

Hockley Parish Plan 2007

Foreword

Over the last eighteen months the members of the Hockley Parish Plan Group have been working to compile the ‘**Hockley Parish Plan**’. This is a voluntary group formed from impassioned people who care about what is happening in the community and want to make a difference. Although the Parish council has supported us, our funding does not come from local government but has been derived from various public funds designed to help local community projects.

The aim of the Hockley Parish Plan is to obtain an overview of life in our community. It will provide an invaluable tool when planning future amenities and facilities in the village.

What is a Parish Plan?

A Parish Plan is a statement of how the community sees itself evolving over the next few years, and reflects the views of all sections of the community. It is a document that sets out a vision for the future of the parish and identifies the actions needed to achieve that vision.

It is a local, action-based plan which identifies the features and characteristics of the parish that residents value, but also identifies and addresses a range of issues and opportunities affecting rural communities.

A Parish Plan is based on information provided through survey, research, consultation and community participation, and identifies the needs, aspirations and priorities of residents and local businesses. It includes a plan of action to achieve identified objectives.

It is principally for your parish but may also be able to influence statutory planning processes.

David Fryer-Kelsey
Chairman
Hockley Parish Plan Group



Contents

	Page
Foreword	1
Introduction	2
The Parish Plan and Action Plan	2
The Past	3
The Present	4
What we have in Hockley	5
The Future	6
Hockley Statistics	7
Residents Questionnaire Summary	12
Residents Questionnaire Recommendations	21
Residents Comments	25
My Hockley Village	26
Members and Acknowledgements	27

Introduction

The people of Hockley have spoken. They like living in Hockley and would like it to remain largely unchanged. However they realise that there are many pressures which could cause great damage to their community and way of life.

A public meeting was called by the Parish Council in 2005 in conjunction with the Rural Community Council of Essex to discuss the development of a Parish Plan. It was well attended and volunteers from residents at the meeting formed the Hockley Parish Plan Group with a steering committee to raise funds and carry out the project. The Parish Council continued to support the project.

It was decided to use the Christmas Street party to gauge the interest of the general public and 400 people gave their views.

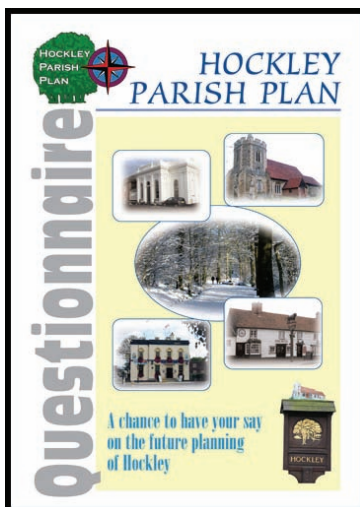
Initially, a series of interactive workshops were undertaken with residents and businesses who discussed and recorded their main issues. The attendees set out what they liked and disliked about Hockley, and established a list of proposals to improve Hockley.



A stall at Westering's School fete allowed the primary school children to give their views, and Greensward College students used their school's state of the art equipment to list the issues important to them. Teachers were given a chance to contribute at an educationalist's forum.

Volunteers drawn from the workshop attendees formed subgroups to analyse the results of the various workshops, and design and develop a questionnaire.

This was sent to 4000 households and businesses in Hockley to understand the vital opinions of residents on the future of the village. Over 1,000 questionnaires were completed and returned – an unprecedented rate of return which justifies all the hard work our Committee and volunteers have put into the design and content of the questionnaire. It also shows that the people of Hockley are concerned about the village and are confident that we can make some contribution to the future development of the community. The mammoth task of analysing the results has absorbed many hours of our volunteers' time. However, we feel that the results justify the effort – for the first time the voice of the residents is being heard.



The questionnaires were entered into a computer by the students of Greensward College and members of the Parish Plan Group. A program, developed by Greensward College, processed the data and produced a lengthy report. Many of the questions required detailed comments for responses and these were analysed by members of the Group.

A Public Day was held in June 2007 to show the community the results of the survey and allow them to comment. Local clubs and societies were invited to exhibit and show their work. The Community Police and the RDC planning department had stands. There were numerous photographs on display to show the history of Hockley.

The Parish Plan and the Action Plan

The Parish Plan provides a description of the past and present landscape, amenities and facilities of Hockley, and sets out the views that the local people have given us through their face to face input and through the questionnaire of how they would like Hockley to develop as a community. From an analysis of the survey results, this Parish Plan has been drawn up, including a list of recommended actions to carry out based on the wishes of the residents.

The Action Plan shows what needs to happen now if the resident's wishes are respected. The subgroups have started the long process of validating the results of the survey and discussing them with the various bodies that would be responsible for carrying out any actions. This is evolving into the Action Plan which sets out a number of actions together with a list of responsible organisations and a timing plan.

We hope you find this document interesting. It tells of the village as it was and as it is now. It shows what you the people would like to see in the future. The Hockley Parish Plan Group will monitor and review the situation and inform local people of completed actions and of objectives achieved.

The Past

Too large to be a village, but too small to be called a town, Hockley's origins are lost in the mists of time. A signpost to the past, however, is Plumberow Mount, a tumulus that tops a hill at the end of Plumberow Avenue. In the early years of the 20th century The Mount was excavated in the hope that it would yield a wealthy burial. Unfortunately the excavators were disappointed for all they found were broken Romano British pots and a single Roman coin. The true purpose this mysterious relic of Hockley's past remains a mystery to this day.



We are on firmer ground in 1086 when Hockley is mentioned no less than three times in the Domesday Book, and the then hamlet of Plumberow twice. At that time the main manor of Hocheleia (as it was then called) was in the possession of the royal Saxon abbey of St Mary's Barking. The abbey retained its responsibility for the living of Hockley's beautiful church until the Reformation when it eventually passed into the possession of Wadham College, Oxford. The small and much loved church with its unusual octagonal tower stands on a high hill to the west of the village with magnificent views across the Crouch valley. The present building dates mainly from the 1220 when it was rebuilt and enlarged.

Next to the church and opposite the old manor house, is Hockley's original school which opened its doors in 1839. When the building became too small a new school was built in Main Road in 1903. To the rear of this building are Hockley Woods which for centuries served the local community as a resource for fuel and building material. Indeed, Southend Pier was constructed with timber from Hockley Woods in the 19th century. The woods were divided amongst a number of owners and jealously guarded with high earth banks, which can still be seen today.



Hockley had one brief moment of fame when in 1843 a mineral spa was established in the village. In addition to the pump room, a hotel (now the Spa Pub) was built to accommodate the expected visitors. Unfortunately the fashion for 'taking the water' was on the wane with the hoped for visitors choosing instead to visit the new and popular seaside resorts such as Southend, and the

venture failed. Over the years the old pump room had a chequered life becoming derelict on several occasions. Fortunately it is now in caring hands and being restored.

The quiet and pretty village of Hockley changed forever in 1889 when the railway line from Liverpool Street was extended, passing through Hockley on its way to Southend on Sea. With Hockley now easily accessible to London, local landowners grasped the opportunity to 'get rich quick' and sold off their farmland for development. Special trains were run from London and plots of land sold at auctions where the champagne flowed freely to encourage would-be purchasers. Over the years the temporary holiday shacks and small houses were demolished to be replaced with more permanent dwellings, and the Hockley of today was born.

The Present

The centre of the village is the Spa roundabout with roads leading to Rayleigh, Rochford and Ashingdon.

The Spa Hotel is a striking building to anyone approaching from Rayleigh / London but is rather rundown. Built to accommodate the people visiting the Spa Rooms to take the waters, it is now a popular pub.



Spa Road is lined with shops and business premises and is generally a bustling place. The Parish Council have tidied it up with the removal of overhead wires and the installation of seats, flower baskets etc.

The buildings on the South side are single story and this gives a lighter and more airy look to the town centre.

Towards the railway station lie two industrial estates with the usual featureless buildings but they are set well back from the road and do not intrude.



On the south side are the Spa Rooms, built to house the pump room.

The original approach to the station was a rather nice and rural tree lined lane with houses built for railway personnel but all this was recently swept away and replaced by blocks of flats. The railway was built in the 19th century by the Great Eastern Railway to carry visitors to the popular seaside resort of Southend-on-Sea. The Hockley railway station would logically have been built by St Peter and Paul's church, which was the historic centre of Hockley. However the railway company obviously saw more

potential for passengers in the area around the Spa and built the station nearby. With a good connection to London and plenty of cheap farming land to build on, the station became the centre for development.

Next to the station is the Foundry Industrial Estate, so named because of the foundry which is still there but not used. Sand from the castings was very popular for surfacing the many unmade roads in Hockley.

As it crosses under the railway, Spa Road becomes Greensward Lane. On the north side is Plumberow Avenue which leads right through to Lower Road but fortunately for the inhabitants is not made up all the way and is therefore not a rat-run. The Avenue passes Plumberow Mount, an ancient tumulus on a hill with fine views over the Crouch valley and of large ships sailing on the Thames Estuary. The old wartime forts on the sands of the estuary are visible together with a modern wind farm.

Further down Greensward Lane is Greensward College, a large, rambling set of buildings teaching well over a thousand pupils and with a high reputation for technical excellence. Just beyond the Greensward Surgery the Lane runs out into open countryside on its way to Ashingdon.

Returning to the Spa roundabout, Main Road leads uphill towards Rayleigh. It soon passes the Bull Inn, an ancient weather-boarded pub, next to the entrance to Great Bull Wood, one of the many woods which go to make up Hockley Woods. These cover 280 acre and are one of the largest woods in south Essex. They are a Site of Special Scientific Interest (S.S.S.I.). Footpaths run in all directions and there are fine walks to Rayleigh, Eastwood or Hawkwell. There are also excellent bridleways. Continuing along High Road towards Rayleigh gives extensive views over the Crouch valley.

The third road from Spa roundabout leads to Rochford via Hawkwell. West Hawkwell is closely joined to Hockley and shares the Woods.

What We Have in Hockley

Schools

There are three schools in Hockley. Greensward College has over 1500 pupils, Plumberow Primary School has 500 pupils and Hockley Primary School has 300 pupils. Westering Primary School is just over the boundary in the neighbouring parish of Hawkwell and has 400 pupils.

Public places

The Parish Hall (the old Fire Station) is in the centre of the village. It has two rooms available for hire and has facilities for the disabled.

The Public Hall is in Bullwood Lane. Back from the brink after nearly being destroyed by vandals, this is now a thriving venue. A "together on Sunday afternoon" club meets weekly.

The Community Centre in Westminster Drive has many facilities and an adjoining football field. Thirty seven organisations ranging from Weight Watchers to Sub Aqua club use the facilities.



The Day Centre in Southend Road car park is open 10am to 4pm Monday to Friday for people aged 55-plus.

Churches

St Peter and Paul.

Bramerton Road Community Church

Hockley and Hawkwell Methodist Church, Main Rd, Hockley

St Pius RC Church, 55 Southend Rd, Hockley

Shops

A wide range including specialist shops, a long established hardware store and a supermarket.

Eating and drinking

Three pubs, Indian and Chinese restaurants including take-aways, a Kebab take-away, a fried fish shop, cafés and a teashop.

