

contact

2022

your residents' magazine



**Bouncing back
- supporting you,
local businesses
and the environment**





Colchester Institute's all-new Braintree Campus offers industry-standard facilities and the courses to kick-start your career.



YOUR LOCAL COLLEGE
YOUR FUTURE SUCCESS
CHURCH LANE BRAintree

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19th May 2022
5pm - 7pm



**Esports · Construction · Engineering · Beauty Therapy · Business
 Electrical Installations · Film · Games Design · Plumbing and more...**

Book onto an event: colchester.ac.uk/events

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keep in touch with us

- www.braintree.gov.uk
- Braintree District Council
- @BraintreeDC
- 01376 552525
- Sign up to our free e-newsletters at www.braintree.gov.uk/tellmemore
- Braintree District Council, Causeway House, Braintree, Essex CM7 9HB
- Register to receive free text message reminders: www.braintree.gov.uk/text

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**IF YOU REQUIRE THIS DOCUMENT IN ANOTHER FORMAT,
 PLEASE CALL 01376 552525**

Bouncing back stronger together



While we are still responding to the very real challenges that were created by the pandemic, we are now also focusing on delivering the key things needed to give the Braintree District the best chance to recover as quickly as possible.

Last year we set out our Bouncing Back Together Plan which focuses on the things that matter over the next 18 months – connecting people and places, enhancing our environment, supporting our communities, promoting prosperity and delivering and innovating.

We are working hard to ensure we give our residents and businesses the help and support they need. On page 5 you can find out more about how we've been supporting the community over the past year and on page 12 you can see what plans we have to revitalise all three town centres.

We know climate change is a topic that matters to most. The council is committed to doing everything it can locally to tackle the climate emergency and make the district carbon neutral as far as possible by 2030, and you can read more about this on pages 6 and 7.

Our Braintree District is filled with many individuals, businesses and community groups doing their bit to help our local environment and you can read more about this on pages 8 and 9.



I am proud to be from and part of Braintree District. Our communities have united to be there for one another and through hope, experience and this community spirit, I have no doubt that we will recover and bounce back stronger. And always remember that the council is here to help, whatever the situation.

Councillor Graham Butland
Leader of Braintree District Council



Getting back into communities

This year we were delighted to have the opportunity to get back out into communities across the Braintree District to discuss issues that were important to local residents.

We took part in 16 different community events across the district, speaking to over 500 of you, working with partners including Essex Police, Essex County Fire and Rescue Service, United in Kind, Eastlight Community Housing Association and Community360.

We were also joined by our Covid ambassadors who helped give out the latest Covid advice and hundreds of free testing kits.

You talked to us about your personal concerns and we directed you to local organisations and provided advice about everything from caring for loved ones, access to community fridges, volunteering and community transport.

We are planning our community events for 2022 so if you would like an event in your area or have an event you'd like us to attend, please contact us at communityservices@braintree.gov.uk



Councillor Community Grants

In 2022, we are continuing the Councillor Community Grant Scheme which enables more organisations and groups to apply for funding to support local projects and initiatives that will benefit the people of the Braintree District.

To find out more or apply for a Councillor Community Grant visit: www.braintree.gov.uk/communitygrant



Climate change

We must act now to tackle climate change and it's down to every individual to do their bit. Small changes can create a big impact.

Braintree District Council declared a Climate Change Emergency in July 2019 and announced a target to be carbon neutral as a Council as far as practical by 2030, as well as supporting local communities to reduce the impacts of climate change across the Braintree District.

EV electric charging points

To grow our district's local electric vehicle charging network and infrastructure is one of the key priorities for Transport in the council's Climate Change Strategy 2021-30.

We've also worked with private companies such as Gridserve, who opened the UK's first Electric Forecourt in Braintree, for drivers to recharge their vehicles. We have future plans in progress to introduce more locations.



Through our planning process, we are supporting the government's commitment to install EV charging points in residential and commercial new build projects.



We have installed **48 charging points** across a number of council-owned car parks, leisure centres and council buildings.



This is just a small selection of our climate change work.

