

Talking Notes FEB (v4) 3 Fields : Finchingfeld 24 FEB

## County

Finchingfield Bridge weight restriction latest update? [ Err, nope]. [CCTV?]

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*A multi-parish* ❤️ **LOVE YOUR BUS** ❤️ – **New Grant opportunity – ended 21 Feb 2025**

The application was supported by the bus operator DigiGo for the NORTH Zone.

❤️1 - Attract new passengers? [especially Tourists and Visitors!]

❤️2 - Service Enhancements – (supply at peak times)

❤️3 - Community Engagement and Promotions [like this and WhatsApp groups etc and meetings]

❤️4 - Passenger experience Improvement - [Improved monthly reports for NORTH ZONE]

Thank you Jill (Shalford) for leading this initiative to help try and secure additional funding to support our rural public transport services across 3 Fields and Rayne.

A proposal has been developed with DigiGo and submitted with the aim of securing £48,880 - broken down as follows;

## DigiGo

- Staffing (more driving hours, project resources) £33,379.66 W'day pm & Eves
- Revenue costs (vehicle maintenance/lease, fuel, sundries etc) - £7,500
- Marketing materials - £500

## Parish Council(s)

- Community engagement part-time role(s) - £7,500

### **But this isn't a fixed service - why not?**

There is no way DigiGo could have developed a fixed service scheme within the specified grant period and sticking to a fixed service element would have resulted in us losing this opportunity to secure some money and develop a strong plan to improve things in the near term. (We do think that improved coordination and working with digigo can help us deliver *something close to a regular service* (subject to demand).

\*\*Please note \*\* that we have not got this money yet. The Integrated Passenger Transport Unit (ITPU) will complete the big selection and scoring process, go through governance to award the grants, and finalise legal agreements before the end of March - *so we don't have long to wait...*



## County & District

Dash for Devo picks-up pace for Essex – A number of Strategic Authorities (0.5m residents – 5 x potential SA's are illustrated below, boundaries, constitution of Mayoral Powers, representation and election model, devolved budget, savings vs. "Greater Essex equivalent 2024/2025", detailed timings ... all unknown

## General overview can be found here

<https://www.essex.gov.uk/about-council/plans-and-strategies/our-vision-essex/devolution-and-local-government-reorganisation>

## Next Steps (latest)

**17 Feb – 13 April 2025** MHCLG – Greater Essex Devo consultation – Public

[https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/greater-essex-devolution/greater-essex-devolution-consultation?fbclid=IwY2xjawlpTmNleHRuA2FlbQlxMAABHSZUF83YBI3IhBENGFHbjo5h-xjkKLhZKYSwPbR7vRZvd70rM6qbYSZhbQ\\_aem\\_15LFWPWYGRP3uhH3SSbMdw](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/greater-essex-devolution/greater-essex-devolution-consultation?fbclid=IwY2xjawlpTmNleHRuA2FlbQlxMAABHSZUF83YBI3IhBENGFHbjo5h-xjkKLhZKYSwPbR7vRZvd70rM6qbYSZhbQ_aem_15LFWPWYGRP3uhH3SSbMdw)

**Mar 2025** - Greater Essex representatives submit outline plans to UK Govt

**Autumn 2025** – Greater Essex representatives submit full plans to UK Govt

**2026** – "Greater Essex Consultation" – Public

**8 MAY 2026** – Greater Essex Regional Mayor Election

**MAY 2027** – Election of Shadow Authorities (Regional Mayoral plus [x] SUA's

**APR 2028** – SUA's Go-Live



**There will be an Extraordinary BDC Meeting on 13 March to discuss LGR / Devo**

A key question is how do residents want Regional Mayors to be elected and the Strategic Regional Mayoral Authority and all the LITE Unitary Authorities which will form Greater Essex to be elected and governed... so they feel closer to decision making?

Here is a comparison of today

	UK General	London / Greater Manchester	Scottish	Welsh	NIA
<b>SYSTEM</b>	First past the post (FPTP)	FPTP (since 2022) was Supplementary Vote System SVS until 2022	Additional Member System (AMS)	Additional Member System (AMS)	Single Transferrable Vote (STV)
<b>Number of seats</b>	650	2026 - Into [ ]	129	60	90
<b>Voting Age</b>	18+	18+	16+	16+	18+

The [supplementary vote](#) system

Voters express a first and second choice of candidate. If no candidate receives an absolute majority (>51%) of first choice votes, all but the two leading candidates are eliminated, and the votes of those eliminated redistributed according to their second-choice votes to determine the winner.