Health care

There are two doctor's surgeries in purpose built accommodation, one in the centre of the village. Three dentists, two private and one NHS, a clinic, optician, chiropodist.

Footpaths

Many footpaths radiate from the Church and there are many others in Hockley Woods. An active footpath committee on the Parish Council looks after them together with practical work by the Ramblers.

Open spaces

Hockley Woods is a 280 acre Ancient Semi Natural Woodland Local Nature Reserve in the heart of Hockley. Its ecological importance is recognised and protected by its designation as a site of special scientific interest. It is open all year round with a free car park and toilet facilities in the entrance.

Marylands Nature Reserve is a 12 acre site near Plumberow Avenue. It is semi-wooded with a small open meadow area and a stream.

Plumberow Mount. A large open public space at the top of which is a large mound of earth (a tumulus) with fine views in most directions.

St Peter's Road. An area of land near to the Church bequeathed to the Hockley Parish Council.

Library

Free to join library in Southend Road where you can borrow books, films or music or use the computers. Special events are arranged for children and adults, regular exhibitions by local people and meetings of the local reading group.

In addition, there are banks, building societies, estate agents, a filling station, a post office, a post sorting office, pharmacies, and a railway station.

The Future

Preservation of the countryside in and around Hockley is very important to the residents, especially the Woods, where they would like more trees, more seats, and new cycle trails.



Suggested improvements to the village centre include more flowers, trees, shrubs and seats, improved and tidier shop fronts, and a better removal of litter, dog waste and graffiti. There is also support for the introduction of a culture / heritage centre.

There is a unanimous desire for Hockley to remain as a distinct community with clear boundaries and green spaces between Hockley and its neighbouring parishes. Whilst aware of the Government proposal for 3700 additional dwellings in the Rochford district (including 400 in Hockley and Hawkwell), many would prefer no further development but, if it cannot be avoided, it should be on existing occupied residential or industrial property sites.

Any development should be matched with appropriate infrastructure in terms of a Hockley by-pass, additional medical centres, additional schooling availability, improved roads and additional car parking facilities. Apart from starter homes, there is very little support for additional housing. Youth centres, shops and restaurants are considered as the most appropriate development for Hockley.

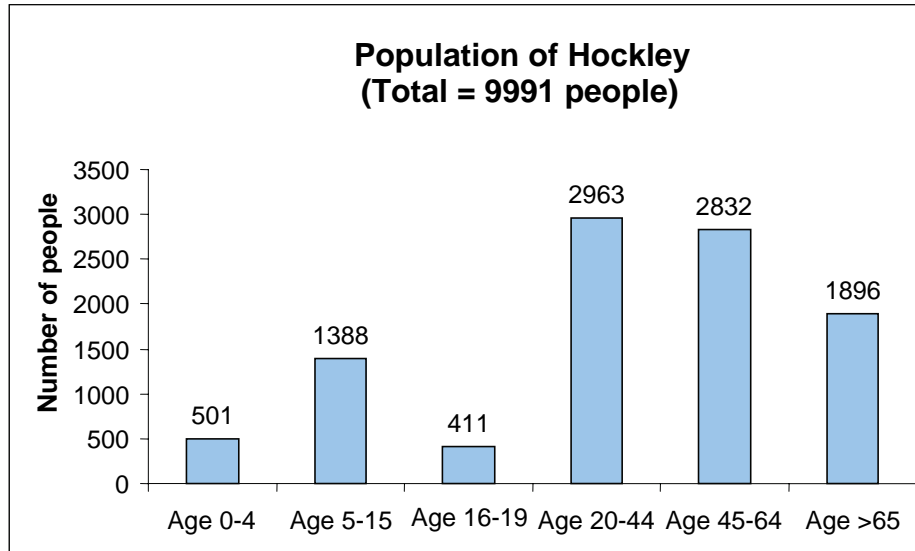
Most households are concerned about traffic issues. They feel that Hockley is used as a through route but also blame general congestion, parking issues and commercial traffic. Apart from a by-pass, the preferred solutions include enforcement of rules on parking and deliveries, more roundabouts and changes to the types and locations of crossings.

Most householders feel safe in Hockley during day time but many feel unsafe at night due to the large number of youths congregating in the village centre. Additional police presence and more CCTV cameras are popular solutions. There is also a lot of support for more youth centres and facilities to occupy the young, both from the young and the old.

To summarise, the people of Hockley like what they have got and want to preserve it. They are concerned about development, its effect on the countryside, the traffic, and pollution. They would like more leisure facilities and they particularly want more facilities for the young.

Hockley – demography (Based on 2001 Census)

Population



Males	4873
Females	5118
Total Population	9991

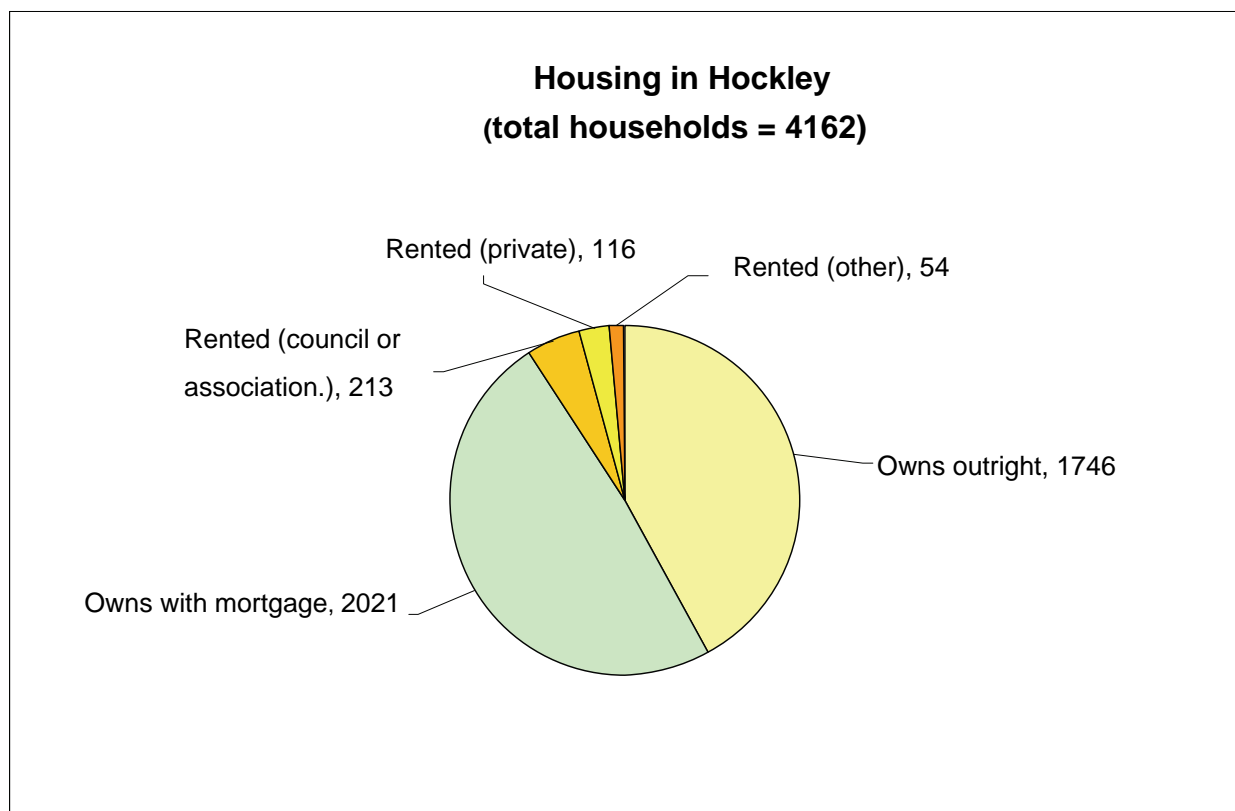
Age distribution	Number
Age 0-4	501
Age 5-15	1388
Age 16-19	411
Age 20-44	2963
Age 45-64	2832
Age over 65	1896
Average Age Hockley	41.9
National Average Age	38.6
The average age of Hockley residents is slightly higher than the national average	

Ethnicity	Number in Hockley	Hockley %	England %
White	9862	98.6	90.92
Mixed	49	0.49	1.13
Asian	47	0.47	4.57
Black	12	0.12	2.30
Chinese	18	0.18	0.45
Other	3	0.03	0.44

Religion	Hockley %
Christian	78.4
Buddhist	0.1
Hindu	0.3
Jewish	0.2
Muslim	0.1
Other	0.2
No religion	13.9
Not stated	6.7

Self-reported Health	Percentage
Good	71%
Fairly Good	22%
Not Good	7%
Population with a long-term illness	15.2%

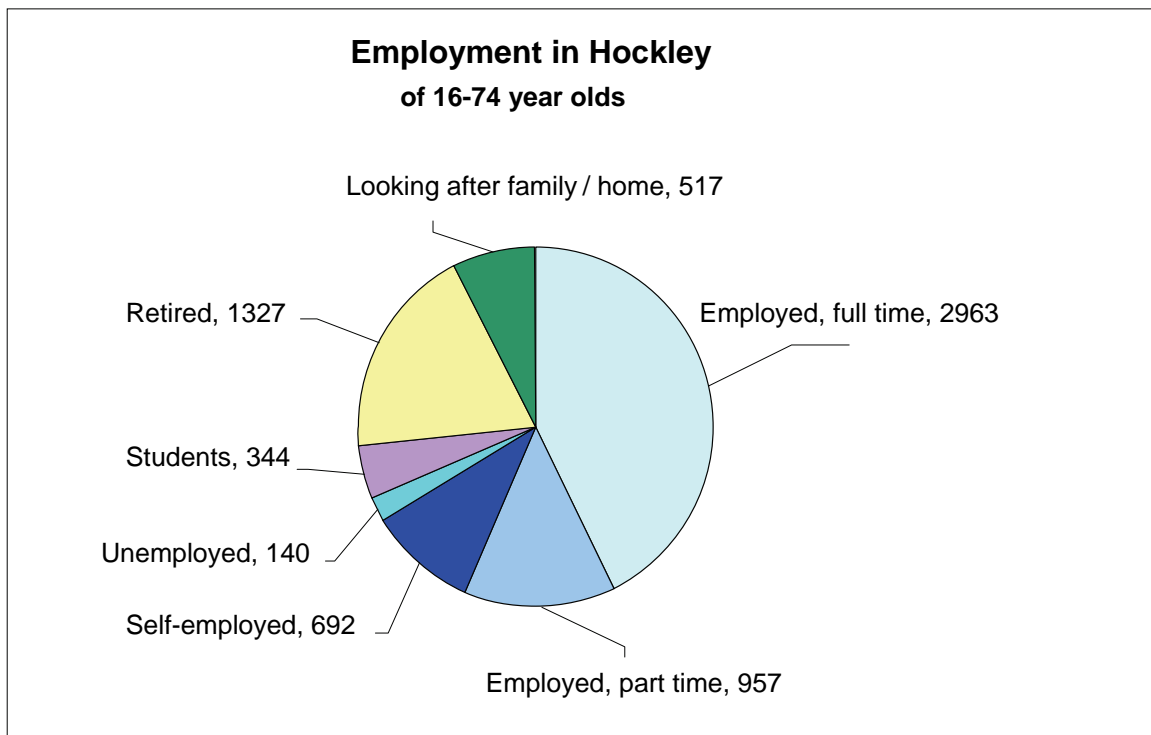
Housing



Ownership of households					
Housing:	Number in Hockley	Hockley %	England & Wales %	Essex %	Southend %
Owner occupied, owned	1746	42.0	29.5	32.0	32.8
Owner occupied, mortgage	2021	48.6	38.8	43.3	39.6
Rented from local authority	155	3.7	13.2	11.9	8.2
Rented from housing association	58	1.4	6.0	3.6	3.6
Rented privately	116	2.8	8.7	6.0	13.4
Rented other	54	1.3	3.2	2.7	2.1
Total Households	4162				