Visit our website for more: www.braintree.gov.uk/climatechangestrategy

Community Tree and Bulb Planting Scheme



Last year we offered free tree whips and bulbs for people to plant in our district. With over 124 applications from parish and town councils, schools, nurseries, individuals and community groups, they have planted over 41,600 bulbs and 4,850 native tree whips. We have also planted more on council owned land, bringing the total of new plantings to **18,700 native trees and 73,000 bulbs** to encourage biodiversity and pollinators.



Green Heart Champions



Many agree the **£1.54m spent every year keeping our district clean and tidy could be better spent elsewhere.**

The accumulation of litter can start with a single wrapper, a takeaway cup, or even a cigarette butt.

As well as council staff, did you know across our district there are over 350 Green Heart Champion local volunteers of all ages, who work tirelessly to help keep our district's streets, parks and open spaces free of litter that other people have thoughtlessly dropped?

If you are passionate about where you live, why not volunteer? You can give as much or as little time as you like and we can supply you with litter-picking kits.

Tackling climate change starts with lots of small steps and, by doing it together, will make a big difference to help protect our planet.



Daniel Walker, Junior Green Heart Champion



Find out more about becoming a Green Heart Champion:

www.braintree.gov.uk/greenheartchampions
greenheartchampions@braintree.gov.uk
 The Green Heart Team on 01376 552525

LITTER IN MY HOME? THAT'S QUACKERS!

Bin it or take it home!

Love it here? Don't leave it here...
 It only takes a few pieces of litter to ruin a habitat and put wildlife at risk.

LOVEESSEX

We love local

Community groups, individuals and businesses are doing their bit to tackle climate change

Eco Colnes & Halstead

Cherry McKean began her eco-journey by starting to make small changes around her home. She took steps by doing simple things like turning the tap off whilst brushing her teeth, switching lights off when not in the room, pulling the plugs out of sockets when not charging her phone and making sure to check if her waste was recyclable. Cherry brought together a local community group of over 1,200 members sharing ideas and tips on what else they can do to help save our planet.

Cherry and fellow Eco Colnes member Rachel Sprunt are set to open Ecolnes Refillery very soon, a minimal waste store and community hub. It will offer a range of consciously created and packaged products encouraging shoppers to refill, reuse and reduce single use-plastic.



Incredible Edible



Incredible Edible volunteers based in Earls Colne grow vegetables, herbs, fruit and flowers for the benefit of local people, wildlife and the environment. A Councillor Community grant of £500 allowed them to buy compost, tools and seeds to create a garden from a plot of land on the High Street.

Jayne Meleschko, one of the leaders of the localised project, is looking to create another garden in the village to add another addition to the national Incredible Edible movement, encouraging the growing of fruit and veg in community spaces which not only is good to eat, but great for our planet too!



Creative Climate Challenge

Schools from across the Braintree District have been creating art masterpieces showcasing how they feel about climate change, as part of a partnership with Braintree District Cultural Education Partnership and Braintree District Council.

Here are just some of their projects...



See how our local schools are taking action: www.braintree.gov.uk/climatechange

Future generations are at the heart of our drive to tackle climate change

Let's recycle right to do our best for our planet

Our crews have made over **8.3 million collections** from **around 66k households**, and collected 58.8k tonnes of waste!



Being able to recycle and compost over 27,552 tonnes of the waste collected is a great result, so we want to say **THANK YOU**

We can always do better by reducing the amount of waste we generate and ensure we are recycling right.

If you are not sure what goes in your clear sacks, check against your calendar or on our website. And if still in doubt – **leave it out!**



www.braintree.gov.uk/recycling

TOP TIPS to reduce your waste

We're all becoming more aware of the impact we have on the environment. With just a few simple changes, everyone can make a positive difference.

Cut the rubbish!

This is where you can have the biggest impact at home. There are lots of easy ways to try reducing waste:

- **Composting leftover food** (like fruit and vegetable peelings) creates free soil improver to grow plants and veggies at home. You can also use your weekly food waste recycling collection.



- **Make the switch to cloth nappies.** They are a great alternative to disposable nappies and can offer great cost, health and environmental benefits. Plus, a £30 refund is available on the purchase of cloth nappies, including new or pre-loved items, on the Love Essex website.



