

Talking Notes JUNE 2024 – Finchingfield PC TUE 25 JUN 2025

General Election

A general election will take place on Thursday 4 July 2024.

Finchingfield is still located in the Braintree constituency.

Michael attended a Hustings event at St. Michael's Braintree on Fri 21 JUN, where 5 of the 6 candidates were present – it was well attended with an estimated 250 – 300 folks present.

The deadline for Registration and to request a Postal Vote have now passed

However you can request a PROXY VOTE until 5pm on Wednesday this week

- [a proxy vote](#) by 5pm on Wednesday 26 June

County

DigiGo will replace the scheduled 9 and 9A bus service in late JUL 2024

DigiGo presented the service at Gt Barfield NP Expo on SAT 15 JUN

DigiGo also presented at Shalford Village Hall on 19 JUN which was well attended.

Michael has written to ECC Transport suggesting DigiGo claim the £1m (over 5 years) S106 monies from the Towerlands development to fund a Public shuttle bus between Towerlands and Braintree as the new service supports this area and will add a welcome boost to the 2+1+1 years funding to the ECC DIGIGO service which will support many 3 fields communities and 000' more residents (than a shuttle).



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Introducing DigiGo

Learn how DigiGo enhances accessibility and establishes essential connections to key services. Unlike traditional buses with fixed timetables, stops and routes, DigiGo offers full flexibility to fit your schedule

Wednesday 19 June 2024
Shalford Village Hall
6pm - 7:30pm

www.digigo.uk

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ECC has a new consultation about increasing cycling in Essex - its open now and closes on 7 JUL

Here is the link <https://letstalkessexsustainabletravel.co.uk/essex-cycling-strategy>

The survey takes about 10 minutes.

Submitting a response *to this consultation may* provide a platform for residents to;

- a) **secure more funding** from Cycling events hosted in North Essex e.g. Ride London etc (to compensate for disruption – improve legacy and cycling locally)
- b) **direct ECC to establish a proper HGV Lorry network** - leaving other roads free / less risky for cyclists
- c) **secure real tourism wayfinding signs in the District**
- d) **push for lower speeds on rural roads** to improve safety encourage wider use
- e) **link to equestrian activity** (and other non-petrol road users)

Finchingfield Bridge (not replacement)

Michael understands that The Local Highways Panel will discuss Finchingfield Bridge weight restriction in July – the “right forms” were submitted in late May.

District

General Election

The District machine has battened down the hatches for the General Election, with meetings cancelled and decisions delayed.

BDC stops legal challenge to Home Office at Wethersfield

BDC decided not to pursue the Home Office any more about Wethersfield.

BDC's effective role as Local Planning Authority for Wethersfield

We look forward to BDC enforcing the Home Office activities where appropriate e.g. demolition, contamination, site travel plans etc etc

Wethersfield Enforcement Update 24 JUN 2024

Wethersfield Clerk (Donna) completed a detailed form to BDC Enforcement to enable them to start their action on FRI 21 JUN. [This process differs from BDC enforcement self-generated work – where no complaint is necessary for them to start or pursue] i.e. The Fox Inn Gazebo's, Gt Notley Fete signs etc

BDC Development Manager* visited site on FRI 21 JUN
(*currently solely responsible for conducting planning enforcement in the district)

Abigail Da'Bell Senior Enforcement Officer will lead

The Wethersfield Enforcement Case Reference is 24/00307/UBW3

Important : We have requested that the Wethersfield enforcement action is conducted in public with full cooperation with [and is directed by] the BDC Planning Committee due to the high level of Public Interest, Loss of Public Amenity and material heritage and other harm resulting from the HO actions – rather than the usual approach to enforcement activity where things are conducted in a an opaque delegated capacity – with no member involvement.

Securing HO grant money for Communities impacted by Asylum activities

Michael & I&G Cllr Wendy Taylor (Hedingham) met the x2 new PR folks employed at BDC using the HO grant money and discussed details of how to get money into the Community. [Ciaran and Rachel]

A costed proposal has been submitted re Asylum staff speeding through Wethersfield ward – an important matter forward in Blackmore End and Beazley End communities (villages impacted by the opening of Gate 7 for Asylum staff access).

BDC push to extend the Local Plan to 2041

The BDC Call for Sites to extend the Local Plan to 2041 concluded at the end of May.

A key step in the process – **The Statement of Community Involvement** – may have been overlooked and we are looking at the implications of this for the validity of the process / suggested timelines.

We are also looking at a review of planning decisions in relation to Communities with a “Made” Neighbourhood Plan – as these should direct all planning efforts there.

We hope our learnings will also inform communities going through their own Neighbourhood Plan process (like Wethersfield with Finchingfield) in particular what ongoing defence may be required to ensure your plan can deliver the expected results in the short, medium and long term.

WARD Request

Can you please highlight by email ANY Planning related issues which you feel should be referred to Braintree District Planning Committee?

There is a potential opportunity to Call-In planning applications to the X-party Planning Committee which may be useful where the Parish Council / Neighbourhood Plan Leads may have a different perspective to that of officers.

We feel we need to improve this process and test some examples to achieve the best results for Parish / NP and residents’ views in a transparent and public way.