Average household size - Hockley	2.4 people	Hockley has a higher proportion of owner occupied housing (over 90%) than the Essex average (75%) or the national average (68%)
Average household size – National Average	2.4 people	

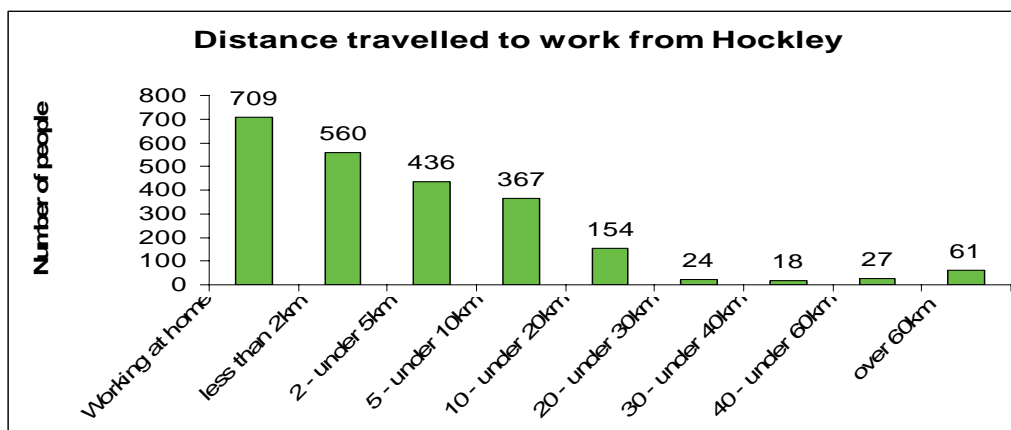
Employment (of 16- 74 year olds)



	Number in Hockley	Hockley %	Essex %	Southend %
Employed, full time	2963	40.83	41.95	40.04
Employed, part time	957	13.18	12.47	12.04
Self-employed	692	9.53	9.75	8.91
Unemployed	140	1.93	2.47	3.65
Students	344	4.74	5.17	5.03
Retired	1327	18.29	14.59	14.76
Looking after family/home	517	7.12	7.24	7.68

Hockley has a higher proportion of retired people than the county average – perhaps reflecting the higher age profile – and a lower proportion of unemployed people.

Distance travelled to work



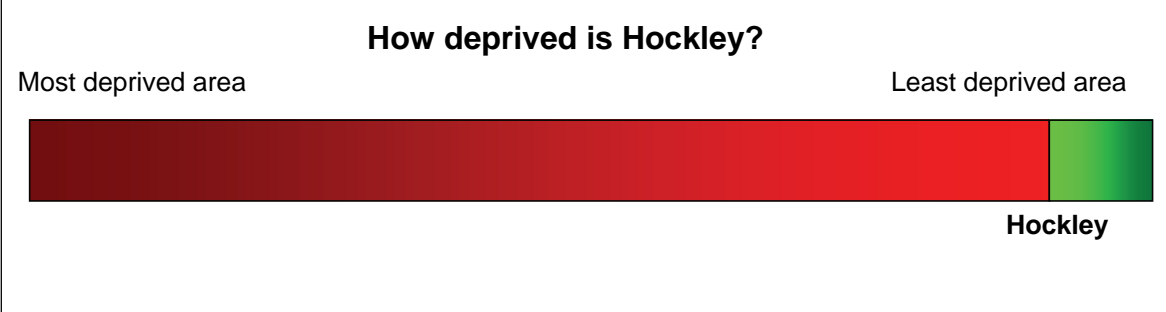
Southend is about 11km from Hockley and London is about 58km from Hockley.

Crime & deprivation

Crime: Notifiable Offences 2003/4						
Offence	No. of offences in Rochford district	Offences per 1000 population				
		Rochford district	England & Wales	Essex	Maldon district	Southend UA
Violence against the person	785	10.00	18.37	15.02	10.97	20.30
Robbery	26	0.33	1.94	0.67	0.08	2.55
Burglary in a dwelling	234	2.98	7.73	4.11	2.54	5.19
Theft of vehicle	154	1.96	5.59	3.68	1.80	4.66
Theft from vehicle	344	4.38	11.50	7.54	4.24	9.41
Total	1543	19.65	45.13	31.02	19.63	42.11

Crime statistics are not available at the parish level: however local authority / district rates are published. The figures shown are for reported notifiable offences recorded by the police in 2003/4, unreported crime and non-notifiable offences are **not** included. A total of 1543 reportable offences were recorded in Rochford District in 2003/4. For comparison with country, county and other local authorities the crime rate per 1000 population is shown.

The crime rate in Rochford District is lower than the national and county level and lower than in the Southend Unitary Authority area. The crime rate is comparable to the similar semi-rural Maldon district.



The Office of National Statistics publishes an index of deprivation based on income, employment, education, health, skills & training, barriers to housing and services and crime. England & Wales is divided into 32482 areas of approximately equal population and each area is given a rank number. The parish of Hockley comprise six of these areas and the rank number of each is as follows:

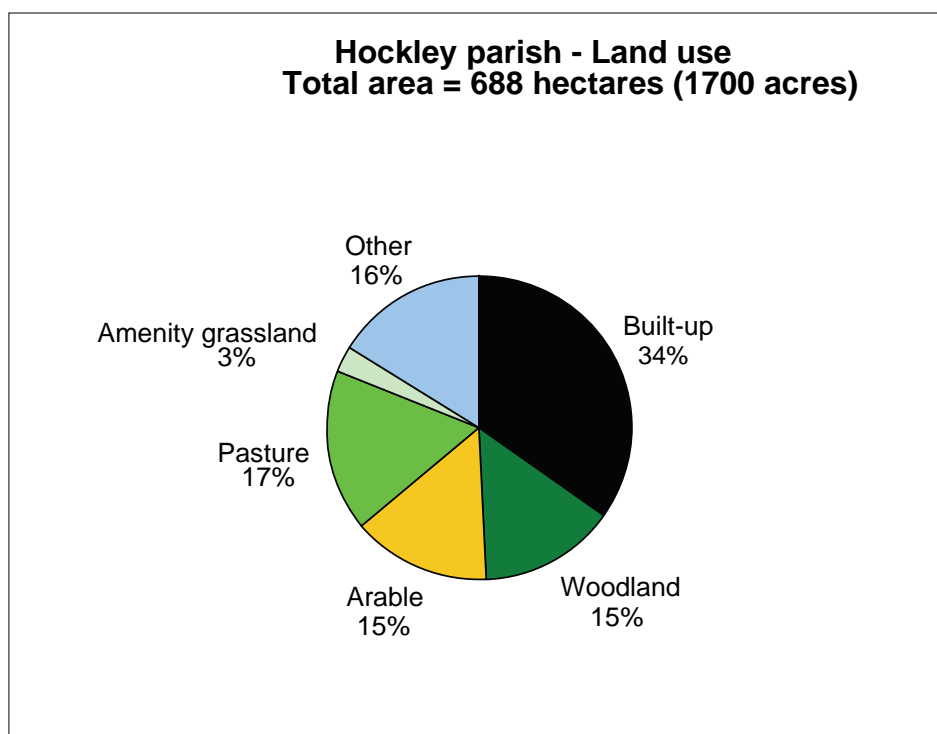
Hockley Central: 28655, 28814, 28997 & 30205
 Hockley North: 28826
 Hockley West: 31458

The mean score for all six areas is 29493. That is there are 2989 areas (9.2% of the total) that are less deprived than Hockley, i.e. 90.8% of England & Wales is more deprived than Hockley.

Hockley – landscape

Hockley parish lies at the eastern end of the Rayleigh hills, a ridge of high land (maximum height about 65m) between the River Thames and River Crouch. The high land to the south of the parish comprises sandy Claygate and Bagshot Beds overlying London Clay. This area is well-wooded and includes Hockley Woods - 110 hectares (270 acres) and numerous other smaller woods. Hockley woods comprise seven contiguous woods only four of which - about half the total area - are within the parish of Hockley. The northern part of the parish slopes down towards the River Crouch and comprises London Clay lowlands with extensive farmland on the heavy clay soil. The parish is bisected in an east-west direction by the B1013, and the London to Southend Victoria railway follows the contour of the hills parallel to and north of the B1013. The main built up area of the parish comprises a 'ribbon' development along both the B1013 and along Spa Road & Greensward Lane which branches from the B1013 in a north-easterly direction from the village centre.

Land use

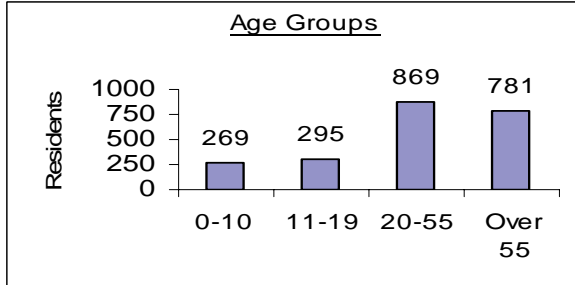
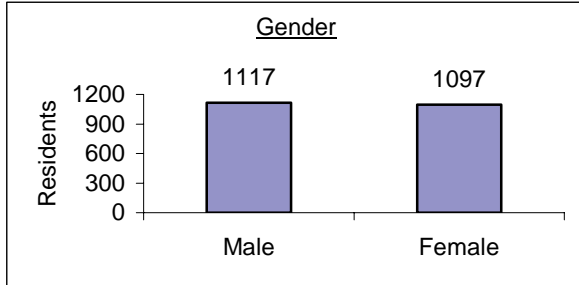


Built up	238 hectares	(588 acres)
Woodland	101 hectares	(249 acres)
Arable	100 hectares	(247 acres)
Pasture	120 hectares	(296 acres)
Amenity grassland	18 hectares	(44 acres)
Other	111 hectares	(275 acres)
Total area of Hockley Parish	688 hectares	(1700 acres or 2.7 sq. miles)

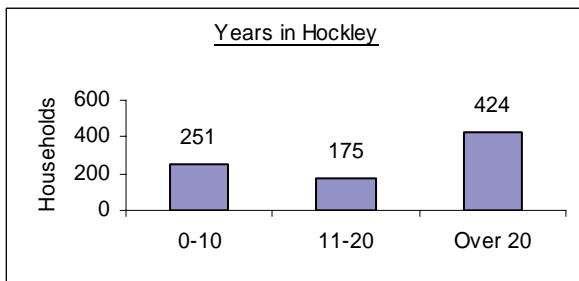
RESIDENTS QUESTIONNAIRE SUMMARY
(Based on a 25% response)

RESPONDING HOUSEHOLDS

Over 1000 questionnaires were returned from approximately 4000 distributed in Hockley.



