

District Councillor's Report to Parish Councils February 2026

Cllr. Diana Garrod - Bumpstead Ward

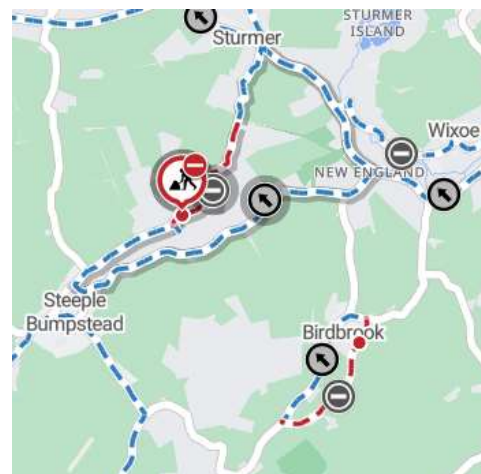
Scheduled Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders & Roadworks

Works at New England, Sturmer Road. Ongoing for Utility Asset Works. Anglian Water. Project: SEW-12079 - Stambourne Pump Away Scheme. Installing underground storm water storage pipes.

E: onealliancecustomers@anglianwater.co.uk T: 03457 145 145.

Intended closure Sturmer Road, Steeple Bumpstead due to commence on 11th March 2026 for 14 days. The closure is required while Essex County Council undertakes carriageway patching. <https://one.network/?tm=GB148151761>

Intended closure of Daw Street, Bailey Hill, Birdbrook 23rd – 25th March 2026. The closure is required while Essex County Council undertakes carriageway patching. <https://one.network/?tm=GB148151761>



Pothole Update

I have asked for urgent repairs to the clusters of potholes at Mill Road, Birdbrook as they are exceptionally deep and causing vehicles to swerve. I have received the following response 02/02/26:

Your 2 enquiries (Friday) have been submitted under the Winter Damage scheme. Cluster of Potholes. The issues in some of the photographs on Mill Road, Birdbrook are beyond the scope of the MHI Winter Damage - as the road needs a larger-scale resurfacing scheme rather than patching. These have been passed on to the Asset Management Team; the Inspections Team have also been asked to visit the area ASAP to carry out any emergency repairs if required.

PFCC News

The Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner, Roger Hirst has written to inform BDC that, following formal approval by the Police, Fire and Crime Panel on Tuesday 3 February, Joel Charles has been appointed as Deputy Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner (DPFCC) for Essex. The DPFCC is a key role in enabling effective partnership working across the county. Joel will work closely with a wide range of partners, actively contributing to partnership boards, community initiatives and stakeholder forums, and supporting the collective delivery of the Police and Crime Plan and the Fire and Rescue Plan.

Garden Waste Subscriptions

Garden waste subscriptions are now open for another year of collections from 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2027. The cost of an annual subscription remains at £55 for the first bin. This provides fortnightly collections all year round, with a break over Christmas and New Year. Those with larger gardens can purchase additional bins at £37.25 each, plus a subscription fee of £30 per bin. Properties that are unsuitable for bin collections can purchase special compostable sacks for garden waste collection, at £8 per roll of 20 sacks, which includes the cost of delivery and collection.

Those who subscribed online this year and did not opt out of autorenewal will have payment taken and their subscriptions automatically renewed in early March, making the service seamless and hassle-free. Residents who subscribed by phone or in person will need to take action to renew, either online or by phone, if they wish to continue with the service after 31 March 2026.

New Recycling Bins

From 9th February through to the end of May, we will be delivering new recycling containers to every household in the district, ahead of changes to waste and recycling collections coming from 1st June. Most households will receive two new 240 litre bins: one red-lidded and one blue-lidded. The red-lidded bin will be for paper and card only. The blue-lidded bin will be for all your other mixed recycling: glass bottles and jars, tins, cans, plastic bottles, tubs and trays, plastic film and bags, food and drink cartons, tubs and tubes. Where a property has been assessed to not be suitable for both wheeled bins (a Standard collection), you will receive boxes instead (a Non-standard collection).

What residents need to know:

- You do not need to be at home for delivery
- BDC crews will place new bins or boxes in the usual location where you present your waste
- An online tracker will be available for residents to find out their window of delivery. Check BDC's waste changes page for this: <https://www.braintree.gov.uk/wastechanges>
- You should not use the new bins until the new service begins in June
- Box deliveries will begin from March, so these may not arrive at the same time as the new bins.

Local Plan Update

At BDC's Extraordinary Full Council meeting 02/02/26, the majority of councillors voted to publish an early draft of the updated Local Plan for public consultation. This marks the beginning of the next major stage in shaping the district's future growth. The consultation (known as 'Regulation 18') is expected to start on or around 19 February for just over six weeks. This is the opportunity for you to comment on early ideas about how the Braintree district could change over the next 15 years up to 2041.

Essex County Council Election – Now Scheduled for May 2026

The Rt Hon Steve Reed OBE MP (Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government has written to the Leader of Essex County Council, Kevin Bentley on 29/01/26:-

"... I am writing to confirm that I will not be including the election to Essex County Council in legislation to postpone local elections. I recognise the significant demands facing Essex County Council, including the implications of holding elections alongside key reorganisation milestones early this year, and am grateful for the clarity you provided on how postponement would release essential capacity to support delivery of reorganisation. However, in reaching my decision I placed particular weight on the fact that the Council has not made a clear and unambiguous case for postponement through its formal representations and your repeated statements that the Council would not be seeking postponement. I have been clear through this process that I would listen to local leaders and not seek to impose decisions on councils from Whitehall. For these reasons, and on balance, I consider it appropriate that the elections to Essex County Council take place in May 2026."

ECC Bus Consultation Outcome – A Huge Disappointment for Residents of Steeple Bumpstead

I have received notification from Essex County Council Integrated Passenger Transport Unit. It lists the parishes that will be affected, but does not mention Steeple Bumpstead:-

Following the recently published Outcome of Consultation on Supported Local Bus Services (Contracts ending July 2026), we are writing to inform you that the 59 /590 / 320 / 321 has been identified as a Category D service.

Category D services are those that do not meet the Supported Local Bus Priority Policy and where no feasible redesign has been identified. Essex County Council is therefore proposing the withdrawal of this service, subject to a final stage of targeted consultation with current users.

On-Bus Consultation

A three-week on-bus withdrawal consultation will now take place to gather further comments from passengers who rely on this service. This final step ensures that any decision fully considers users' essential travel needs and any impacts not previously identified.

We would appreciate your support in sharing this information with your constituents so they are aware of the proposal and can provide their views.

Consultation Dates: 29 January 2026 – 19 February 2026

*Following this process, a further decision will be taken and communicated to you as soon as it becomes available. Full details of all services in this category can be found on the TravelEssex website:
[Local Bus Supported services & consultations | Travel Essex](#)*

Parishes Covered by This Route

We will also be sharing this notification with the Parish and Town Councils along the route, as they are directly affected by the proposal. The parishes covered by this service are:

Saffron Walden
Wendons Ambo
Hempstead
Radwinter
Sewards End
Newport

59 /590 /319 /320 /321	Haverhill	Saffron Walden/ Newport	Monday to Saturday	Braintree / Uttlesford	Stephensons of Essex	Retain only service 319
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Cllr. Diana Garrod
Braintree District Councillor - Bumpstead Ward