- **Freecycle it!** From furniture, children's toys, bicycles and mattresses, you can find your unwanted item a new home without leaving the comfort of your own home. Visit www.ilovefreecycle.org



- **Reduce your food waste!** This doesn't just help the planet - your purse will benefit too. Families can save around £60 a month by doing a bit of extra preparation and meal planning. Check out www.lovefoodhatewaste.com for tips.



For more great ideas on how to reduce your waste at home, sign up to the Love Essex monthly newsletter or follow us



@loveessexuk
www.loveessex.org

Braintree District Venues

Flexible spaces with state-of-the-art hybrid meeting equipment available to hire across several unique locations in Braintree.



All venues easily accessible



**COMING
JUNE 2022**

THE PLAZA

Brand new facilities at the Horizon 120



Call 01376 557776
www.braintree.gov.uk/braintreedistrictvenues

**3 months
free**

New Landlords get your first 3 months property management free!

Contact the lettings team for more information



Mitch Beadle
Residential Lettings Manager
01376 554507
mitch@joscelynechase.co.uk



Yvonne Crane
Senior Property Consultant
01376 554508
yvonne@joscelynechase.co.uk



Olivia Kibblewhite
Property and development Negotiator
01376 554516
olivia@joscelynechase.co.uk

**JOSCELYNE
CHASE**
PROPERTY CONSULTANTS

Supporting our town centres to bounce back



Pedestrianising Braintree town centre

Town centres and high streets are a vital part of our communities – which is why we continue to revitalise and rejuvenate them, starting with Braintree town centre.

Our investment into the Victoria Square development has helped create a vibrant and attractive space - bringing new businesses into the area, creating more jobs and providing residents with affordable homes, services and health facilities.



Victoria Square

Pedestrianising the town centre has ensured a new safer, flexible and social space with updated street furniture and trees, creating opportunities for more events and markets to encourage more people to visit.

We're bringing forward an exciting package of improvements to Witham and Halstead later on this year including improved signage, modernised street furniture, paving repairs and more – all to create a more attractive and functional environment.

Our town centres have never been more important and we are keen to support the social and economic recovery of them all as we bounce back stronger.

Street markets reap huge success

We're bringing back our popular Braintree Street Markets this year, a monthly market in the heart of Braintree town centre with an emphasis on high quality good food, drinks, gifts, homeware and an all-around buzzing atmosphere with small independent businesses.

We are working with stakeholders in Witham and Halstead to bring more events to these town centres too. Keep an eye on our channels for updates!

 @braintreestreetmarket
 visitbraintreedistrict.co.uk



I-Construct Hub, Springwood Drive, Braintree

I-Construct is open for business

A £2.5 million centre of excellence for construction innovation, set to create more than 100 new jobs, has opened for business.

The modern building, consisting of a technology suite, exhibition space and conference facilities, is home to a team offering business support to firms connected to the construction industry.

The project is in receipt of funds from the European Regional Development Fund.



Our investment into this flagship centre shows how we are playing our part in growing businesses, supporting the local economy and creating jobs.

Clr Tom Cunningham, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Economic Growth

 www.i-construct.org.uk

New business & innovation park is set for growth

The Horizon 120 business & innovation park is set to become a major employment site which will grow and support businesses, create quality jobs and support local residents.

Our investment into the infrastructure and our collaboration with partners has unlocked the park to businesses and the potential for 2,000 jobs.



Several well-established firms are ready to relocate their growing businesses to the future-proofed site, bringing jobs and opportunities into the district from elsewhere.

The park will include an enterprise and innovation centre and 'on-demand' electric minibus service which will connect it to the town centre and other places nearby.

 www.locatebraintreedistrict.co.uk



Horizon 120, Great Notley

Be part of a community at

Blackthorns Care Home

Residential, Dementia & Short Stay Care

“ Residents at Blackthorns are treated as individuals and their privacy, dignity and independence is maintained. ”



“ Mum has been participating in activities and engaging with more people than she does at home. Food and drink are good, and cleanliness is first class. All the staff I've met and spoken to on the phone are lovely. ”

 carehome.co.uk

Book your appointment with our friendly
Customer Relations Manager.



