

# For Bradwell and Pattiswick

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## Major decisions on the future of this area due soon:

- *Development sites and A120*
- *Waste Incinerator*

### Development Sites

Braintree District Council will be deciding on its Draft Local Plan in June with a final round of public consultation to follow. The Plan will then be submitted for Examination by a Government Inspector.

Many residents living along the A120 and nearby villages are concerned about plans for "Garden Communities" – part of a plan to build 60,000 houses between Stansted and Harwich.

County Councillor James Abbott said

**Some of the proposed "Garden Communities" are no such thing. They are new towns.** West Tey could become larger than Braintree is now, generating a large amount of new traffic on the road network. Then there is the proposal for Monks Wood – a huge development of up to 15,000 houses between Pattiswick and Coggeshall that would cause immense damage to open countryside.

Clearly there is a need for some new homes – particularly homes that are affordable to buy or rent for local people, as well as local jobs. But the sheer scale of what is being proposed for this area on unsuitable greenfield sites is unsustainable and I shall oppose it."

**The A120 consultation** runs for 8 weeks until March 14<sup>th</sup>. Local consultation events have been generally very well attended. There are 5 route options and there is still time to take part at:

<http://a120essex.co.uk/>

### Waste Incinerator

The Environment Agency REFUSED the application for an Environmental Permit for the Rivenhall Airfield waste site just before Christmas. The EA announced that the plant could not demonstrate "Best Available Techniques" as levels of certain gas emissions would be too high.

However the developers then announced in January an intention to apply again for a permit and to apply to increase the height of the stack.

In a previous application, the developers also stated that **"the River Blackwater will be the primary source of industrial water for the plant"** and that they intend to apply to both abstract and discharge into the River Blackwater. This is a reversal of the evidence to the 2009 Planning Inquiry when it was claimed water use would be on a **"closed loop system"**.

Cllr. Abbott has worked with local communities for 24 years to oppose first a landfill, then an incinerator at the airfield. Since gaining planning permission in March 2010, instead of building the plant, the applicants have repeatedly tried to change it.

Compared to the 2010 consent, incineration tonnages are now about doubled and recycling halved.



**Cllr. James Abbott inspecting trees felled to make way for the Rivenhall Airfield waste incinerator - February 2016**

## Community Policing

**Many residents have reported their concerns about low levels of policing and longer waits for calls to 101 to be answered.**

On October 12th the new Essex Police & Crime Commissioner Roger Hirst held a public meeting in Witham. Almost all the questions put to him and senior police officers were about lack of policing and poor communications.

The main cause of this is cuts in funding from the Government. Police stations have been closed, most PCSOs have gone and the police are responding to fewer calls. Waits on 101 have been reported as being as long as 50 minutes.

Cllr. James Abbott, who represents Bradwell and Pattiswick on Essex County Council said

***“Community policing is an essential public service. Being able to contact the police to report crime, getting a good response to calls and having local police about to give reassurance should be high on the agenda of decision makers.***

***But the Government has deliberately cut funding for the police year on year and we are now seeing the consequences. Mr Hirst says he is aware of the problems and is trying to get better funding for Essex – let us hope he succeeds.”***

## Recycling Services

**Braintree District Council suspended garden waste collections in the green bins from 5<sup>th</sup> December until 27<sup>th</sup> February.** This service reduction was on top of Essex County Council's decision to reduce services at its Recycling Centres.

Conservative controlled Essex County Council says it is doing this to stop commercial waste being taken to Recycling Centres but it has led to some residents being turned away even taking their own materials to be recycled or disposed of.

Green Party County Councillors tabled a motion to the December Full Council meeting at County Hall calling for a rethink. There are concerns that the cuts could result in more fly-tipping.

## Caring for vulnerable people

**Social Care funding for the most vulnerable people in Essex is in “crisis”.**

Those are the words of the Conservative Leader of Essex County Council who has warned the Government

that ECC will not be able to protect services to all those who need care if funding cuts continue.

In February ECC agreed to increase its share of the council tax by 3%, with all of the extra money from taxpayers going to fund Social Care. But even so the overall budget for Social Care is being reduced due to harsh cuts in funding from the Government.

## Local Highway Safety

Since being elected in May 2013, County Councillor James Abbott has consistently raised with ECC the need to improve the condition of local roads, many of which had become badly potholed. While there is still more to do, generally local roads are now better. ECC says it will focus on more rural roads and lanes in 2017/18.

## School bus services

ECC's changes to school transport have been controversial in many communities, including Bradwell. Following concerns raised by local residents, Cllr. James Abbott asked ECC about the unfair impact on rural communities of the changes - which in some cases have cost families many hundreds of pounds just to get their children to a local school on the bus. So far the Conservative Cabinet Member at County Hall has refused to make any changes and says the new rules “are to make the system fair”.

## 2016 confirmed as the hottest year globally on record

**The Green Party has been raising awareness about climate change for decades.**

Long before other parties claimed they took these issues seriously, Greens were campaigning for recycling to be made accessible to everyone and for investment in clean green electricity and energy efficiency.

While a lot of progress has been made over the years, there are worrying signs that policies across a range of issues are being weakened with the planning system tilted more towards developers of greenfield sites and deep cuts to support for solar power. Locally the looming threat of the Rivenhall Airfield waste incinerator remains. On its own this polluting plant would pump over half a million tonnes of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere each year – as well as increasing pollutants which we would all be breathing in. **Hundreds more HGVs would be using the A120 each day, bringing in waste from long distances to feed the incinerator.**

The alternative is to invest in re-use and recycling businesses on existing industrial areas.



If there is a local issue you need help with, please get in touch:

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