

Our Ref: GB/DC/JPDB
Your Ref:
From: Councillor Graham Butland
Tel. No.: (01376) 552525
Ext.: 2002
E-Mail: jo.deboos@braintree.gov.uk
Date: 3rd June 2020

Causeway House
Braintree
Essex
CM7 9HB

Tel: 01376 552525
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By e-mail: James.hopkins@essex.gov.uk

James Hopkins
Essex County Council

Dear Mr Hopkins,

LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR SOUTH BRAINTREE D-DRT BID

We are very pleased to offer the Authority's full support for the South Braintree Digital Demand Responsive Transport (D-DRT) bid made by Essex County Council to the DfT Rural Mobility Fund.

This bid firmly supports our new four-year Corporate Strategy, impacting across our District. Particularly, this supports our priority to Connect People and Places and our promise to develop our infrastructure, leading to improved journeys in and across the District.

This is enabled in several ways:

- Providing a sustainable and flexible transport option to the currently unserved business parks (Skyline, Horizon 120 and Springwood), enabling the growth of these local employment sites, supporting them to thrive and improve opportunities for residents within the district.
- Connecting our Great Notley, Black Notley and Rayne communities to the business parks, bus and rail stations for greater connectivity and onward travel, improving opportunities for those residents.
- Enabling commuters to use traditional public transport for inward travel to Braintree and use the D-DRT scheme for the 'last-leg' of their journey, avoiding the need for a car and supporting our local economy.
- Supporting our students to access the sixth form centre enabling independent travel.
- Supporting elderly residents to access shopping and medical facilities, reducing the walking distance needed and helping us to reduce social isolation.
- Reducing travel times to our residents, using one sustainable method of travel which takes traffic off already congested roads.

Continued/2...

The bid supports our promise to create thriving town centres for everyone to enjoy through increased connectivity for residents, linking the communities of Great Notley, Black Notley and Rayne to our reinvigorated newly pedestrianised town centre.

We have promised residents that we will improve the District's digital connectivity, harnessing innovation in technology to meet future digital needs; this bid will use technology to reduce our residents' journey times, creating the ability to access sustainable transport through their digital devices.

Finally, the operation of this Digital Demand Responsive Transport scheme within Braintree will have a real impact on our commitment to enhance our environment. It will have a direct effect on the level of traffic on the road, encouraging interconnectivity with existing public transport options and using an innovative electric minibus fleet, making use of the UK's first Electric Forecourt (which neighbours the new Horizon 120 Park). This will both reduce emissions and demonstrate our commitment to lead the way in the use of renewable energy in the County.

To support this bid we have agreed to reserve a piece of land on our Horizon 120 business and innovation park, immediately adjacent to the Gridserve electric forecourt, as a depot for the electric vehicles and trust this will be a valuable contribution towards the scheme.

We very much look forward, if the bid is successful, to working closely with Essex County Council, using our knowledge and links to the local communities to promote and enable the success of this innovative service.

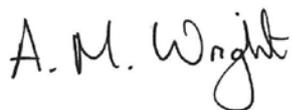
Yours sincerely,



Graham Butland
Leader of the Council



John McKee
Cabinet Member – Corporate Transformation



Andy Wright
Chief Executive

Essex County Council ("ECC")
County Hall
Market Road
Chelmsford
CM1 1QH

28 May 2020

**Letter of Support for the South Braintree D-DRT Bid
EV Charging Infrastructure – Braintree Electric Forecourt**

Dear James,

Following our discussions and ongoing strategic relationship with ECC we, GRIDSERVE Sustainable Energy Limited ("GRIDSERVE"), are pleased to provide this letter of support in relation to the submission being made by ECC to the Department for Transport fund called the Rural Mobility Fund, which is to provide funding for new or enhanced Demand Responsive Transport schemes..

GRIDSERVE is a tech-enabled energy services company which develops, builds, owns and operates sustainable energy solutions for critical power infrastructure. GRIDSERVE's team has an extensive track record in solar and energy storage, and has combined best-in-class modular technologies and services to deliver turn-key, dependable, low cost, clean energy solutions for electric vehicle ("EV") charging; including our ground-breaking "Electric Forecourts[®]".

