

Three Fields Ward

Braintree District Councillors Report

2018/2019

Report by District Councillors Schwier and Tattersley to the Parish Assemblies within the Three Fields Ward of Braintree District Council.

In May this year your two District Councillors will stand for re-election. Cllr Tattersley will hope to continue representing the Three Fields Ward (Great Bardfield, Finchingfield, Wethersfield, Panfield and Shalford) of Braintree District Council - Cllr Schwier will contest a seat, in his home ward - Gosfield & Greenstead Green.

It has been a challenging time for the whole of local government and the County Council, District and Parish Councils have felt the impact of increasing expectations and demands, at a time when there has been a continued reduction in central government funding.

By 2020 the Council will receive no revenue support grant at all. This has meant finding £8.6 million pounds of savings since 2010, but by carefully considered investments, we have generated £4.4 million of additional income.

Our proactive financial approach means we are able to invest in the services where we see the most increased demand; housing and planning.

Throughout all this our customer satisfaction remains higher than the national average and we have received the externally assessed Customer Service Excellence Standard for the fourth year running.

This year we have announced a £100 million investment boost to the District. This will see money directed to those areas that matter to our residents – Health, Homes, Journeys, and Jobs. We have secured £10 million external

DELIVERING OUR SERVICES



funding for the Millennium Way Slip Roads to ease congestion at Galleys Corner in Braintree. Acquired an employment site at Great Notley providing additional land to support business growth and create up to 2000 new jobs, and are seeking planning consent to regenerate the Braintree Town Centre, comprising a Livewell Hub, 70 bed hotel, restaurant/café, commercial unit, 35 residential units, bus interchange, car park and enhanced public open space.

We have granted planning permission for over 1200 dwellings, enabled 154 affordable homes, but many developers seem reluctant to start using these permissions to actually begin building.

On a more local level, we are developing our Livewell Programme with a range of local projects to support our residents to lead healthier lifestyles. We have seen a reduction in the number of overweight children in schools signed up to the Livewell Child project, which has been recognised nationally, for our innovative work in this area.

We have maintained the Braintree District Volunteer Awards to recognise the valuable contributions volunteers make to our District, and have introduced a

number of activities to benefit those living with dementia and their carers, such as dementia friendly cinemas, tea dances, swimming, walks, shopping events, and meetings in local tea rooms, pubs and cafes to support those feeling socially isolated or lonely. Local Community Groups have been able to

BRAINTREE DISTRICT COUNCIL *in* NUMBERS

<p>We have 467 members of staff and 49 councillors</p>  	<p>Braintree District Council has a budget of £14.54 million</p> 	<p>We collect about £9.44 million in council tax for our services</p> 
<p>We cover an area of 612 square kilometres <small>(that's more than 64,000 homes)</small></p> 	<p>Our budget from Central Government is being reduced to zero <small>in 2019/20</small></p> 	<p>For every £1 people pay in council tax just 10 pence goes to Braintree District Council <small>(Essex County Council receives 72.5 pence, Essex Police & Crime Commissioner receives 11 pence, Essex Fire Authority receives 4 pence and Parish or Town Councils receive 2.5 pence)</small></p> 
<p>We have made more than £13million in income & savings since 2010</p> 	<p>If you are in a Band D property you pay £179.73 per year towards Braintree District Council services which works out at just over £3.46 a week</p> 	

seek funding from the £1500 individual Councillor Community Grant Scheme to help support local projects and activities. During our term of office we have been able to provide financial support for a number of local ward projects, including; car park improvements, replacement toilets, new photocopier, handrail, digital archive, new kitchen floor, swimming pool changing room renovations, village hall wifi installation, cricket sight screens, replacement oil tank, new floor polisher, play equipment, hearing aid support and a community planting scheme.

It has always been our aim to be accessible to Parish Representatives and individual residents and have always tried to attend as many Parish Council meetings as possible. At these meetings we normally present a verbal report of the more interesting events happening throughout the District, together with relevant information we may have that directly affects the specific Parishes. We also constantly email an ongoing stream of relevant information to Parish Clerks.

We have been proud to be associated with the many achievements of the District Council, but also privileged to have been able to work and support the Parish Councils and Community Groups in this glorious corner of Essex.

Delivering over
100 SERVICES
for **£3.46 PER WEEK**

The Two Peter's