Party	Candidate	1st round		2nd round			1st round votes   Transfer votes, 2nd round	
		Total	Of round	Transfers	Total	Of round		
Labour	Sadiq Khan	1,013,721	40.0%	192,313	1,206,034	55.2%		
Conservative	Shaun Bailey	893,051	35.3%	84,550	977,601	44.8%		

2024 London mayoral election<sup>[1]</sup>

Party	Candidate	Votes	Of total (%)	± (pp), party
Labour	Sadiq Khan	1,088,225	43.8	+3.8
Conservative	Susan Hall	812,397	32.7	-2.6

What could it mean for 3 Fields with Gt Notley?

2 seats into UA down from 7 today (1 ECC + 6 BDC)



## Essex Air Quality Strategy Consultation – runs until 2 MAR

15 Local Authorities “Greater Essex” – issue coordinated Air Quality Strategy Consultation – response by 2<sup>nd</sup> March. Perhaps mention the Incineration of 600,000 tonnes of waste in Rivenhall – about 75% more capacity than is needed for “Essex” waste – so Essex will be a waste importer.

[https://www.essexair.org.uk/latest-news/have-your-say-on-new-essex-air-quality-strategy?fbclid=IwY2xjawlCC8JleHRuA2FlbQlXMAABHcih-ZzljgllXKA5-Fwh-9mLsyo1k-Yr27Rbpbk4nWm4F1kFaFCiVLI-Yg\\_aem\\_d3SreLnJusL4gLxp\\_Yi1KA](https://www.essexair.org.uk/latest-news/have-your-say-on-new-essex-air-quality-strategy?fbclid=IwY2xjawlCC8JleHRuA2FlbQlXMAABHcih-ZzljgllXKA5-Fwh-9mLsyo1k-Yr27Rbpbk4nWm4F1kFaFCiVLI-Yg_aem_d3SreLnJusL4gLxp_Yi1KA)



### Local Air Quality Strategy Development 2024

Pollution	Description	Health Risks	Monitored ?	Found where ?
PM 2.5	Tiny Particulate matter from combustion <2.5 micrometres	5% of premature deaths Allergies and heart issues	NO	Slow traffic, brakes, tyres & roads & incinerator
PM 10	Big Particulate matter from combustion <10 micrometres	5% premature deaths Allergies and heart issues	NO	Diesel HGVs, busses & incinerator
NOx	Nitrogen Oxide	Airway inflammation, wheezing, reduced lung function and asthma	YES Monthly Reported Annually (x20)	Traffic & Incinerator
?	All of the above plus heavy metals, dioxins and greenhouse gases e.g. CO2	All of the above plus ? from burning 600,000 tonnes of waste a year, plus an extra 100,000 HGVs per year too...	NO	Downwind from Incinerators

Title	Environment	Outcome	End Date
Develop a local Air Quality Strategy.		Compliance with the latest air quality standards and regulations. The strategy will contribute to a healthier and more sustainable environment.	March 2025



# District

## Braintree District Local Plan “review” to 2041 – BIG PUSH!!!!





What are the different types of councils?		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Town or parish council	The smallest type of council. Responsible for local issues like allotments and play areas.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	District council	Responsibilities include bin collections, parks and local planning. Other services are provided by a county council.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	County council	Provides services across the whole county: such as road maintenance, schools and libraries.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unitary authority <i>LITE</i>	A type of council that provides all local government services, including housing. <i>OOD</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Regional Mayoral Authority	A type of council that decides service strategy for multiple Unitary Authorities in a Region. Economic Development, Housing, Infrastructure and transport, PFCC...



### Do we recognize this characterization?

#### Key Facts About Braintree District

**Population**

The population of the district has grown by around 10,700 (7%) since 2013 to around 160,000 (mid-2023). The median age of the population of the district was 43.1 in 2023.

**Housing**

Within the Braintree district, there are around 65,000 homes with the median average house price in 2023 being £335,000.

House prices have risen faster than earnings. High levels of commuting in Braintree exacerbate this and people working locally can find it particularly hard to get on the housing ladder.

Demographic forecasting shows that there will be increasing numbers of elderly people in the local population.

There is a demand, locally as well as nationally, for self-build and custom-build homes as part of the housing market supply.

**Economy**

There are 57,000 jobs and over 6,600 businesses registered in the Braintree district. The majority of these are 'micro' businesses employing less than ten people. There are 20 large firms in the district.

The unemployment rate in the District is low at 2.5%.

**Health and Social Wellbeing**

The district as a whole is relatively well off compared to deprived areas of the country. There are however, pockets of deprivation across the district which are in the top 20% of areas in England.

While results from schools in the district are good, only 25% of residents are qualified at NVQ4 and above. This is 10% below the Essex average.