The D-DRT scheme is going to be helpful to our organisation as we look to support the electrification of the nation through increased public experience of the merits and benefits of electric transport and through this increase the utilisation of the GRIDSERVE Electric Forecourt in Braintree, Essex which benefits the wider public and their accessibility needs for demographics such as:

- Students – access to education, training or future employment (and part-time jobs);
- Commuters/Employment – removing cars from the road, premium service, reduced congestion and waiting times;
- Older people – access to shopping, leisure, medical appointments, reduced social isolation, much more regular access to transport than currently available;
- Business – improving punctuality, productivity, benefit to offer staff a new, premium service;
- Non-car owners / drivers, mobility restricted and disadvantaged residents – who would otherwise not be able to have flexible mobility options; and
- The opportunity to pilot a fully electric, digital demand responsive transport (D-DRT) is exciting and innovative
- Electrification of transportation when charged by renewable energy that the GRIDSERVE Electric Forecourt in Braintree represents is an excellent means of delivering a service with zero emissions, is friendly to our local rural/suburban environment, not polluting our air.

Furthermore GRIDSERVE is keen to assist in the following key areas:

- Providing expertise and consultancy time to the project as it develops
- Ongoing feedback as part of focus groups throughout the development, implementation, delivery and potential for wider adoption of the D-DRT scheme;
- Encourage local community-based organisations to make use of the D-DRT scheme for members to access their events etc; and
- Expertise and knowledge in our specialist field (e.g. electrification and charging, infrastructure)

We confirm our commitment to continue our work with ECC across the EV sector and, should they be successful in their submission, work with ECC on the design and deployment of an EV charging solution for electric minibuses.

We are excited at having this opportunity to continue our work with ECC and look forward, if ECC is successful in their bid, to working with all parties to deliver a successful outcome.

Yours sincerely



Sam Clarke - Chief Vehicle Electrification Officer
GRIDSERVE Sustainable Energy Limited



Clerk: Suzanne Walker
Tel: 01376 331251
E-mail: greatnotleyclerk@gmail.com



7 Mallard Close,
Great Notley
Braintree
Essex
CM77 7YD

1st June 2020

Dear Sirs,

Re: South Braintree Digital DRT bid

Having considered the details of the above application Great Notley Parish Council supports the bid for a digital DRT scheme for this area.

In 2017 the numbers 34 and 34A bus services were withdrawn from the Parish of Great Notley which removed a service which had run regularly through the centre of the village. The current service is the number 9 bus which is an infrequent service running just once an hour in a one-way direction, serving only part of the Parish. The service does not run on a Sunday. The service does not serve the White Court section of the Parish at all.

As the current service is a one-way service it means that a person who perhaps wishes to travel to the GP surgery must travel into the centre of Braintree and await a return bus thus increasing what would be a very short 5-10 minute journey into an excursion of over 1 hour.

Although the number 70 bus travels along London Road this is a road that is too far to walk to for many people within the Parish and is therefore of little use.

There are approximately 6,500 residents residing within the Parish of Great Notley. Many of those residents do not have a bus provision that meets their needs.

A digital DRT service would therefore be welcomed to provide a travel option for many people within this Parish. In addition, it is noted that the vehicles will be fully electric thus providing a sustainable service with zero emissions which is friendly to the local environment.

The Parish Council can see that the service would be of use to many groups of people within this Parish for example –

- Commuters who wish to travel to Braintree Railway station
- Students who wish to travel to school or college. Not only is it proposed that the service will serve Notley High school being the senior school attended by the majority of students in the Parish, but there will be access to the town railway and bus stations to allow those students who have to travel further perhaps to Braintree College or to catch a bus to Colchester sixth form to easily access onward travel.
- Older residents or residents with mobility issues who regularly wish to travel to the GPs surgery in Great Notley which as explained above is currently a challenge.
- Enabling residents to visit local villages such as Rayne and Black Notley that are currently not connected to the Parish by public transport at all. This would be of benefit particularly to younger residents who will have school friends in those areas.

It is noted that the proposed service is intended to complement existing services which is considered an important factor as it is important that the service does not indirectly negatively impact upon parishioners by reducing such limited services that exist at present.

Great Notley Parish Council has a number of communication platforms for residents being its website, Facebook group, the Parish magazine and noticeboards so would be able to bring any new service to the attention of residents.