Based on the response, households consist of approximately 50% males and 50% females, of which 12% are under the age of 11, 14% between 11 and 19, 39% between 20 and 55, and 35% over 55.



Based on the response, 30% of households have lived in Hockley for 0-10 years, 20% for 11-20 years, and 50% for over 20 years.

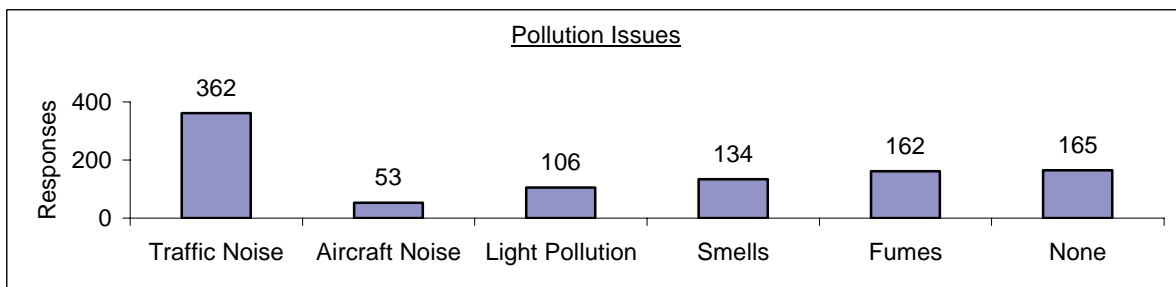
LOOKING AFTER OUR ENVIRONMENT

Environment

Almost 100% of households consider the countryside around Hockley to be important and areas in need of protection include woods, parks, playing fields, footpaths, bridleways, hedgerows, grass verges, nature reserves and animal sanctuaries.

Suggested improvements to the countryside include maintenance of footpaths and bridleways, clean up of litter and dog waste, protection of trees and wildlife, more trees, reduced development, more seats, provision of cycle paths, and maintenance of streams and ditches.

Suggested improvements to Hockley village include more flowers, trees and shrubs, improved and tidier shop fronts, more seats, introduction of a culture / heritage centre (equal location preference for the village centre or in the countryside), removal of litter and graffiti, and facilities for the youth.

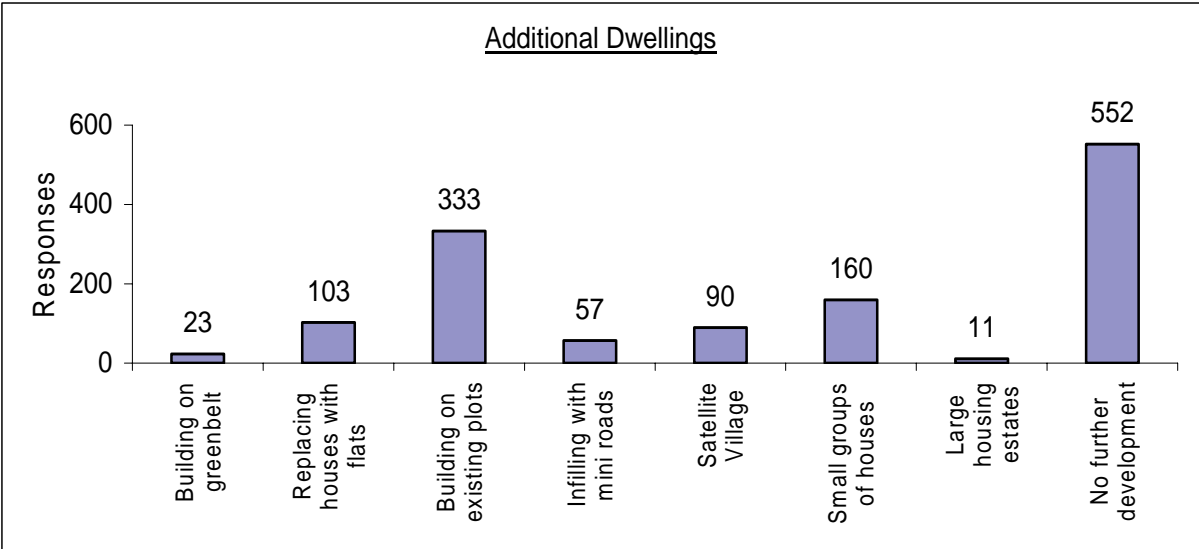


The major pollution issues in Hockley are due to traffic (noise and fumes), businesses (fumes and smells), lighting, and aircraft noise. Flooding is not considered as an issue in Hockley.

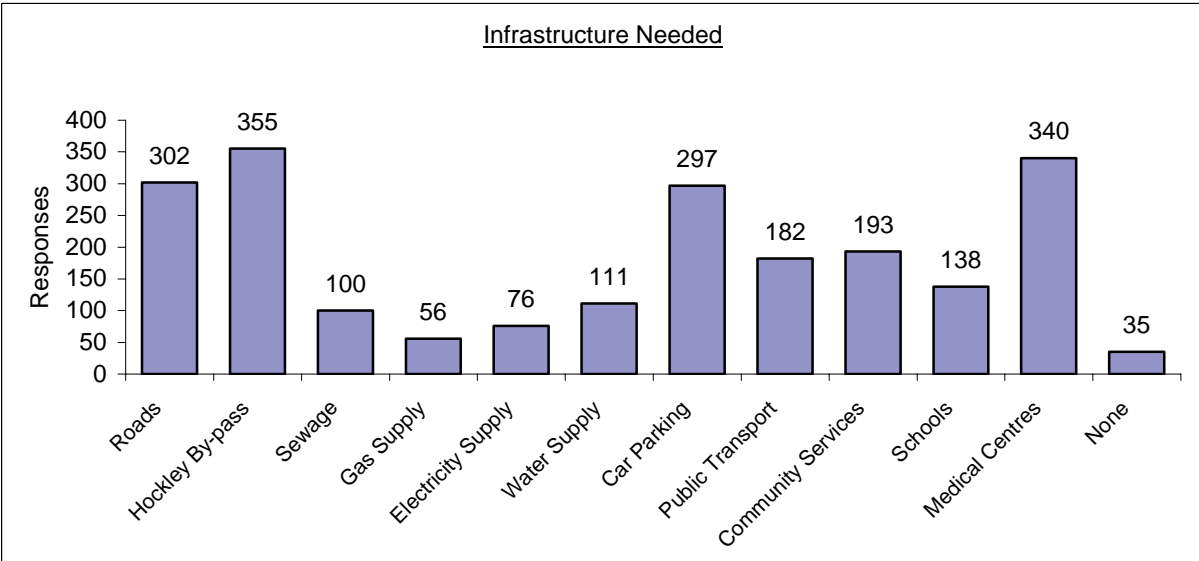
The majority of households (64%) would prefer no additional mobile phone masts in Hockley. However, if more masts are necessary, then the preferred location is remote from people and animals. As such, they should be remote by at least 500 metres from residential areas, schools and medical centres.

Development

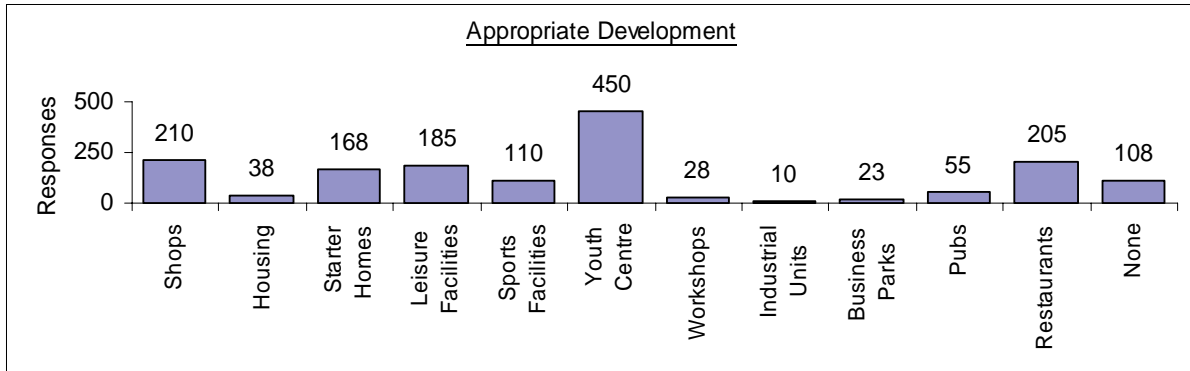
Almost 100% of households prefer Hockley to remain as a distinct community with clear boundaries and green spaces between Hockley and its neighbouring parishes, and over 40% of households believe that there should be no further development in Hockley.



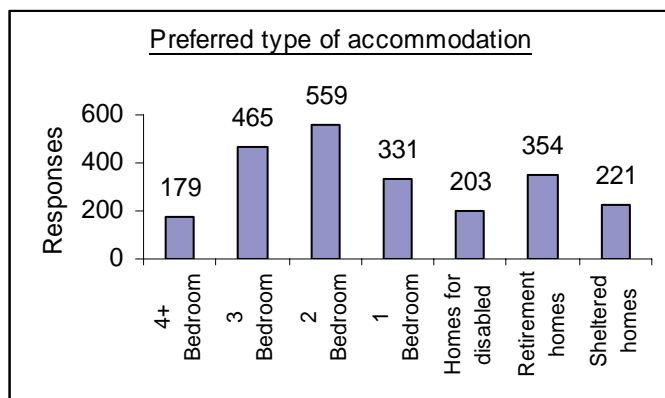
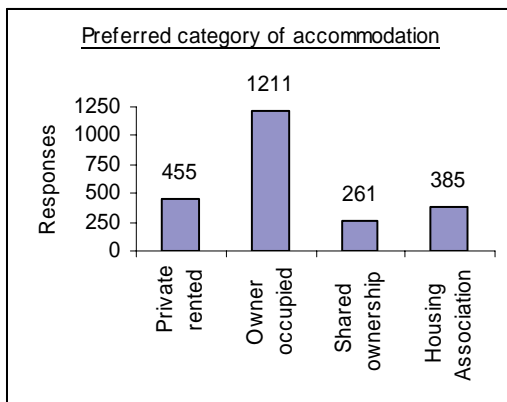
Assuming implementation of the Government proposal for 3700 additional dwellings in the Rochford district (including 400 in Hockley and Hawkwell), the preferred methods of development are building on plots of existing occupied property sites (including industrial), small groups of houses, replacing houses with flats / apartments to minimise loss of greenbelt and open spaces, or provision of a satellite village remote from Hockley. The least favoured methods of development are large housing estates, building on greenbelt and open spaces, and infilling with mini roads off main roads.



Any development must be matched with appropriate infrastructure in terms of a Hockley by-pass to alleviate increased traffic congestion, additional medical centres, improved roads, additional car parking facilities, additional community services, improved public transport, additional schooling places, and adequate water supply, sewage facilities, electricity and gas supply. New power cables should be installed underground.



