

Essex County Council Elections Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Vote Green

Elect Paul

Thorogood

For Braintree Eastern



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**Braintree Eastern division:**

**Kelvedon, Feering, Coggeshall, Coggeshall Hamlet, Skye Green, Stisted, Cressing, Tye Green, Hawbush Green, Braintree Marks Farm, Beckers Green and Stubbs Lane**

**Cllr Paul Thorogood is standing to be your county councillor at the local elections to be held on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> May.**

Paul lives in Coggeshall and was elected as a district councillor in 2019 in Kelvedon & Feering ward where both seats switched from Conservative to Green. Also in 2019, both seats in Coggeshall ward switched from Conservative to Independent, part of the success of the Green and Independent Group (G&I) in this area.



Paul became involved in local politics because of the threat of the Rivenhall Airfield waste incinerator and is committed to working with the local community to oppose it. **He is also standing at this election on a clear platform of opposing over-development of local villages.** The failed 'New Town' project of the Braintree Conservatives and the weakening of the planning system by the national Tory Government with their "build, build, build" mantra has tilted the planning system much too far in favour of volume developers and against local communities.

The past year has been very challenging for local people and businesses due to the Covid-19 pandemic. As a local community representative, Paul will do everything he can to offer support and will press at County Hall for a better service for local residents on repairing potholes and making footways safer as well as supporting investment in local improvements - including a new cycling and walking network which the G&I Group has proposed. This would link in with the new cycling routes being built in Braintree.

Conservative budget cuts have left many authorities including Essex County Council in a position where they face having to take even more money out of some services. Green councillors will continue to support keeping all our local libraries open and for investment in local health facilities as well as new green initiatives such as public access Community Woodlands.

**Please help to elect Paul Thorogood - working year-round for residents and a strong voice for local communities at County Hall**

## Greens Delivering on pledges made in 2013 and 2017

Councillor Paul Thorogood was elected to Braintree District Council in 2019, to join the growing Green & Independent Group which is now the main opposition to the ruling Conservatives at BDC.

If elected to Essex County Council (ECC), Paul will join the group there which is made up of Green and Independent councillors.

The Greens were first elected to ECC in 2013 and have stuck to their pledges, helping to secure democratic reform at County Hall and working hard to represent local communities and protect the environment:

- ★ **Reform at County Hall** – As pledged by the Greens, taxpayer funded “free meals” taken by Tory and Labour councillors were abolished. And all meetings at County Hall are now open for public questions.
- ★ **Protecting and investing in local services** – Braintree district is under great pressure from development but the Conservatives in charge at BDC and ECC have failed to deliver upgraded services to support both existing and new residents. Green councillors are calling for improvements to local health services including for GP surgeries and a Community Hospital for Witham. Local libraries need to remain open and Greens will support more investment in recycling facilities.
- ★ **Opposing unsustainable development** – The loss of greenfield sites and the destruction of trees and hedges on development sites is a concern for many residents. We do need some locally affordable housing but due to the Braintree Conservatives failed ‘New Towns’ project, the district does not have a Local Plan, leaving it wide open to volume developers building big housing estates around local villages such as Kelvedon and Coggeshall. Cllr Paul Thorogood is supporting the campaign group Kelvedon Against Urban Sprawl (Kaus), set up to resist an application for 600 houses off Coggeshall Road, Kelvedon, part of the much larger 5,000 houses ‘Kings Dene’ development. **Green councillors support securing a Local Plan as soon as possible - with the community having a real say in what happens locally.**

Cllr Paul Thorogood works closely with the local community and fellow councillors to oppose the proposed waste incinerator at Rivenhall Airfield - and will continue to do so. **Recycling and waste minimisation is the way forward – not burning hundreds of thousands of tonnes of waste, all of it brought in by HGV.** Paul supports PAIN (Parishes Against Incineration) which has taken up the baton in the 3 decades of campaigning to stop major waste development at Rivenhall Airfield.

Cllr Paul Thorogood is also working with the local community to save the Blackwater Valley from a huge quarry and dam plan. Bradwell Quarry is expected to submit a planning application with the backing of the Environment Agency for a so-called flood relief scheme. This would involve quarrying for 20 years including right up to the edge of Coggeshall and a dam being built across the valley of the River Blackwater. Paul believes that this is “a quarry masquerading as a flood relief scheme” and that more environmentally sensitive measures should be developed that protect the countryside and help to reduce flood risk.

- ★ **Better maintenance – Green councillors are calling for a ‘Back to Basics’ approach at County Hall.** Paul reports potholes, blocked drains, failed streetlights and uneven footways regularly as do local residents. Too often ECC leaves potholes and uneven paths for months or even years. **Green councillors at County Hall will press for more efficient ways of working with more time spent delivering repairs and less time spent inspecting and painting around defects.**
- ★ **Safety and access improvements** – The Braintree District Highways Panel (LHP) funds local safety and access improvements and if elected to ECC, Paul would become a member of the LHP. Key priorities are:
  - ✓ The project to deliver new cycling routes linking towns and villages and the railway stations – already underway with EC2K
  - ✓ Investment in pedestrian crossings and speed limit reductions

Paul will also support strategic improvements including making the notorious Galleys Corner roundabout safer and rerouting HGVs to better protect local villages.

### Get in touch:

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