It therefore appears to the Parish Council that the proposed digital DRT service will provide a benefit as set out above to many sections of the community by adding a public transport option in an area that is in need of additional connectivity. Great Notley Parish Council therefore supports the bid.

Yours Faithfully,

Suzanne Walker
Clerk to Great Notley Parish Council



RAYNE PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council: Mrs Sarah Cocks
10 Station Road, Rayne, Braintree, Essex CM77 6RX
Tel: (01376) 552489
rpc@rayne-essex.gov.uk
www.rayne-essex.gov.uk

2nd June 2020

James Hopkins
Business Development Manager
Integrated Passenger Transport Unit
Essex County Council
Chelmsford

Dear James

At the meeting held on Monday 1st June 2020, the parish council viewed the DfT Rural Mobility Fund presentation and resolved to support the South Braintree Digital-Demand Responsive Transport (D-DRT) for the following reasons.

Whilst Rayne is served by the regular Arriva Essex 133 Service, this bus does not join up with train services from Braintree Station and does not connect local students to the further education colleges in Colchester. It provides a good service to Braintree town centre and allows employees and passengers to access Stansted Airport. However, there are a lot of residents disenfranchised by this service.

The proposed scheme would be extremely useful to our villagers as it would allow residents to commute to Braintree Rail Station and students to access education and training which is currently limited to them. Furthermore, it would allow older residents to have access to shopping, leisure, medical appointments, etc. Also, the existing and new business parks near to the village, such as Skyline and Horizon 120, are currently unserved by public transport so this initiative would open up more employment opportunities to residents.

The greatest benefit of the proposed scheme would be to limit reliance on the private car for travel. We are also pleased to see that it will support our key public transport network by making Braintree Bus and Rail stations key drop off points resulting in more viable options for onward travel for rural communities.

The parish council would be pleased to support the initiative by promoting the service via local social media and the hard copy village magazine which is delivered to every household. We would welcome the opportunity to be involved in providing feedback via focus groups.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Sarah Cocks
Parish Clerk

RCCE Essex Best Kept Village 2014 Runner Up
RCCE Essex Village of the Year 2016 Merit Award

Parish Office:

Community Information Point, rear of Rayne Village Hall, Gore Road, Rayne
Open: Monday 12.30 to 3.00pm & Thursday 9.30am to 12.00 noon

www.rayne-essex.gov.uk

<https://www.facebook.com/rayneparishcouncil>





Rural Community Council of Essex,
Threshelfords Business Park,
Inworth Road,
Feering,
Essex,
C05 9SE

James Hopkins,
Business Development Manager,
Integrated Passenger Transport Unit,
Essex County Council,
County Hall,
Chelmsford CM1 1QH

27th May 2020

Dear James,

DfT Rural Mobility Fund Bid – South Braintree D-DRT

I am writing to express my support for your bid to the Rural Mobility Fund for the South Braintree D-DRT project.

As a registered charity working to help rural communities in Essex secure a thriving and sustainable future, RCCE sees this as an exciting opportunity to extend the provision of Demand Responsive Transport, something we particularly welcome, having played a key role in setting up the Dengie Dart, the county's first ever DRT service, back in 2011. Moreover, your proposal will achieve this in a way that maximises the benefits of technology and is beneficial for the environment.

This particular bid will connect a number of villages close to Braintree with existing business parks in the town and with the new Horizon 20 business park which is scheduled to open later this year. At the moment, there is no public transport service connecting these villages to the business parks, which restricts employment opportunities for some residents. The proposed DRT service will also integrate fully with traditional public transport services coming into Braintree, including the railway.

The focus on making this a Digital-Demand Responsive Transport (D-DRT) service is particularly innovative, and has the potential to extend its appeal to a broader spectrum of users. However, we welcome the commitment to provide a back-up telephone booking

service to aid those not comfortable with technology or who live in an area where there are connectivity issues.