Apart from starter homes, there is very little support for additional housing in Hockley. The priority proposals for appropriate development for Hockley are youth centres, shops, restaurants, leisure facilities and sports facilities. The least favoured developments are businesses (Workshops / Industrial units / Business Parks), housing and pubs.



However assuming that the proposal for additional homes goes ahead, the preferred category of accommodation needed is owner occupied. The order of preference of accommodation requirements are 2 Bedroom properties, 3 Bedroom properties, Retirement homes, 1 Bedroom properties, sheltered accommodation, homes for disabled people, and 4+ Bedroom properties. The top individual types of property needed are 3 Bedroom House – owner occupied, 2 Bedroom House – owner occupied, Retirement Homes – owner occupied, 4+ Bedroom House – owner occupied, and 1 Bedroom House – owner occupied.

In addition to all the current list of protected buildings, the following old and historic buildings are proposed for protection during development: The Spa Public House, Old Hockley Primary School (Main Road), China Cottage (44A Spa Road), Public Hall (Bullwood Road), Fountain and Trough (Fountain Lane), Boundary Stone (Bullwood Hall Lane), Hockley House (48 High Road), Bullwood Hall, Old Fire Station, Hockley Railway Station, White Hart Public House, Potters Shop Front, Old School House (Church Road), Fountain House, and the Water Tower.

Recycling

In addition to the items currently kept separate from refuse for doorstep collections (bottles, cans and newspapers) and central collection points in Hockley (plastic bottles, cardboard, shoes and clothing), other materials recommended for recycling in Hockley are garden waste, plastics, metals, wood, batteries, polystyrene, aluminium foil, hardcore, silver paper, stamps, nappies, toner cartridges, electrical goods, oil, shredded paper and confidential waste disposal.

Approximately 60% of households currently compost some or all of their garden waste. Only 24% of households would be willing to pay for collection of garden waste.

Council Services

Pavement and road maintenance cause greatest dissatisfaction for households. Dog waste removal, snow and leaf clearance also cause a high level of dissatisfaction. Refuse collection and street light maintenance provide the greatest level of satisfaction.

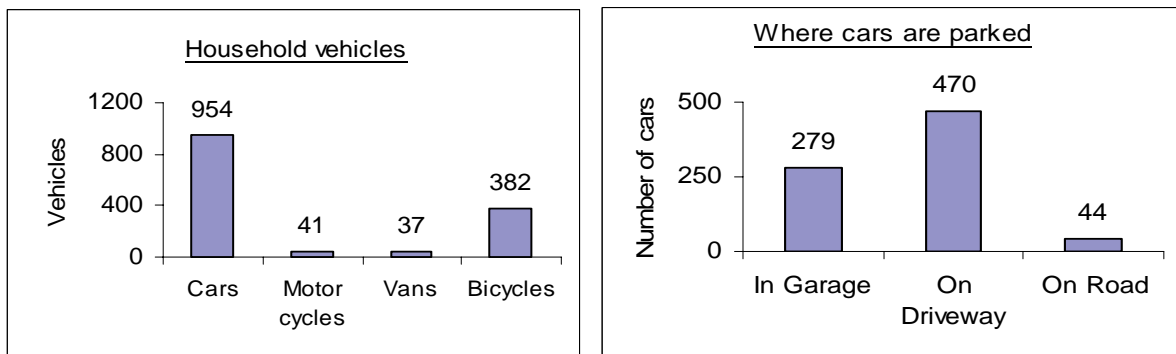
GETTING AROUND

Public Transport

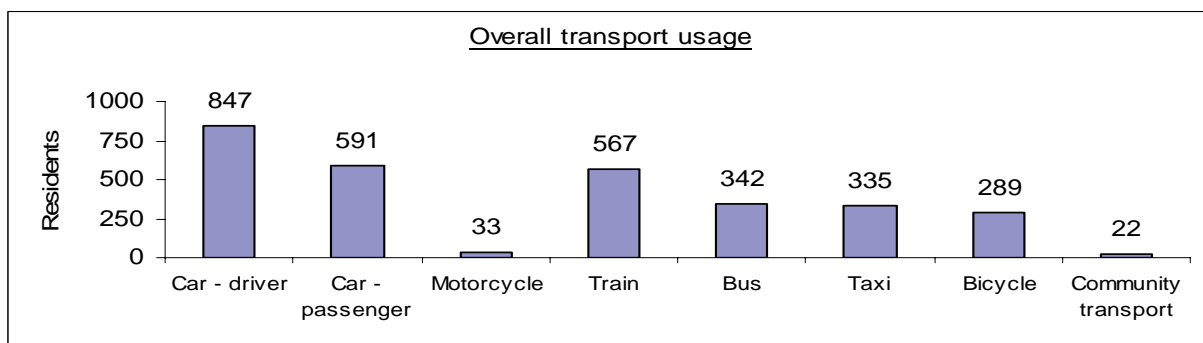
Over 80% of households consider the quality, frequency, timetable, routes, cost and bus stop location of the bus service to be adequate or better. The major concerns relate to insufficient routes (especially as not all buses go through to Rayleigh) and insufficient frequency.

Over 95% of households consider the quality, frequency and timetable of the train service to be adequate or better, but only 53% consider the cost of train fares to be reasonable.

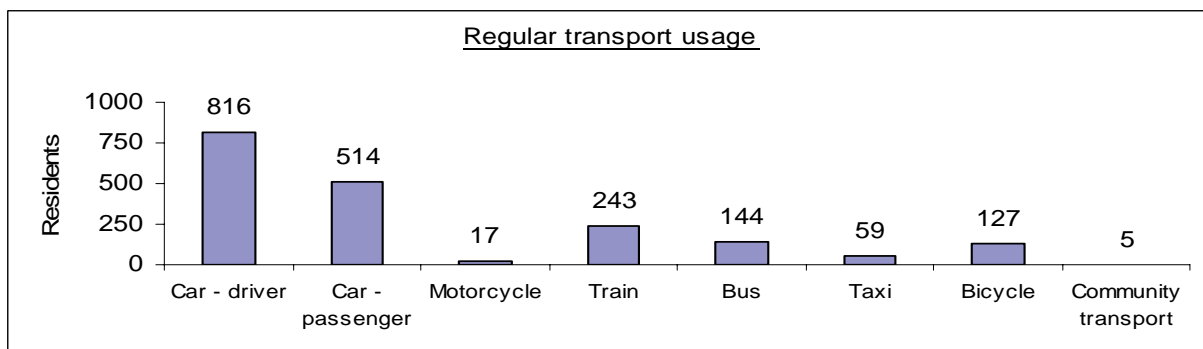
Private Transport



Vehicles in households consist of 67% cars, 27% bicycles, 3% vans and 3% motorcycles. 59% of cars are parked on driveways, 35% in garages, and 6% on the road.

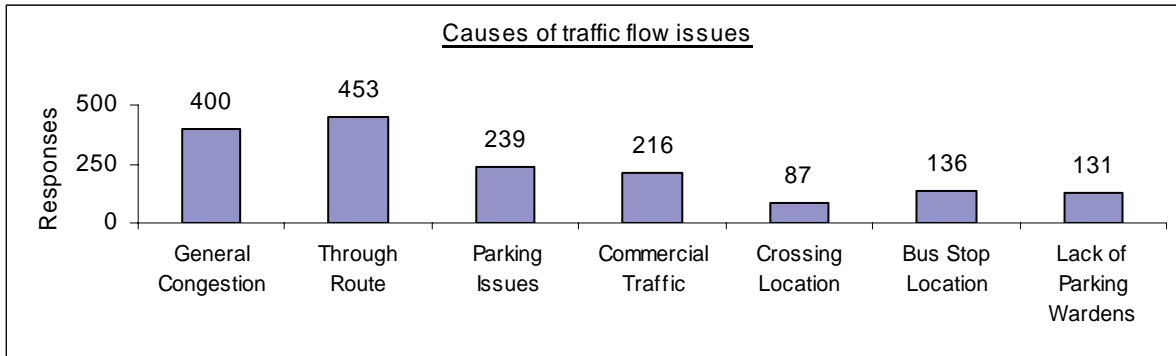


Overall 47% of residents use a car as a driver or passenger, 19% use trains, 11% use buses, 11% use taxis, and 9% use bicycles.

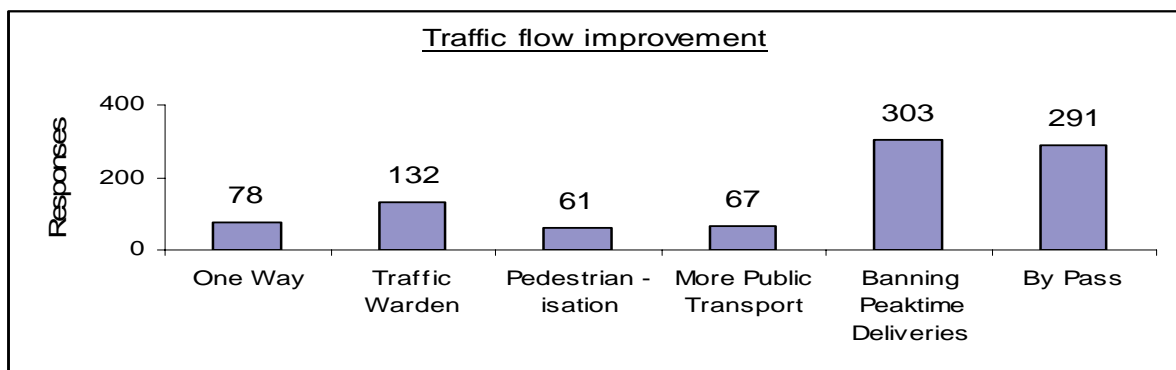


However, on a more regular basis (once a week or more), residents using cars increase to 69%, whereas those using trains decrease to 13%, buses to 7%, taxis to 3%, and bicycles to 7%.

Almost all households experience occasional or frequent difficulties getting into and out of Hockley, or through Hockley centre by private transport. The main locations of traffic issues are the road from Rayleigh to Hockley (including High Road, Aldermans Hill, Folly Lane Junction, Main Road, and Buckingham Road / Seetec roundabout), The Spa roundabout, Spa Road, Spa Road / Station Approach junction, Spa Road / Plumberow Avenue junction, Southend Road / Hockley Rise junction, and near schools particularly at start and finish times.



The major causes of traffic flow issues are the use of Hockley as a through route, general congestion, parking issues, commercial traffic, poor location and wrong types of crossings and road junctions, poor location of bus stops (particularly outside Alldays in Spa Road), lack of traffic regulation enforcement, and the impact of school runs. One issue is the amount of time spent by buses outside Alldays, making it difficult to see the traffic in Spa Road when coming out of the adjacent car parks.

