

District Councillor's Report for 14/10/25 Parish Council Meeting

- Local Plan - The Local Plan Sub-Committee is almost at the end of its run of meetings considering sites which have been put forward for housing and employment and reviewing planning policies in the current Local Plan. All non strategic sites have been considered (i.e. less than 500 dwellings) as well as nearly all strategic sites. The committee has recommended allocation of 2700 dwellings to the east of Halstead which it is hoped will deliver a bypass around Halstead, something residents have called for for a long time! It has also recommended allocation of a large site to the west of Kelvedon known as Kings Deene. The meeting next week will consider a large extension to the east of Braintree and a site to the north west of Coggeshall inside the bypass. The draft plan will then go to Full Council at the end of November before going out to public consultation.
- Waste Review - Officers are still working on implementation of changes to waste collection due to come into effect in June. They are assessing which properties fall into the non standard category and need smaller receptacles due to space issues as well as working on changes to routes and planning delivery of the new bins.
- Braintree Community Hospital - a new surgical procedure room has opened at the Braintree Community Hospital for minor orthopaedic procedures such as carpal tunnel surgery. The new diagnostic facility is due to open in early 2026.