I do hope this bid is successful. If it is, RCCE will be very pleased to help publicise the service in the locality.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nick Shuttleworth', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Nick Shuttleworth,
Executive Director

nick.shuttleworth@essexrcc.org.uk

James Hopkins
Business Development Manager
Integrated Passenger Transport Unit
Essex County Council



Supporting independent living

Rural Community Council of Essex
Threshelfords Business Park
Inworth Road
Feering
Essex CO5 9SE

Tel: 0800 977 5858 or 01376 574341
E-mail: enquiries@caessex.org.uk
Web: www.communityagentsessex.org.uk

27th May 2020

Dear Mr Hopkins

DfT Rural Mobility Fund Submission: South Braintree D-DRT

Community Agents Essex is a countywide network of agents and volunteers who support isolated and more vulnerable people and their informal carers to develop and maintain independent living solutions from within their local community. The service is delivered through a community and voluntary sector partnership led by Rural Community Council of Essex.

Our Community Agents support over 6,500 people each year and about 30% present with some form of mobility need outside of their home and 20% are socially isolated. Efficient and affordable transport links are vital to support these people, both in urban and rural areas which are poorly served by public transport.

Where a similar service operates in another part of Essex one of our agents commented. "I recommend the service to most clients that I speak to or visit. They use it weekly to take them to supermarkets and the hospital in Maldon and other activities in South Woodham Ferrers. We couldn't survive in the Dengie without the Dart."

We have no doubt the proposed Demand Responsive Transport to Connect Braintree Business Parks will also provide a valuable local links and new opportunities which we can promote to our clients. We are therefore very keen to support this proposal.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brian Goodwin', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Brian Goodwin
Community Services Manager
Rural Community Council of Essex





AVL Powertrain UK LTD,
Sable Way,
Southfield Business Park,
Basildon, SS15 6LN.

1st June 2020

LETTER OF SUPPORT

Ref: South Braintree D-DRT – DfT bid

Dear Sir / Madam

AVL Powertrain UK LTD are delighted to support this scheme and feel that the trial of a fully electric, digital demand responsive transport (D-DRT) is exciting and innovative and is leading the way for future mobility trends. Electrification of the D-DRT fleet is an excellent means of delivering a flexible service with zero emissions, improving local rural/suburban air quality in the process.

AVL Powertrain UK LTD is based in Basildon, Essex and is an affiliate business of AVL List GmbH. With more than 11,500 employees, AVL List GmbH is the world's largest independent company for the development, simulation and testing of all types of powertrain systems (hybrid, combustion engine, transmission, electric drive, batteries, fuel cell and control technology), their integration into the vehicle and is increasingly taking on new tasks in the field of assisted and autonomous driving as well as data intelligence. The company was founded in 1948 with the headquarters in Graz, Austria. It provides industry-leading technologies and services based on the highest quality and innovation standards to help customers reduce complexity and add value.

AVL have supported the bid by using our electrification expertise to support ECC in defining the scope and direction of primary research to be conducted over the lifetime of the scheme. This research will enable a robust assessment of the electric minibus performance through monitoring and evaluation of fleet and charging data. AVL will continue to provide this expertise into Stage 2.

Best of luck with the bid application.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M Wellers', is positioned above the printed name and title.

Dr Matthias Wellers, CEng, FIMechE
Managing Director
AVL Powertrain UK Ltd

Mr J Hopkins
Transport Business Developments Manager,
Essex County Council
Market Road
Chelmsford
CM1 1QH

29th May 2020

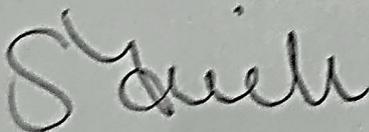
Dear Mr Hopkins

Marshgate Group has been appointed, by Braintree District Council, as lead developer for the Horizon 120 Business & Innovation Park. We have worked closely with Council Officers & Members to craft the recently adopted Local Development Order which will deliver the vision of a state of the art business environment with exemplar standards of design and sustainability.

As Managing Director I am, therefore, pleased to confirm my support for both the South Braintree and the Central Essex Square proposals for digital demand responsive transport services. The services will open up access, to the new job opportunities, for people across the area who are currently inhibited by very limited bus services and the considerable distance from the train station. The demand responsive element is critical to meet the demands of increasingly agile and flexible ways of working.

The proposal to use electric vehicles is particularly welcome capitalising upon the unique advantage offered by the UK's first fully electric forecourt being constructed on the southern periphery of the site. There will self-evident benefits from reduced traffic and carbon emissions.