## Some Q's

### **The Local Plan “refresh” timetable has already been delayed once by UK Govt.**

Has BDC (along with other 13 LPA's in Greater Essex asked if Local Plan Review should be deferred (like ECC Elections) for the Regional Mayor? [Now Essex Devolution and Local Govt reorganization has been given green light by UK Govt]?

### **Will District Local Plans survive an incoming Regional Mayor?**

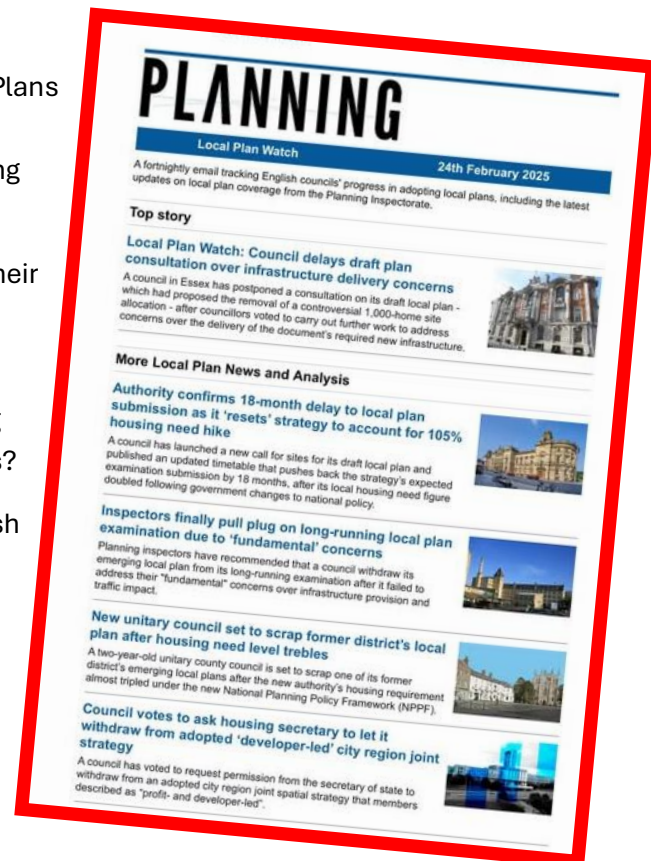
Can BDC confirm that UK Govt will not downgrade Local Plans developed prior to the election of Regional Mayors as “advisory” and of limited weight in future strategic planning decisions?

Should BDC focus on supporting Communities develop their Neighbourhood Plans to better inform future Strategic Plans?

Should BDC focus on supporting Communities refreshing their Conservation Areas and Local Nature Recovery sites?

Should BDC focus on supporting ALL residents to establish elected Parishes to survive them?

Should BDC focus on supporting communities determine the future of assets and open spaces in their Parishes which are currently leased from the District or County councils in order to survive them?



Should all the Local Planning Authorities in England or at least in “Greater Essex” write to the Govt to seek some meaningful assurances – before lots of money and officer time is spent winding-up local communities.

Are 13 separate Local Plan's able to broken-up and rebuilt like Lego?



<https://engage.braintree.gov.uk/en-GB/folders/local-plan-review>



## Braintree District Bins Consultation – runs until 2 MAR

[https://engage.braintree.gov.uk/en-GB/projects/waste-services-review?fbclid=IwY2xjawIF5R5leHRuA2FlbQlXMAABHa9fSsyjWcY-04JWs2i0kVRvZQjx7jJRM1x7CMpyBWDltXL2z3JieG-BgA\\_aem\\_fsOasiQ0Px18fYGxDqJdYw](https://engage.braintree.gov.uk/en-GB/projects/waste-services-review?fbclid=IwY2xjawIF5R5leHRuA2FlbQlXMAABHa9fSsyjWcY-04JWs2i0kVRvZQjx7jJRM1x7CMpyBWDltXL2z3JieG-BgA_aem_fsOasiQ0Px18fYGxDqJdYw)

### Best waste sorting happens in the kitchen, here's why...

Most domestic waste goes through the kitchen, food (obviously), post, paper packaging, plastic films, tins and glass .... even small electrical equipment.

Here are some ideas to sort waste inside so it gets to the right bin outside! (however many we have).



### Don't get it right and...

More Council tax will be spent paying the Belgians to truck in and burn all our black bin waste in Rivenhall polluting our air for more years.

Recycling numbers won't improve (because NO-ONE will sort the black bin stuff as its currently cheaper to burn it on an industrial scale (600,000 tonnes a year) than sort it.



## Top Tips to reduce black-bin waste

Know your stuff! Sort recycling straight away into small bags or boxes inside so it has more chance of going into the right bin outside (and actually being recycled).