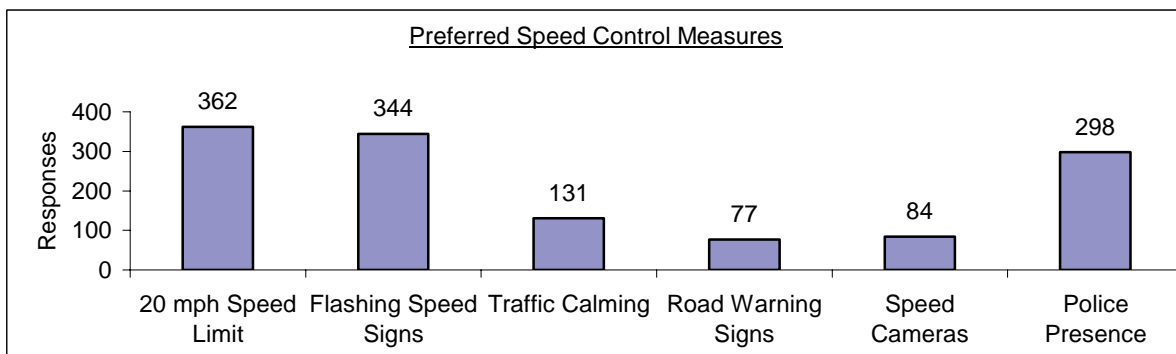


The main proposals to resolve traffic flow issues are:

Alternative 1 – provision of a by-pass around Hockley for through traffic to relieve congestion, eliminate use as a through route (including commercial traffic), reduce traffic pollution, and support housing and business developments

Alternative 2 (no by-pass) – ensure enforcement of ban for deliveries during peak periods, reduce parking issues by providing additional parking areas and increased traffic warden presence, relocation of crossings and bus stops, change The Spa and other roundabouts to traffic lights, provide traffic lights or mini-roundabouts (Southend Road / Hockley Rise junction, Folly Lane / Main Road junction, and Spa Road / Great Eastern Road / Station Approach junction), and replace zebra crossings with pelican crossings. Less popular methods are a one-way system, pedestrianisation, and increased public transport.

Speeding traffic



Most households consider speeding traffic to be a safety issue in Hockley. The preferred control measures are introduction of a 20 mph speed limit (near schools, in the village centre and for estate roads), flashing speed warning signs, and more police presence. The least preferred measures are additional warning signs and speed cameras.

Facilities for cyclists

Almost 70% of cyclists would use cycle paths if provided. Suggested locations for cycle paths include routes to Rayleigh, Rochford, Southend and all schools.

Facilities required for cyclists include bike stands in the village centre and cycle tracks or trails in the woods.

Facilities for pedestrians

Suggested improvements include additional pedestrian crossings, additional pavements, prevention of vehicles parking on pavements, additional streetlights, and more off road footpaths.

Facilities for horse riders

Suggested improvements include additional bridleways, particularly in the vicinity of Hockley Woods.

Parking

Opinions are evenly divided on the need for more parking facilities. Suggestions for additional parking areas are the industrial estates and behind the shops in Spa Road. Additional parking attendants are not considered necessary. 87% of households believe there should be a reduced parking fee for the first hour at the public car park behind Hockley library.

AN INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY

Sports and Leisure

The majority of households consider that sports facilities are adequate in Hockley and that the cost of sports activities is not a major factor in the decision to participate. The main sports considered to be inadequately provided are swimming, athletics, tennis and cricket.

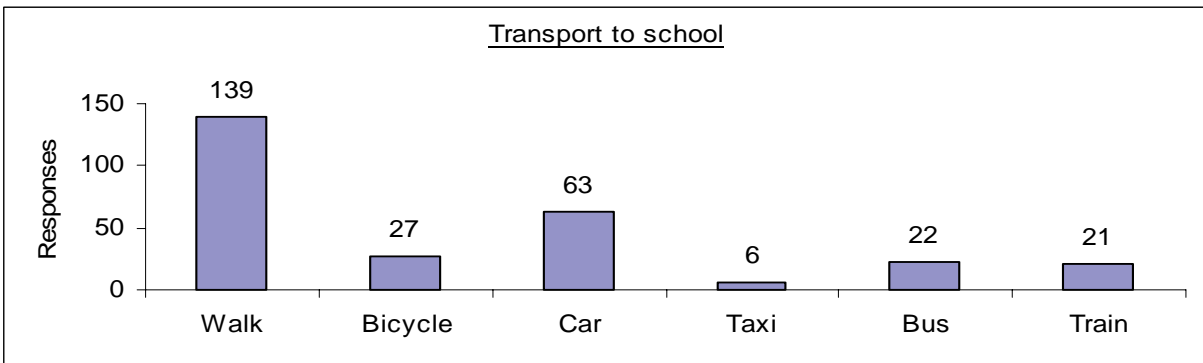
Apart from a lack of meeting places and facilities for the youth, and a shortage of family restaurants, households seem to be generally happy with social facilities available, including those at the day centre.

There are still a few organisations where it is difficult to join or there is a waiting list, mainly in the younger age groups e.g. Beavers, Rainbows, Brownies and Cubs.

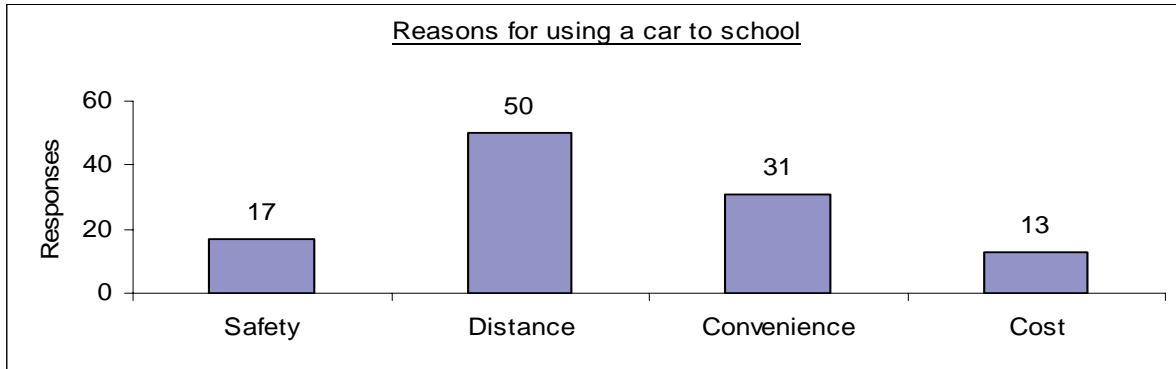
Most households use the local library, but the majority of people use it on a once a month basis or less. Only 20% use it on a weekly or shorter frequency.

Travel to school

Nearly 70% of households consider car parking outside schools to be a problem when parents drop off or pick up their children.



50% of children in Hockley walk to school, 25% go by car or taxi, 15 % go by bus or train, and 10% go by bicycle.



Reasons for going by car are distance (45%), convenience (28%), safety (15%), and cost (12%).

Postal Services

93% of households are happy with Post Office services, and 78% with postal delivery services. Suggested improvements are earlier delivery and delivery at regular times.

People with disabilities

The main needs in the countryside for people with disabilities seem to be better and more wheelchair friendly footpaths, and additional parking spaces.

The main proposals to help people with disabilities in Hockley village are better access to shops and service providers, better designed and maintained pavements, more lowered kerbs (at crossings, disabled parking areas and bus stops), preventing vehicles parking on pavements, and more care and consideration on pavements from cyclists.

There is some dissatisfaction with services for those with learning difficulties. Suggested improvements include making it easier to get help, and providing education, training courses, and social activities.

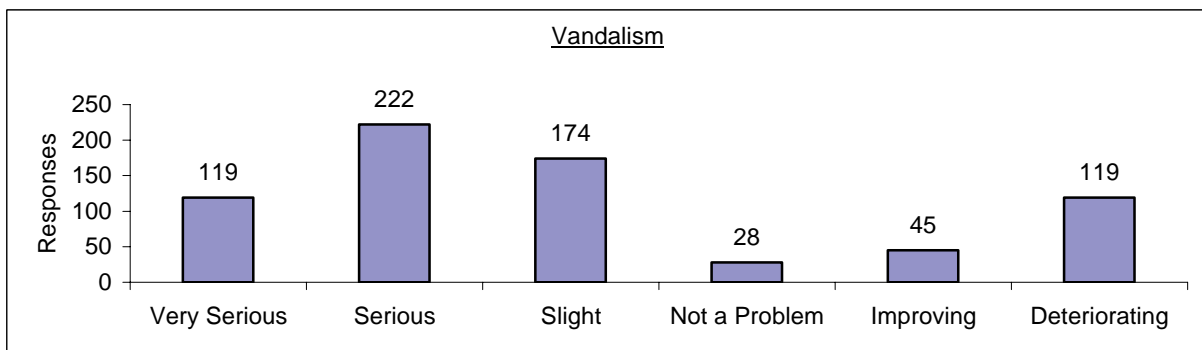
Medical Services

Very few households have had difficulty in registering with a doctor or for private dental treatment in Hockley. However, there still seems to be a significant problem with obtaining dental treatment on the NHS.

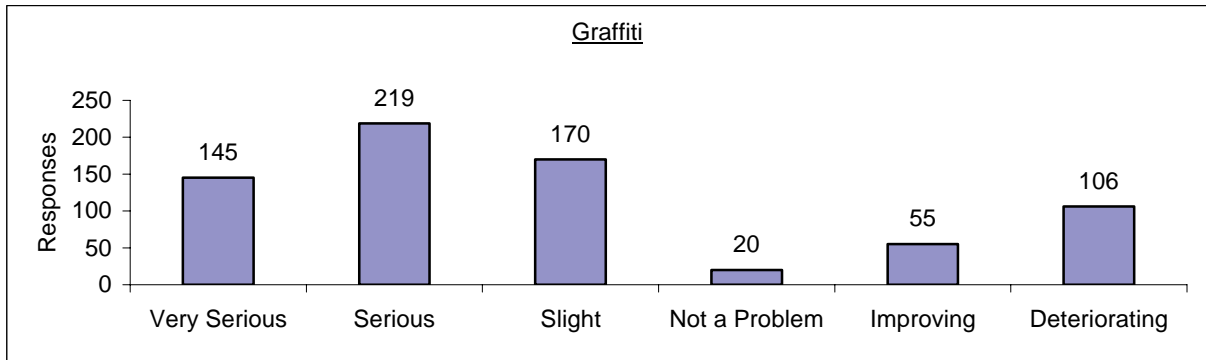
FEELING SAFE

Anti-social behaviour

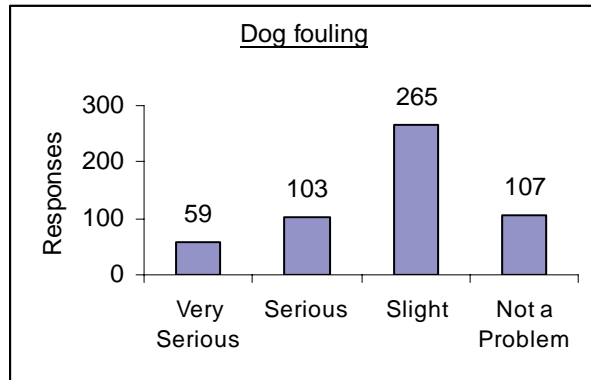
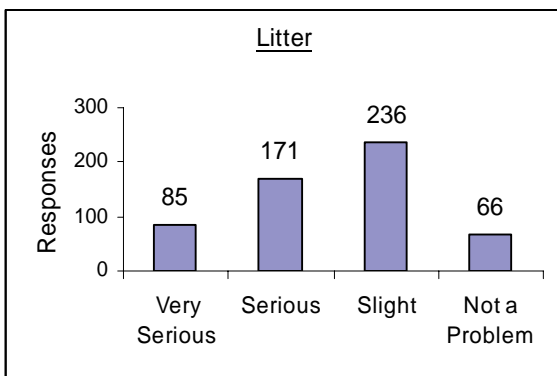
Over 90% of households feel safe in Hockley during day time, but only 52% feel safe at night. By far the greatest reason for feeling unsafe (83%) is due to large numbers of youths congregating in the village centre and elsewhere in the district. Other reasons for feeling unsafe are due to poor street lighting and speeding traffic.



