council has concluded that our housing supply in now just less than 5 years. This means it is harder to resist speculative planning applications which are in sustainable locations.
- I have a meeting on site with a Highways officer this week to discuss a number of schemes that have been put forward to the local highways panel including the deer signage by Mashey Wood. These are still in validation due to shortage of officers but I am trying to push them forward.
- The Council has put forward a site to Essex Council for one of the Government's new investment zones. This site is adjacent to the new business park at Gt Notley. We will see whether it is included in the sites put forward by ECC.
- The Council passed a motion at the last full Council meeting to work towards increasing the recycling target to 75% and will be looking at what practical steps can be taken to increase recycling rates.
- There are 97 registered sponsors and 211 Ukrainian guests in our district. The Council is working hard to get properties inspected within a week and is conscious that the initial 6 month period is approaching and are contacting sponsors to see if they are willing to extend the period.
- The Council is encouraging households to get in touch if they believe they are eligible for a discretionary energy rebate scheme, to support them with rising energy costs. The scheme is available to households in council tax bands E-H. For further details of eligibility please see www.braintree.gov.uk/counciltaxrebate.
- I just want to make you aware of the Big Switch Off. The analogue telephone switch off is happening by December 2025 and those with landline phones will need to switch to an internet-based service. Residents should look out for communications from their telephone provider.

Iona Parker

Bendysh House, North End Road, Little Yeldham, Halstead, Essex CO9 4LE

Cllr.iparker@braintree.gov.uk

01787 237246