

ECC Report – 2 September 2026

Rivenhall Airfield incinerator – water supply update

Recent enquiries by myself and Green district councillors have established that the Rivenhall Airfield waste incinerator can draw up to **180 cubic metres of mains water per day** from Anglian Water – roughly equivalent to the average daily use of around **1,400 residents**.

Anglian Water has confirmed that water use at the site has contributed to **low water pressure for some local households**. It has also said that the operators did not follow the normal consultation process for agreeing their maximum daily demand when the connection was made.

Anglian Water has advised that the operator will therefore be required to contribute towards network improvements needed as a result of the site's demand.

This is particularly concerning because local communities were previously told through the planning process that the Rivenhall site would operate largely using a **closed-loop water system**, with rainwater and recycled water stored on site and relatively little reliance on external supplies.

The issue has wider implications for this part of Essex. Following a record hot summer and prolonged dry conditions, there are already significant pressures on water resources, while further major housing and commercial developments (industrial greenhouses) are proposed across the area.

I will continue pressing Essex County Council, as the planning authority for the Rivenhall site, and Anglian Water to ensure that the impact on local water supplies and surrounding communities - including villages such as Stisted - is properly considered.

ECC draft minerals plan

ECC has still not announced the preferred sites for its draft mineral plan. It had said it would be this summer but we are now entering the autumn and I have asked for an update.

Braintree District Council draft Local Plan

Last night I attended a Members Briefing on the draft Local Plan which is set to go before the Local Plan Sub Committee on September 17th (full agenda complete with the latest draft Local Plan will be published on September 9th) and it will most likely be agreed at Full Council on September 21st to go out to Regulation 19 public consultation on or about September 23rd. Last night's briefing was confidential, but I think it's safe for me to say that no new developments have been put forward for the parish of Stisted.

Kind regards

Cllr Paul Thorogood