63% of households consider vandalism to be a serious issue and getting worse. Examples of serious issues include youth disturbance (e.g. noise of car and motor cycle engines, and loud music), and damage to private and business property (e.g. bus shelters, bus stops, telephone kiosks, shop and library windows, garden fences and walls).



66% of households consider graffiti to be a serious issue and getting worse. Locations of serious issues include Hockley Station, Hockley railway bridge, the village centre, and on walls and fences around the district.



46% of households consider litter to be a serious issue being unsightly and a health hazard, and 30% consider dog fouling incidents to be a serious issue on pavements, in alleyways and in the woods, mainly due to lack of responsibility of owners in clearing up.

Note - Problems related to litter, dog fouling, graffiti, along with fly-posting, fly-tipping and abandoned vehicles can be reported to Rochford District Council on Tel. 01702 318111 or by e-mail keeprochford@rochford.gov.uk or by writing to Keep Rochford Campaign, Council Offices, South Street, Rochford, Essex. SS4 1BW.

Policing Policy

Almost 50% of households believe that the current Policing Policy in Hockley has had little or no impact, and only 22% suggest there has been an improvement. 17% of households are not aware of the policy. Households would like to see increased police presence in Hockley, especially at night time. See report on 'Positive Police Actions in Hockley and Hawkwell' on Page 24.

CCTV

88% of households support provision of the latest digital CCTV cameras in Hockley. The preferred locations are the Village Centre, Hockley Station (including car park and railway bridge), Hockley library car park and surgery, Broad Parade, and Hawkwell shopping parade. More and effective policing is the recommendation as an alternative to CCTV cameras.

JUNIOR QUESTIONNAIRE (5 – 10 YEAR OLDS)

Facilities that most need improving are youth clubs and meeting places in Hockley. Other facilities needed include additional sports facilities, and family restaurants.

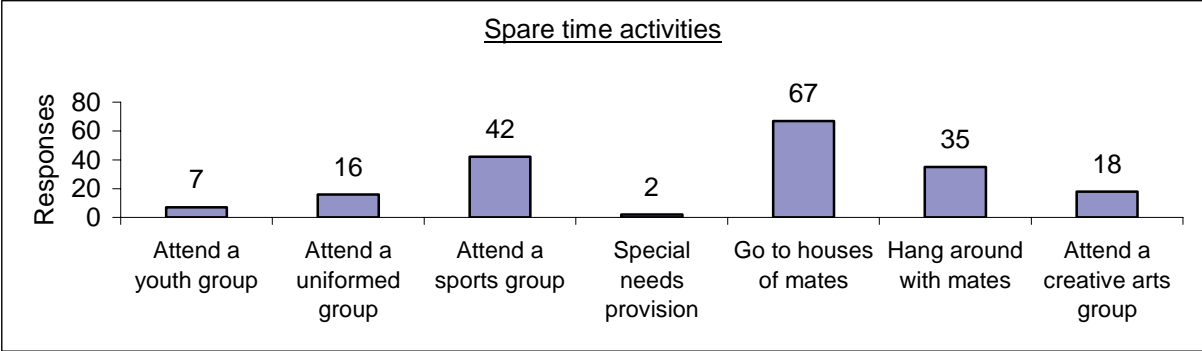
36% of children attend activities organised by their schools. These are mainly sport related, but also include music, drama, dance and crafts.

Clubs and activities attended are mainly sports related, and include swimming, football, dance schools, tennis, horse riding, Sunday School, and the uniformed groups (Beavers, Cubs, Rainbows and Brownies). Most children consider there are sufficient activities after school and at weekends.

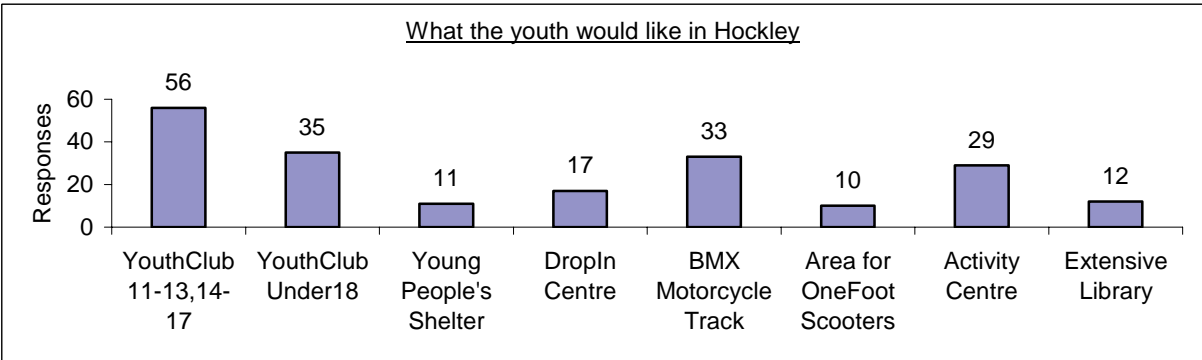
The majority of children consider that there are sufficient open spaces, play areas, playgrounds, ball game areas and other activity areas in Hockley. However, it is considered that there is a need for better parks, play areas (including indoor play areas), playgrounds, play equipment, playing fields, and provision of a skate park.

YOUTH QUESTIONNAIRE (11 – 19 YEAR OLDS)

Activities and Facilities



Spare time activities include going to mates’ houses, sports activities, hanging around with mates, creative arts groups (music, drama, and dance), uniformed groups, and staying at home.



The facilities needed most in Hockley are youth clubs for all age groups. Other facilities needed include a BMX / motor cycle track, an activity centre, a drop in centre, additional sports facilities, a more extensive library, a young people’s shelter, and an area for one foot scooters.

Anti-social behaviour

The preferred methods to prevent graffiti in Hockley are provision of a space or wall for legal graffiti, stronger police presence, more control over shops that sell spray cans, urban art sessions for young people, and education about costs, risks and prosecutions.

90% of youths feel uncomfortable with groups of young people hanging about in Hockley. The locations where they feel most uncomfortable are the village centre near Alldays, Hockley Station, Hawkwell shopping parade, Clements Hall field, Plumberow Mount, Hockley library, White Hart park, Eldon Way, Apex, and Broad Parade.

The main suggestions for making youths feel safer in Hockley are more foot patrol police presence, being with a friend or group, better street lighting, and having a mobile phone. Nine youths declared being a victim of street crime in the last year.

Many youths consider it is too easy for young people to obtain alcohol and drugs in Hockley. Suggestions for prevention of drugs and alcohol include more police presence and searches (drugs and alcohol), ID cards (drugs and alcohol), more retail vigilance (alcohol), higher penalties for suppliers (drugs), higher penalties for under-age drinking and buyers for under age-drinkers (alcohol), drug information at schools (drugs), more parent control (drugs and alcohol), and drug tests in schools and on the streets (drugs).

RESIDENTS QUESTIONNAIRE RECOMMENDATIONS

A separate detailed Action Plan will be published to address the comments and suggestions that were highlighted in the Residents Questionnaire. The Action Plan will be updated on a regular basis. The topics that will be covered include the following:

LOOKING AFTER OUR ENVIRONMENT

Environment

- Protect woods, parks, playing fields, footpaths, bridleways, trees, wildlife, hedgerows, grass verges, nature reserves and animal sanctuaries
- Maintain footpaths, bridleways, streams and ditches. Plant more trees. Provide more seats in the woods
- Provide cycle trails in the woods
- Provide more flowers, trees, shrubs and seats in the village. Improve shop fronts
- Clean up litter, dog waste and graffiti in both the countryside and the village
- Eliminate fly tipping
- Reduce pollution issues related to smells, fumes, noise and lighting
- Improve leaf clearance in autumn and snow clearance in winter
- Ensure new mobile phone masts are remote from residential areas, schools and medical centres

Development

- Ensure Hockley remains as a distinct community
- Ensure housing developments do not involve large housing estates, loss of greenbelt and open spaces, and infilling with mini-roads off main roads
- Ensure appropriate development in terms of youth centres, shops, restaurants, leisure facilities, sports facilities and starter homes
- Ensure any housing developments include affordable homes
- Ensure appropriate infrastructure in terms of roads, medical centres, car park facilities, community services, schooling, sewage, water supply, electricity supply, gas supply, and underground power cables
- Ensure preservation of historic buildings
- Review all planning applications that impact Hockley

Recycling

- Improve doorstep collection recycling methods and increase the amount of recycled material for residents and businesses
- Improve collection methods for flats and apartment blocks
- Ensure adequate collection frequencies for refuse and recyclable materials
- Review any plans for collection costs including garden waste
- Review future plans and costs for doorstep collection of electrical goods and other large items
- Improve central collection recycling methods and increase the amount of recycled material
- Review any plans for additional central collection sites in Hockley
- Review any plans for a central recycling site for businesses such as the industrial estates

GETTING AROUND

Public Transport

- Improve bus timetables / frequencies
- Extend No. 8 bus route to Rayleigh instead of terminating at Hockley
- Provide additional bus routes to encourage use of public transport, such as Hockley to Chelmsford

Traffic Issues

- Provide a by-pass around Hockley for through traffic (including commercial vehicles) to relieve congestion, eliminate use as a through route, and reduce pollution
- Replace The Spa roundabout with traffic lights for a trial period
- Introduce mini-roundabouts at the following junctions: Fountain Lane / High Road, Folly Lane / Main Road, Hockley Rise / Southend Road, Station Approach / Great Eastern Road / Spa Road
- Replace zebra crossings in the village centre with pelican crossings. Relocate Potters crossing away from The Spa roundabout
- Provide vehicle activated flashing speed warning signs in all the main approach roads to Hockley
- Introduce 20 mph speed limits near schools, in the village centre, and on selected estate roads. Paint 20 mph signs on the roads
- Improve the road and pavement maintenance programme

Cyclist facilities

- Evaluate the feasibility of additional cycle lanes: Hockley to Rayleigh; Hockley to Rochford; to all schools
- Provide additional parking / storage facilities in the village centre

Parking issues

- Provide additional parking at Eldon Way and Foundry Industrial Estates
- Provide additional parking behind the shops in Spa Road
- Provide additional parking on undeveloped land at Hockley Station
- Relocate the bus stop outside Alldays in Spa Road to improve visibility for cars exiting car parks at Alldays and Somerfield. Relocate stop for driver make up time
- Ban parking in Spa Road
- Ensure enforcement of regulations regarding on-road parking and commercial deliveries at peak periods
- Increase traffic warden presence
- Take measures to ease the impact of parking near schools at start and finish times
- Provide free or cheap parking for first hour or half hour in Hockley public car park

