

Rochford Local Development Framework Sustainability Appraisal/

Strategic Environmental Assessment Sustainability Appraisal

Technical Report Addendum June 2011

Rochford District Council (RDC) should not expect to receive many comments on this 57 page document that is basically only widely available online and from resident that have survey fatigue. We believe that RDC does need a District Plan (or Core Strategy) but not one that is based on using green belt or squeezing as much as possible on to brown field sites. We also believe if a large number of homes are required to be built on green belt land in Rochford district they should be in the form of a new village located on the edge of district with all the necessary services and access roads. As for the Hawkwell area we do not believe it would a good idea to build new homes on the Christmas Tree Farm green belt area in Rectory Road. Apart from spoiling the character of the area, the road joins the busy B1013 at one end and has single file traffic lights at the other. This is an area prone to frequent electricity black outs and we are sure other services would require considerable updating. Even though Clements Hall is in this area, there is only a limited bus service during the day and nothing in the evenings. The Christmas Tree Farm area is a vital part of a green corridor that runs through Hawkwell.

We wish to make the following points on the assessment:

- * We are pleased that Localism is coming but that should mean consulting with as many people as possible at grass roots level.
- * Any future consultations should not be made using a heavy weight documents that prevents printing and general distribution.
- * Any future plans should not be in one location which would change the nature of the group of villages that make up the Rochford district. Consideration should be given to the proximity of shops and schools, as due to the lack of public transport, there would be additional car usage clogging up the existing roads.
- * That comprehensive consultation should take place with ECC, other district councils, local parish / town councils, residents associations and other interested parties in and around our district.
- * Large numbers of additional homes will put an enormous strain on the infrastructure of our area, particularly the road system, which should be addressed in any future proposals.
- * Consideration should be given that new homes will generate additional vehicles on the roads from the building work, the additional residents, their delivery services and visitors and of course airport expansion traffic. There will also be additional demand on our doctors and dentists, additional demand on schools and social services and additional demand on gas, electric, telephone, water, sewers and surface / storm water drainage.
- * The evening number bus 8 service should be resumed.
- * Moving Eldon Way and the Foundry Estate to a green belt site at the airport area will increase mileage for employees and the lack of public transport will limit employment to car users. We believe cycling there would be a poor and unrealistic substitute as at the moment there is a lack of cycle routes.
- * ECC have stated that the B1013 is now running at 72% capacity. The current Core Strategy proposal would bring the traffic to an unbearable level. No details and estimated costs are given of the many road improvement we believe would be necessary.
- * This area is enclosed by the River Crouch, the sea and the Thames and is only properly accessed from the west. For this reason we believe the sensible place to locate additional homes would be in the western part of Rochford district.
- * We believe that no major infrastructure improvements have been carried out in the Hawkwell area for more than 30 years.

We also believe that the following infrastructure improvements in the Hawkwell / Hockley area, that are not included in the current Core Strategy document, should be addressed before any additional homes are built:

1. Replacement of Rectory Road Railway Bridge for two-way traffic.
2. Computer controlled traffic lights at the Rectory Road / Hall Road junction.
3. Upgrade Rectory Road and widen road and footpath at the Christmas Tree Farm area.
4. Upgrade the B1013 Hall Road and provide missing and upgrade existing pavements.
5. Proper main road street lighting for the B1013 Hall Road and B1013 Rayleigh Road.
6. A cycle path route from Rochford through Hockley to Rayleigh.
7. A new pelican crossing in B1013 Main Road near Tudor Way.
8. Return to two buses an hour in both directions for the 7 and 8 services between Southend and Rayleigh and the return of the 8 evening bus service.
9. Improvements to all services including gas, electric, telephone, water, sewers and surface / storm water drainage.
10. Increase capacity at all the local Schools in the area.
11. Increase capacity at all the local Doctors and Dentists and hospital services in the area.
12. Increase ambulance, fire and police emergency services.
13. Provide and run a youth club in the Hawkwell area.
14. To provide and run allotments in the Hawkwell area.
15. To extend the existing Cherry Orchard Park to Mount Bovers Lane and Hockley Woods.
16. Replace the existing Hockley Spa roundabout with a wider traffic light junction complete with pedestrian cross lights.
17. Install a double mini roundabout at Station Road and Station Approach junction with Spa Road for Hockley Station.
18. Install a mini roundabout on the B1013 at Folly Lane.
19. Make up / Upgrade Plumberow Avenue through to Lower Road in Hockley complete with pavements, main road street lighting and a mini roundabout at the Lower Road junction.
20. Upgrade Watery Lane / Beeches Road in Hullbridge from Lower Road complete with pavements, main road street lighting and a mini roundabout at the Lower Road junction.

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08 July 2011

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