Also, you and your household might spot and then avoid buying products which frequently end-up in the black bin in favour of stuff which can be recycled instead.

We also have questions into Officer about the additional costs of Black Bin to incineration *if the Govt adds this tax per tonne incinerated* (Landfill Tax is currently £175 / tonne. ECC has a 300,000 tonnes per year from black bins) – (its over £50million)



## For the BDC survey

[https://engage.braintree.gov.uk/en-GB/projects/waste-services-review?fbclid=IwY2xjawIF5R5leHRuA2FlbQlXMAABHa9fSsyjWcY-04JWs2i0kVRvZQjx7jJRM1x7CMpyBWDItXL2z3JieG-BgA\\_aem\\_fsOasiQ0Px18fYGxDqJdYw](https://engage.braintree.gov.uk/en-GB/projects/waste-services-review?fbclid=IwY2xjawIF5R5leHRuA2FlbQlXMAABHa9fSsyjWcY-04JWs2i0kVRvZQjx7jJRM1x7CMpyBWDItXL2z3JieG-BgA_aem_fsOasiQ0Px18fYGxDqJdYw)

- 1) Help Residents recycle inside – give out free mini-bags / discounted indoor sorters

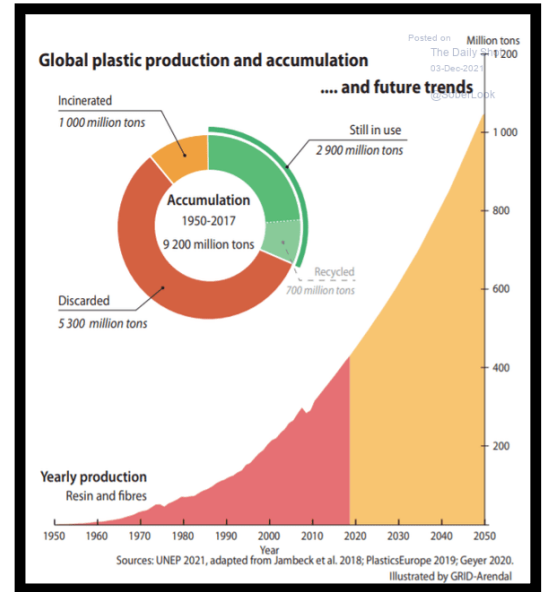
Issue no fee hygiene bins for weekly collection



- 2) Could improved indoor recycling lead to the need for fewer bigger outside bins shared by micro-communities to avoid **binmageddon**?
- 3) Go into schools and drive-up recycling knowledge there

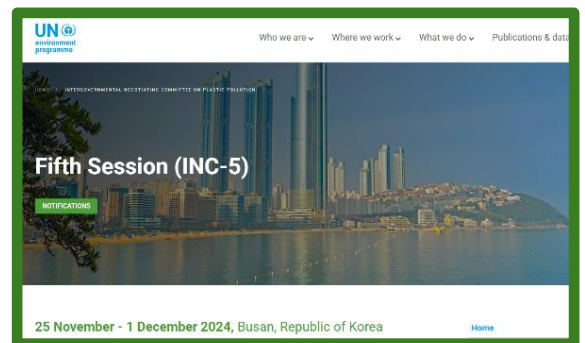


- 4) BDC and ECC and new Essex Mayor write to UK Govt to push harder to limit NEW plastic production (globally) via UN environment program Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Plastic Pollution – (too much new plastic is being made to recycle).



- 5) Finally - BDC residents to not want a visible Plume from the Rivenhall Waste Incinerator over the Essex Way 24/365 for 30+ years... they want BDC and ECC to **REJECT** the latest action by the Belgian Incinerator company Indaver to avoid the original Planning Conditions –

**NO VISIBLE PLUME AT RIVENHALL !**



## WARD

### Future

Michael, Mark and Cllr Ann Hooks (Rayne – Independent) will be meeting DigiGo and ECC Cabinet member shortly to discuss a range of issues and opportunities for the rural bus service.



plus



We are also continuing to engage with BDC Cabinet holders in order to push the S106 Towerland's Public Transport £1m over 5 years to ECC's DigiGo NORTH zone.

### Past

Michael & Cllr Wendy Taylor (Hedingham – Independent) attended the Fields Association Event 31 Jan regarding the positive future of Wethersfield and the Finchingfield and Wethersfield Neighbourhood Plan also attended by MP James Cleverly.

Both Mark and Michael have been on TV about the expansion of Wethersfield for more asylum seekers.

Ciaran Gold (BDC) has let us know that 4 local Traffic and speed management schemes will be funded from the HO Grant money – we await further details.