AN INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY

Youth facilities and activities

- Provide youth clubs for all age groups
- Provide meeting places / shelters for secondary school age groups
- Provide improved and additional play areas, playgrounds and play equipment for junior school age groups
- Provide additional sports & leisure facilities and clubs for youths

Facilities for people with disabilities

- Provide better and more wheelchair friendly footpaths in the countryside
- Provide more disabled parking spaces in the countryside
- Improve access to shops and service providers. Provide more automatic doors. Provide wider entrances and aisles
- Replace uneven, sloping and poorly maintained pavements. Provide wider pavements along main roads. Provide lowered kerbs at road crossings, disabled parking areas, and bus stops
- Stop cyclists riding on pavements
- Stop vehicles parking on pavements
- Relocate obstructions on pavements e.g. telephone poles, electricity poles, street furniture and billboards
- Provide better maintenance of overgrown trees and hedges on pavements
- Provide more disabled parking spaces near shops
- Stop people illegally using disabled parking bays. Highlight disabled parking signs with bigger words and different colours outside Barclays Bank
- Provide seats and shelters at bus stops
- Arriva to provide ramps on to platforms on older buses
- Consider disabilities in development plans for houses and infrastructure
- Improve youth facilities for the disabled

FEELING SAFE

Crime and anti-social behaviour

- Provide youth clubs and meeting places to reduce youth nuisance in terms of noise and vandalism
- Provide the latest digital CCTV cameras in identified problem locations
- Provide more police presence including foot patrols and night patrols
- Develop a proactive response to young people caught tagging (graffiti) and divert them to a supervised programme with professionals
- Reduce litter by encouraging responsible disposal by adults and youths, better clean up by businesses outside their premises, and provision of more waste bins
- Reduce dog fouling problems by encouraging more responsibility from owners, and providing more dog waste bins
- Improve street lighting to make people feel more comfortable at night
- Introduce traffic speeding control measures

Graffiti

- Identify and contact potential partners concerned with addressing graffiti
- Explore business partners who may benefit. Contact CYPSP, Essex Police, local businesses, and urban artists to identify their respective objectives
- Based on similar programmes that the police have said made a difference, consult with partner agencies to agree a proactive plan to divert offenders from further offending
- Based on the ECM Agenda of being safe and making a positive contribution to their community, make recommendations to CYPSP reference education in local schools through PSHE to agree and deliver effective programmes in schools (reference the cost of removal and the risks to life through graffiti) to young people aged 11-19

Drugs and alcohol abuse

- Identify and contact potential partners concerned with addressing drug abuse issues, e.g. DARG and COAST, to ensure effective delivery and co-ordination of proposed actions
- Contact known official agencies, e.g. EEA and Essex Police, to ensure that proposed actions do not conflict with their respective objectives
- Consult with partner agencies to agree a proactive plan to identify the extent of drug abuse and the drugs of choice in Hockley, to ensure the most effective delivery of anti-drug education
- Following results from Item 3, open a dialogue with Heads and PTAs of the relevant schools in Hockley to enhance anti-drug education
- As only 11-19 year olds were consulted in the Hockley Parish Plan Questionnaire, conduct a further survey in Hockley to include persons over the age of 19 to gather their perceived views on drug abuse in Hockley
- Contact the EEC Peer Research Group to agree our input to their planned research into drug abuse
- Gather material based on best practice of international and national anti-drug agencies to ensure a credible design of intervention programmes
- Consider the data collected from the above items and consult with partners on agreed methods to enable effective delivery of programmes for drug preventive education and demand reduction
- Adopt relevant proposals from the above initiatives together with responses to the Hockley Parish Plan Questionnaire. Forward issues that cannot be addressed locally, e.g. change of legislation, to the appropriate authorities, such as Council or Government departments

POSITIVE POLICE ACTIONS IN HOCKLEY AND HAWKWELL IN 2007

Anti-social Behaviour

- Additional police presence on Friday and Saturday evenings to deal positively with youths acting in an anti-social manner
- 86 reported incidents 2nd Qtr 2007 vs 247 reported incidents 2nd Qtr 2006

Vandalism / Graffiti

- Graffiti wall financed at Clements Hall
- Positive engagement with the youth by Hockley neighbourhood specialist officer and crime reduction partners using diversionary tactics to encourage use of the skate board park and more worthwhile use of their time
- 40 reported incidents 2nd Qtr 2007 vs 85 reported incidents 2nd Qtr 2006

Neighbourhood Watch

- Police working in partnership with Neighbourhood Watch to review its structure and advise of crime trends and daily crime returns

Traffic Issues

- Use of overt and covert cameras in relation to careless and inconsiderate driving at Clements Hall. Warnings administered in relation to anti-social driving of mini motor cycles and vehicles
- Large number of cars seized for having no tax or insurance on a public road
- 4 reported abandoned vehicles 2nd Qtr 2007 vs 15 reported abandoned vehicles 2nd Qtr 2006

Drug and Alcohol Issues

- Vast amount of alcohol seizures with follow up letters and visits to parents of repeat offenders
- Off-licences selling alcohol to under age drinkers targeted with successful prosecution
- No reported drug incidents 2nd Qtr 2007 vs 2 reported drug incidents 2nd Qtr 2006

RESIDENTS QUESTIONNAIRE COMMENTS

A sample of comments from the Questionnaire that show that people like living in Hockley and appreciate the opportunity to have their say in the future planning of the community.

Living in Hockley

- Hockley is a great place to live
- I believe Hockley Village is excellent as it is now and I am a little worried about major changes for the future. Let's try and pause to be aware of what we have and to be content ~ do we need much improvement? Do try not to run away with the idea that everything must be changed ~ you could be in danger of losing what we have!!
- Hockley is generally a very nice place to live
- I enjoy living in Hockley
- Make Hockley a more desirable place to live, so that we can all gain. Not just financially but a healthy clean environment makes a healthy mind & body
- Since living in Hockley I have found people very friendly and think it is a lovely place to be
- Hockley in general is a pleasant village in which to live. It should be allowed to remain a separate entity within the overall areas. Providing the open rural areas which we have long enjoyed and which should remain as far as possible in any overall future developments, for the benefit of our descendants
- Hockley is a good and happy place in which to live. Its village community is very important & must be preserved. Restrictions on extra house building are a priority or the area will be over developed & a village will become another concrete town
- We have moved here from a large town outside Essex and to be honest we love living here
- We have a lovely village
- We have lived in Hockley for nearly 16 years and we love it! It's lovely to see that people actually walk to the shops and stand / sit around in the village to chat
- As fairly recent newcomers to the area, we have still yet to explore a lot of facilities but in general like the area very much
- Hockley is a good and happy place in which to live. Its village community is important and must be preserved
- Would like to retain 'village' community spirit
- We love Hockley and think it a special place to live

The Questionnaire

- The questionnaire is an excellent idea. I attended one of the workshops
- Thank you for organising this questionnaire and taking into consideration the feelings of residents
- Thanks, a really good idea. I hope you listen to us
- Thank you for giving us the opportunity to raise the views of Hockley in this questionnaire

- Very impressed that for the first time in my experience we have been consulted
- A well written questionnaire
- Very good front cover design
- Good questions
- Pleased that some people in Hockley take time to make it a nice place and safe place to live
- At least it is comforting to know that someone is trying to preserve the essentially private and safety traditions of a stable village life in the turmoil of modern life and poor values
- I would like to see the results
- I hope our comments will be taken into account
- Make Hockley a more desirable place to live so that we can all gain
- It would be appreciated if some feed back was published locally and the statistics on answers to the question. Make this a positive exercise
- The Parish Plan is to be welcomed

The likes, dislikes and first priority for change from Alice Marshall aged 8

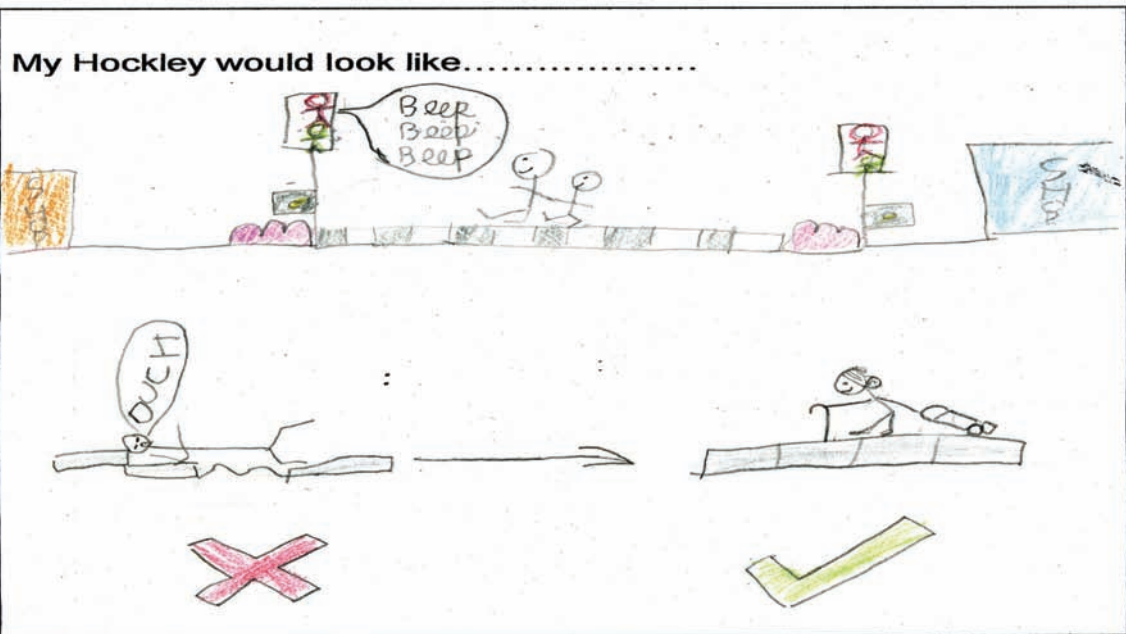
My Hockley Village

What is the Best thing about your Village? *We have got a little bit of everything close by.*

What is the Worst thing about your Village? *The uneven pavements.....*

If you could make one thing different what would it be? *To have green man crossings... especially in the village centre*

Draw a picture or write about what you would like to see in your village



Acknowledgements

Our thanks go to the following people without whose help nothing would have been accomplished:

Steering Committee

Ralph Chapman, Heather Flemmings, John Flemmings, David Fryer-Kelsey, Tim Gleadall, Kay Ilott, Shirley James, Susan Langdon, Stephen Murray, Helena Rozga, Jeff Stanton, Lesley Vingoe, Peter Walker, Jonathan White.

Volunteers

Margaret Christian, Wendy Clover, Brian Dennis, Collin and Jan Edwards, Arnold Hodges, Celia Hopkins, Irene and Arthur Hutchins, Rita Mason, Kathleen Muncer, John Passfield, Connie Walker

Questionnaire Support

Greensward College

Funding, help in kind and advice

Hockley Residents Association, Hockley Parish Council, Rural Community Council of Essex, East of England Development Agency, Essex County Council, DEFRA, Waters and Stanton.

Want to know more or get involved in the Action Plan?

Check out our website www.hockleyparishplangroup.co.uk.