

**REPORT FOR ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – 2023
CLLR. RICHARD VAN DULKEN (YELDHAM WARD)**

BRAINTREE DISTRICT COUNCIL ACHIEVEMENTS

- Finished developing 65 acres of employment land at Horizon 120, Great Notley, which is attracting new jobs and companies to our area. On the same site we have also built The Plaza Enterprise Centre part-funded by £7million of the Government's Get Building Fund
- Developed the I Construct innovation hub which supports small companies in the development of new goods and services in the construction sector
- Revenues from The Plaza and I Construct now support the authority's income
- Completed a refresh of Braintree town centre including new homes, a hotel and the bus interchange plus pedestrianisation of the High Street.
- Started plans for a refresh of Witham and Halstead town centres
- Enabled the building of 417 affordable homes against a target of 250 in 2023/3
- Over £250,000 given to Councillors for the community grant scheme over 4 years
- Delivered a Cycling Strategy to encourage a change of habits, allowing safer cycling connectivity across the District
- Adopted a Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan to make the Council's activities carbon neutral as far as practical by 2030
- Planted with the help of schools, Parish/Town councils and Community groups – 18,700 native tree whips and 73,000 bulbs
- Distributed tens of millions of pounds of pandemic grants to our businesses and generally supported residents through several difficult years

MY ACHIEVEMENTS AND INVOLVEMENTS

During the past year, my 8th representing Yeldham Ward, I was a Cabinet Member for Operations and Commercialisation which covers waste and recycling, parking, highway liaison, Licencing and a relatively new area called Commercialisation which seeks to maximise income from the assets of the Council.

This led to my attending regular meetings across Essex as the Braintree representative of the NEPP (North Essex Parking Partnership) and the Essex Waste Partnership, as well as representing the District on STACC (Stansted Airport Consultative Committee) and being on the BLHP (Braintree Local Highways Panel).

I have made efforts to attend virtually all the monthly or bi-monthly Parish Council meetings at Stambourne, Toppesfield & Gainsford End, and Great Yeldham, as well as attending a number of community events throughout the year, to show support to the villages as much as to keep informed on local developments and views of residents on some of the major issues (e.g. potential prisons and asylum centre at Wethersfield). I have done what I can to support the development of the Men's Shed project, and the various Planning Enforcement actions in the Ward,

My Community Grant fund of £,1250 has been spent during the year (across the Ward).

I have received and dealt with – in some cases in collaboration with Parish Councils or ECC- a number of communications from residents on a wide variety of subjects, from highway problems to housing and Planning issues, and I have been pleased to help resolve the problems.

It has been a pleasure to continue representing Yeldham Ward over the past 12 months, giving a voice for the area at Braintree Council and Cabinet– rest assured that the well-run Braintree District Council will continue to support residents, businesses and organisations in our part of Essex.