01787 703310 admissions@runwoodhomes.co.uk

21/29 Dooley Road, Halstead, Essex, CO9 1JW  www.runwoodhomes.co.uk



LOCAL PLAN UPDATE

Local Plans are the local guide to what can be built where and which land is protected. They determine the future pattern of housing, employment and retail development and shape infrastructure requirements. They also contain the policies used in the determination of planning applications.

Braintree District's Local Plan Section 1 was adopted in February 2021 and is now going through the process to adopt Section 2.

Back in December we ran a consultation on the main modifications to Section 2 set out by the Planning Inspector in order to make the plan legally sound. This closed in January 2022 and we currently await feedback from the Inspector, which hopefully allows us to adopt both plans.

Keep an eye on
www.braintree.gov.uk/localplan
or sign up to our planning e-newsletter
for updates:
www.braintree.gov.uk/tellmemore



COUNCIL BUDGET AT A GLANCE...

We deliver over
100 services
for **£3.65**
per week

Here's some of
what we delivered
last year...



Helped
135 people
adapt their homes
through Disabled
Facility Grants



Dealt with
152,297 enquiries
(by phone, email
and online) into our
Customer Service Centre



8,312,680
refuse & recycling
collections



782
fly tips cleared



Emptying of
178,406
litter and dog bins



Prevented
more than
250 households
from becoming
homeless



Received and
validated
3,698
planning
applications



Strengthening our communities

Park Improvements

This past year we have carried out a number of improvements to parks throughout the district including Braintree and Bocking Public Gardens, Bramble Road in Witham, Albert Moss Playing Field in Rivenhall and the community centre play area in Great Notley. We also introduced a sensory playground in Halstead Public Gardens. All have been updated to be more accessible to children with disabilities.



Upcoming this year are improvements to Acorn Avenue in Braintree, Church Street in Bocking, De Vere Road in Earls Colne and Shaw Road in Witham.

Our Cycling Strategy

The purpose of the Cycling Strategy is to help make cycling and walking in the Braintree District safer, more convenient and desirable. This is for all ages and abilities, whether for work, school or leisure. We want to create a better connected network of high quality cycling and walking routes.

To achieve this we will be working with stakeholders, including the highways authority and new developers to provide



appropriate walking and cycling facilities.

We recognise that cycling and walking are important in supporting better physical and mental health, and reducing our impact on the environment, as well as congestion on our roads.

www.braintree.gov.uk/cyclingstrategy



Physical and Emotional Health and Wellbeing



It has been a difficult time for many of us over the past two years, so naturally we may have experienced struggles with our physical and emotional health and wellbeing as a result. Here are seven ways to improve your wellbeing.

Stay Connected

Keeping in touch with family and friends can help you feel less isolated and give you a chance to share the good and bad!

Keep Learning

Keeping your mind active is a great way to keep you motivated and busy.

Talk

If you are struggling, it's important to reach out – be that to friends, family or a professional. Don't suffer in silence.

SUPPORT others

Volunteering your time or doing something kind is a great way to help others and feel good about it!

Sleep

A good night's sleep makes all the difference, make sure you're getting enough.

Live in the Present

Enjoy the moment and try not to worry about things that haven't happened yet!

Stay Healthy

Exercise helps to release endorphins – the happy hormone. So enjoy a walk, run or workout!

www.livewellcampaign.co.uk
[f @livewelllocal](https://www.facebook.com/livewelllocal)

[@livewellcampaign](https://twitter.com/livewellcampaign)
[@livewellcampaign](https://www.instagram.com/livewellcampaign)

Useful contacts

We've made a handy list of contact details you can **cut out and keep**. It's also easy to visit www.braintree.gov.uk for a full A-Z of all services offered by the council.



Braintree District Council

☎ 01376 552525
✉ csc@braintree.gov.uk
🌐 www.braintree.gov.uk

North Essex Parking Partnership

☎ 01206 282316
✉ parking@colchester.gov.uk
🌐 www1.parkingpartnership.org

Eastlight Community Housing (previously Greenfields)

☎ 0330 128 0330
✉ customer.services@eastlighthomes.co.uk
🌐 www.eastlighthomes.co.uk

Essex County Council

Essex County Council are responsible for services such as potholes, roads, adult and social care, traffic management and education.

☎ 0345 743 0430
🌐 www.essex.gov.uk/contact-us

Town and Parish councils

Town and parish councils provide community facilities such as allotments, play areas, village halls and public toilets, and carry out works to help maintain the local environment.

