

District Councillor's Report to Parish Councils August 2026

Cllr. Diana Garrod - Bumpstead Ward

Scheduled Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders & Roadworks

Intended closure of Cornish Hall End, Finchingfield on 17th August 2026 for 2 days while Openreach undertakes pole replacement. <https://one.network/?tm=GB150309683>

Intended closure of Mill Road, Birdbrook commencing 17th August 2026 for 5 days while Suffolk County Council undertake railing repairs. Link: <https://one.network/?tm=GB150285330>

Intended closure of Bumpstead Road, Sturmer/Haverhill Road, Steeple Bumpstead from 23rd to 30th August 2026 while Anglian Water Business (National) undertakes overbanding and remedial reinstatement. <https://one.network/?tm=GB150065503>

Intended closure of Moat Rd, Birdbrook on 24th August 2026 for 2 days whilst UK Power Networks undertakes pole replacement. <https://one.network/?tm=GB150816206>

Intended closure of Hill Lane, Sturmer 31st August to 2nd September 2026 whilst work is undertaken to the vegetation. ECC Ref: EP201EH2407673-02

New Sites Submitted to BDC Local Plan Review 2041

Two new cross-parish sites have been submitted. The housing trajectory to support the Local Plan is being reviewed and updated following the Regulation 18 consultation. In order to meet the government's deadline of 31 December 2026, it is currently planned to report a Regulation 19 Pre-Submission Plan to Local Plan Sub-Committee on 17/09/2026 and subsequent to this, Full Council on 21/12/2026. Further details can be found at: <https://www.braintree.gov.uk/planning-building-control/local-plan-review-2/5>

Site STEB2609: Pitt Field, Sturmer Rd, New England – proposed housing/affordable housing.

Site STUR2605: Kedington Rd, Sturmer – proposed housing/affordable housing.

West Suffolk Local Plan to 2045

West Suffolk Council have started work on their new West Suffolk Local Plan which will guide growth and how and where development takes place in the district to 2045. I spoke with a member of their team who explained that they have undertaken a scoping consultation which ended 28th July. The Call for Sites ended in May and they are now working through these. They should be published in the Autumn. It is possible that the proposed Catesby Estates, Haverhill Vales Development, a site previously submitted into the Braintree District Local Plan, stretching from the Bumpstead Road to Sturmer Garden Centre, across the two local authorities, could be submitted. I would recommend that all interested parties sign up to register for email notifications by registering on their consultation portal: <https://westsuffolk.inconsult.uk>

Rural Farm Property Marking Scheme

Community Safety Partnership funding was provided to Braintree Neighbourhood Policing Team during the previous year to support the delivery of rural farm property marking kits across the district. The initiative provides working farms with free forensic DNA property marking kits to help prevent and deter the theft of heavy farm machinery, tools and equipment. The kits allows equipment to be permanently marked with a unique forensic identifier, acting as a deterrent to theft and assisting with the recovery of stolen property. There are approximately 157 working farms across the Braintree district, making this a long-term project. Since the launch of the scheme last year, 49 farms have been visited and feedback from participating farmers has been reported as overwhelmingly positive. The Community Safety Partnership contributed £3,060 towards the purchase of the marking kits, which is expected to cover the cost of providing kits to around half of the farms in the district.

Affordable Homes

There were 28 affordable housing completions in June 2026. This outcome continues to be disappointing. There are variety of reasons why we are seeing a lower number of completions compared to the previous year. These include fewer schemes on site under construction this year compared to previous years, slippage in programmes and a slowing in construction activity which has resulted in delay. It is expected there will be improvement in completion numbers during the latter half of the year.

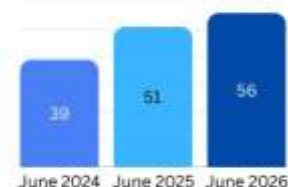
**Affordable Homes
Delivered**

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total
24-25	58	70	113	54	295
25-26	72	38	65	55	233
26-27	31				31

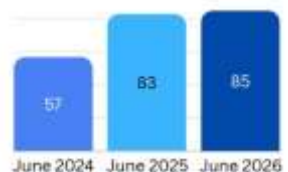
Temporary Accommodation

By the end of June 2026, Braintree district had 56 households and 85 children in temporary accommodation; an increase of 7% in households (from 52) and 1% in children (from 84) compared to June 2025. Across England, the number of households in temporary accommodation was 132,410; up 7.5%. This indicates that Braintree's levels reflect the national trend of sustained, elevated temporary accommodation (source MHCLG).

**End of June Snapshot
Households in TA**



Children in TA



Drought Status & Hosepipe Ban

Half the country was declared to be in serious drought this week, for the second consecutive year, with the Environment Agency warning of dire consequences for the economy, environment and wildlife. East Anglia was officially declared a drought zone in late July 2026 following the driest July for England and Wales in 190 years. Anglian Water says the East of England remains one of the driest parts of the country and many rivers are running exceptionally low. Many reservoirs are also below where we would normally expect them to be at this time of year. A temporary use ban (TUB), also known as a hosepipe ban, remains in place for all customers across our region. The restrictions were enforceable from 1.01am on Saturday 11 July 2026.

<https://www.anglianwater.co.uk/help-and-advice/save-water/hosepipe-restrictions>

Water in Neighbouring Cambridgeshire

In Cambridgeshire, chalk streams are already being artificially filled by the Environment Agency because of over-extraction of water. Yet ministers are suggesting Greater Cambridgeshire can host another 150,000 homes as part of the creation of a development corporation to spur growth and take decision-making away from elected councils. Lack of water is already a critical issue around Cambridge. The 5,726 residents of the fenland village of Waterbeach – where another 4,500 homes are planned – are under a hosepipe ban. The Environment Agency initially refused plans for the new homes because of water scarcity, the significant risk to the environment and the inadequacy of the strategy from Cambridge Water to meet future demand. But it lifted the objections in November 2024 as long as measures to increase water efficiency were adopted in Cambridgeshire.

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