



Rochford District Council

CORE STRATEGY

GREENSWARD COLLEGE STUDENT WORKSHOP – COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

March 2007



Introduction

In conjunction with Hockley Parish Plan Group, Rochford District Council undertook a participation exercise at Greensward College, Hockley on 14th November 2006. The purpose of the exercise was to seek the views of some of the local young people on the future development of the district.

The participation exercise was undertaken using Zing – a computer system that allows participants to enter in their views on a variety of subjects.

Researchers have found that young people are often significantly underrepresented in participating in the decision-making process. Young people are a diverse social group and the views obtained here are not necessarily representative of *all* young people. It is important that Rochford District Council recognises the opinions of young people in the district in order to ensure that future development meets the needs of the whole community.

A summary of the views of the people who took part in the exercise, together with Officer's comments and recommendations for the Core Strategy, follows:

Summary, comments and recommendations

Issue raised	Officer comments	Recommendation
Green space considered a positive aspect of character of Hockley	The Core Strategy, in allocating land for the new homes that will be required to be built in the district, will have to strike a balance between protecting the green space of the area and not overcrowding the existing residential areas.	The Core Strategy should seek to protect the most important green areas (those that are ecologically important, make an important contribution to the appearance of the area, and those which are important to local communities) and minimise the loss of green space.
Hockley Woods considered a positive aspect of Hockley area	Hockley Woods are currently protected from development in the Local Plan. The importance to the local community of this site, together with its status as an ancient woodland and habitat for wildlife, renders the site worthy of protection from any future development.	The Core Strategy and Local Development Framework should continue to protect Hockley Woods.
Good community spirit in Hockley	Future development in the district should be inclusive and meet the needs of the community to ensure that this community spirit continues.	Future development in the district should be of a socially inclusive form that promotes good community relations, and respects the character of its location.
Hockley's history is important	Future development should respect the history and character of Hockley, as well as the other areas of the district. A Local List of important buildings that are worthy of protection would aid the preservation of the historic environment.	The Core Strategy and other policies in the Local Development Framework should seek to protect the historic built environment. A Local List should be re-introduced which will protect buildings that are important to the local community.
Good schools in Hockley	<p>Although Essex County Council are responsible for the schools in Hockley and the rest of the district, the Local Development Framework has an important role to play.</p> <p>Future development will lead to higher demand for school places. One option is for the LPA to seek a</p>	<p>The Core Strategy should set the framework to ensure that developer contributions towards schools can be required where appropriate.</p> <p>The impact on services such as schools should be an important consideration in future development.</p>

	contribution from developers towards education services.	
Good range of shops in Hockley. The unusual shops that Hockley contains are a positive characteristic.	The LPA currently has policies in place to ensure that a proportion of the central areas of Hockley, Rochford and Rayleigh remain in use as shops. It is, however, beyond the scope of the LPA to dictate the type of shops that are present.	Retail areas should be defined and policies put in place to ensure the vitality of town centres in the district.
Clements Hall leisure centre is an important facility	The importance and popularity of leisure facilities is noted. The LPA monitor the balance between supply and demand of sports and leisure facilities as part of the Annual Monitoring Report.	The Core Strategy should ensure that appropriate leisure facilities are protected and additional ones provided where necessary.
Good pubs and restaurants in Hockley	Comments noted. Whilst the LPA cannot control the quality of pubs and restaurants in its area, the fact that pubs and restaurants in Hockley are popular may be something that can attract visitors to the district.	In discussing tourism, the Core Strategy should note the potential role of pubs and restaurants in the district. The importance of such facilities to local people should also be recognised.
The Old Fire Station is an important facility	The Core Strategy should note the importance of community facilities – both the preservation of existing and the provision of additional required with the increase in population that is expected. The Old Fire Station is not currently zoned as a community facility (which would protect it from alternative use). This issue should be looked at again when the LPA produces its allocation documents, which will follow on from, and comply with, the Core Strategy.	The Core Strategy should ensure the provision of appropriate community facilities. It should also note the importance of small facilities, whose value to local people may not be immediately obvious to developers etc, and ensure that such facilities are protected.
Hockley's Christmas lights are good	The Parish Council puts up Christmas lights in Hockley. Comment will be	The Core Strategy should acknowledge the importance of character

	<p>passed to the Parish Council. The importance to character and the visual appearance of the area which this comment implies is noted</p>	<p>and visual appearance.</p>
<p>Problems with anti-social behaviour in Hockley</p>	<p>Planning has an important role in tackling anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>New development should be designed in a way which makes opportunities to commit crime, and fear of crime, less. This can include good quality lighting and designs that allow public areas to be overlooked.</p>	<p>Future development should be socially inclusive and, wherever possible, crime should be designed out.</p>
<p>Supermarkets cited as a negative element of Hockley</p>	<p>The LPA cannot control all aspects of the quality of supermarkets in its area. However, it should seek to ensure that retail development is well designed and accessible.</p>	<p>Future retail development should be well designed and accessible.</p>



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