Find contact details for town and parish councils in your area:

🌐 www.braintree.gov.uk/parishandtowncouncils

Other Council services

Find your local councillor:
🌐 www.braintree.gov.uk/councillors

Contact your local MP:
🌐 www.writetothem.com

Other useful contacts

Trading Standards for consumers
☎ 0345 404 0506

Trading Standards for businesses
☎ 0345 603 7626

Registration services (Essex County Council)
☎ 0345 603 7632

Schools (Essex County Council)
☎ 0345 603 2200

Land registry
☎ 0300 0060 411

DVLA
☎ 0300 7906 802

Emergency contacts

Being prepared in an emergency is important so that you can keep you, your family and possessions safe.



Sign up for flood warnings
www.check-for-flooding.service.gov.uk

Floodline Advice
☎ 0345 988 1188

Environment Agency Floodline (24 hour)
☎ 0845 9881 188

Environment Agency Incident Hotline (24 hour)
☎ 0800 80 70 60



How satisfied are you?

with Braintree District Council

Survey

Your feedback is important to us so we know how we are doing - whether you are satisfied with the main services we provide and if you think we are providing value for money.



Thank you for your time.

1 How satisfied are you with your local area as a place to live?

- Very satisfied
- Fairly satisfied
- Fairly dissatisfied
- Very dissatisfied
- Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied

3b Recycling & Waste Collections?

- Very satisfied
- Fairly satisfied
- Fairly dissatisfied
- Very dissatisfied
- Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied

2 Overall, how satisfied are you with the way Braintree District Council runs things?

- Very satisfied
- Fairly satisfied
- Fairly dissatisfied
- Very dissatisfied
- Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied

3c Parks and Open Spaces?

- Very satisfied
- Fairly satisfied
- Fairly dissatisfied
- Very dissatisfied
- Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied

3 How satisfied are you with each of the following main services provided by Braintree District Council:

3a Keeping our District clear of litter?

- Very satisfied
- Fairly satisfied
- Fairly dissatisfied
- Very dissatisfied
- Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied

3d Do you use the Council's leisure facilities? If so are you...

- Very satisfied
- Fairly satisfied
- Fairly dissatisfied
- Very dissatisfied
- Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
- Do not use Sports/Leisure facilities

4 To what extent do you agree that Braintree District Council provides value for money?

- Strongly agree
- Tend to agree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Tend to disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

5 How informed do you feel about the services available from Braintree District Council?

- Very informed
- Fairly informed
- Fairly uninformed
- Very uninformed
- Neither informed nor uninformed

6 Braintree District Council produces email updates on a range of topics you can choose from, e.g. job alerts, refuse & recycling, planning, events and news. Would you like to sign up for this service?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please supply your email address in the box on the right. (You can opt out at any time)

You can complete this survey online
www.braintree.gov.uk/css2022

7 Would you like to receive text messages about service updates, bank holiday bin collections, special announcements, offers and customer feedback requests?

- Yes, I am happy to receive text messages from the Council
- No, I do not wish to receive text messages

If yes, please supply your house number/name, postcode and mobile number in the box below.

So we can analyse the data, as a minimum, please let us know which town/village you live in.

Name:

House number/name:

Town/Village:

Postcode:

Contact number:

Email:

Gender: Male Female
 Prefer not to say

Age group: 16-24 25-44
 45-64 65-79
 80+ Prefer not to say

Date:

 Please recycle this when you have finished with it.

BRAULNARZ

DATA PROTECTION

Braintree District Council is a data controller for the purposes for data protection. Some of the details you provide on this form may be personal data, which will be stored and used by the Council in relation to this project. For further details on how your information is used, how we maintain the security of your information and your rights, including how to access information we hold on you and how to complain if you have any concerns about how your personal details are processed, please visit www.braintree.gov.uk/privacy. By completing this form, you are providing your consent for the Council to store and use the personal data you have provided.

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey.
Please return to Freepost plus address below (no stamp necessary):
Freepost plus RTHE-ABHH-BUUA, Marketing & Communications Team,
Braintree District Council, Causeway House, Braintree, Essex, CM7 9BR