Yours sincerely



David Warburton

Managing Director

The Marshgate Group



bones
plumbing & heating

39 BLACKWELL DRIVE, SPRINGWOOD IND EST,
BRAINTREE, CM7 2PU

Telephone: 01376 323037 Facsimile: 01376 550533
Email: enquiries@pgbones.co.uk
www.pgbones.co.uk

Date: 26th May 2020

LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR THE SOUTH BRAINTREE D-DRT

Dear Mr Hopkins

We are very pleased to offer our support for the Digital Demand Responsive Transport bid 'South Braintree D-DRT' made by Essex County Council for the Rural Mobility Fund.

Our firm operates from the Springwood Industrial Estate We are keen to enable our staff and visitors where possible to use public transport to access our business.

There needs to be far better public transport links serving this estate which will hopefully reduce the volume of cars queuing to get off the estate every evening (current situation excluded)
For ourselves and other companies the gridlock on our estate has caused issues with staff retention

With a bus storage depot based on our estate it is a shame that we are not included on any routes

If the bit is successful, we will happily promote the scheme with all our employees

Yours Sincerely

Stephen Bones
P G Bones Ltd

Directors: P.G. Bones J.A. Bones N.P. Bones N.S Bones S.J. Bones
Registered in England No:1185406 VAT Reg. No. 282 7508 39





AM Safety Specialists Ltd
Looking after your Health and Safety

Unit 9 Ignite House
46-48 Springwood Drive
Braintree
CM7 2BB

Date: 26th May 2020

Dear Mr Hopkins,

LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR THE SOUTH BRAINTREE D-DRT

We are very pleased to offer our support for the Digital Demand Responsive Transport bid 'South Braintree D-DRT' made by Essex County Council for the Rural Mobility Fund.

Our firm operates from Springwood Industrial Estate. We are keen to enable our staff and visitors where possible to use public transport to access our business.

- Through being more accessible, this will enable staff and clients to join us without the need to travel by car, thus reducing the congestion of Springwood Drive.
- Better able to support those training and enabling employment at our sites through the better links offered
- Improve punctuality, productivity for those staff who currently can't use their car, enabling use of this new premium service
- Enable visitors to access us through public transport.
- Support customers to more easily access us.

Currently we have a number of issues getting on and off Springwood Drive. Prior to Covid-19 the main issue was the volume of traffic trying to get off the estate between 4 and 6pm, and should there be any issues in Braintree or surrounding roads this impacts hugely. The average time to get off the estate is approximately 40 minutes on a good day. I have been stuck previously for three hours!

With Covid 19 restrictions and the reopening of the Tip this is also impacting on us trying to get to our offices.

If the bid were successful we would happily work with Essex County Council and Braintree District Council to promote this service to our staff and visitors

Yours faithfully

Angela Samuel
Director



Tel: 01376 345955 / 01376 341221
Fax: 01376 345985 / 01376 550670
Email: info@compliancelabelling.co.uk



Compliance Labelling Solutions Limited,
38a, 38b, 36, 34, 32, Springwood Drive,
Springwood Industrial Estate,
Braintree,
Essex,
CM7 2YN.

01376 345955

Date: 26th May 2020

LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR THE SOUTH BRAINTREE D-DRT

Dear Mr Hopkins

We are very pleased to offer our support for the Digital Demand Responsive Transport bid 'South Braintree D-DRT' made by Essex County Council for the Rural Mobility Fund.

Our firm operates from the Springwood Industrial Estate in the Braintree District. We are keen to enable our staff and visitors where possible to use public transport to access our business.

- It would benefit our business by way of giving our staff options as to how to travel to work as currently almost 50% of our workforce travel by bike or foot.
- It would lessen the congestion on the estate which is a major detractor for visitors coming to our site. We currently have to advise them not to come to us after 2pm as the traffic is terrible past that point and causes them delays in leaving the area.
- The staff who cycle or walk to work would also be able to use the town centre whereas currently they do not as time restraints of getting too and from town makes it unrealistic.
- The business would benefit from being able to have collections of shipping in the afternoons made on time and reduce overtime paid whilst having to wait for couriers, or having to delay shipping if no one is available to hang on for them.

If the bid were successful we would happily work with Essex County Council and Braintree District Council to promote this service to our staff and visitors

Yours Sincerely

Matthew Day – Managing Director