

# Rochford Parish Workshop

## 1 Summary of Notes and Findings

### Comments received during the Presentation Stage

*See Presentation document for full Presentation given at the Workshop*

- Ashingdon Road cycle path: The cycle path is dangerous especially during school hours, it also appears to be unenforced so at times completely redundant.
  - Possibly move the cycle path onto grass away from pedestrians?
- New housing developments: Residents questioned whether NHS and doctors' services, as well as all other supporting services, will be able to cope with the increased number of housing? Noted that there is already a lack of dentists within the Parish. Suggested that Southend Hospital will find it difficult to cope, as it is not receiving any additional funding or expanding. More people from London are buying houses in Rochford increasing pressure further on the local NHS.
  - Once the housing developments are complete how will any surge in the number of babies be managed? e.g. Toddlers' services, day care, nurseries etc.
  - Ashingdon and Hall Road are dangerous to walk along – particular issue for mums with young children.
- School buses to King Edmunds from Wakerings – point raised that there are a “ridiculous” number. Was suggested that despite ECC figures suggesting otherwise, King Edmunds is at capacity with a waiting list.
  - Some residents felt that school children from Wakering should be attending schools in the Southend Borough such as Shoebury.

### Comments received during the Walkabout Stage

- Amend the bus route for number 7/8 to avoid the square and instead pass through North street and loop back down East street and South street, moving the square bus stop to north street.
  - The purpose of this being to ease the congestion caused by buses blocking the junction of South Street and West Street.
  - Create a bus stop along the Station approach and access by looping buses along Bradley Way.

- Demand for bus stop Southend bound near Whittinghams.
- The Baltic Wharf area needs plan to manage heavy vehicles – purpose built highways?
- Point raised about frequency of night flights from London Southend Airport – will these increase?
- Market Square;
  - Shops on East side of square need to have their facades changed to reflect the rest of the buildings.
  - Pedestrianize the Square – possibly harmful to businesses who rely on footfall from the small car park, but equally other car parks available within a minutes walk e.g. Back Lane
  - Remove or reduce the number of taxi ranks in the square to 2 or 3 and instead install a phone to their offices – should more taxis be homed at the station
  - Introduce a new half hour parking limit, 1 hour for disabled.
  - Suggestion to reverse the West Street one way system – point raised that it “used to be like this and worked better”
- Introduce incentives to avoid car use;
  - Park and Ride on the new Cherry Orchard site?
  - At best introduce a 20mph speed limit throughout Rochford in order to make the roads safer
- Introduce a cycle path along Ironwell Lane to link new estate to Clements Hall and town centre.
  - Reports of dogs allowed to run loose on public footpaths - dogs should be kept under effective control.
  - Ironwell Lane footpath alongside Meadowbrook farm is a public right of way, yet access was unclear and poorly kept.
- Ancient Hedgerow along Ironwell Lane should be preserved in the event of any change in designation of Ironwell Lane
- Regular policing is needed in the evenings to avoid antisocial behaviour – area highlighted was Co-op car park (other suggestions include installation of CCTV).
- Ugly shop fronts should be deterred within conservation area – specifically car showroom style on corner of West Street and Union Lane.

- Streetlights in Town Centre lacking or ineffective – particular site was corner of Old Ship Lane
- Land adjacent to Rose and Crown car park is overgrown and seemingly lacking use
- Sign adjacent to Rose and Crown car park is misleading and redundant
- Hall Road junction needs improving – congested throughout day and borderline dangerous at times

## **Comments received during the Discussion Stage**

*See Map documents for full annotations and notes made at this stage*

- Make London Southend Airport station accessible to the Business Park users.
- The road and roundabout outside London Southend Airport station is often gridlocked
- No more developments on farmland.
- Rochford needs more businesses and retailers, especially supermarket type businesses
- Could Council be relocated to Freight House, freeing up existing offices on South Street?
- Empty units in Rochford, Council should provide incentives for businesses to come in and reduce the rent prices.
  - No more “Co-op type” stores
- Improve selection of leisure activities / restaurants.
  - Install recreational grounds with workout equipment.
  - Skate park below Freight House?
- Infrastructure needs improving alongside the up and coming Business Park at London Southend Airport to support the deliveries and cars that 7000 additional jobs will bring.
  - Business opening /closing times could be staggered to ease congestion at peak times.
- Potential affordable housing locations – Police Station site / land between Watts lane and Tinkers lane.

- Museum of Rochford history and heritage – Old House?
- Ring road from A130 to Wakering/Shoebury to ease congestion along the Ashingdon Road.
- Relocation of Rochford Primary to Hall Road development site creating dual entry primary school and using existing site for affordable housing.
- Sutton road/Hall road – Bin men hold up cars at peak times.
- More Parking needed;
  - Underground Parking?
  - More short stay free parking needed – top of Back Lane car park free short term parking (30 minutes)?
- Adult Community College – wasteful usage, ideal community centre
- Possibility of future expansion south of Rochford around Tinker's Lane – impact of airport proximity?

## **Comments received during the Visioning Stage**

*Visioning Stage focused on discussing and summarising as a group, the comments brought forward during the discussing stage. (Please refer to Discussion Stage)*

## **Next steps**

- Parish Council and parishioners to be continually engaged and notified of updates
- Issues & Options document Autumn 2016: Open, visioning, range of options. To meet with parish before hand to ensure compatibility

## **2 Summary of Feedback**

How informative did you find the day?: Respondents answered an average of 4.5 out of 5

How would you rate the presentations?: Respondents answered an average of 4.1 out of 5

How would you rate the discussions?: Respondents answered an average of 4.2 out of 5

Respondents felt that aspects that were done well included:

- Discussions between attendees
- Officers listened well to personal comments
- Transferring ideas on map
- Walkabout of town – beneficial to see areas in need of development or change
- Presentation stage clarified nicely the levels of authority that Rochford District Council has on each different issue

Respondents felt that aspects that could be improved on included:

- More representation from young people - the future
  - Workshop could be held in the evening to represent more people
- Walkabout could have been more structured
- Ideas should have been voted on
- Explanations on what the Council are doing currently doing to mitigate new housing developments and what is being done to push for infrastructure.
- More chairmanship of discussions as too many people talking at once.

Respondents felt that the project should be taken forward by:

- Not allowing Essex County Council to dictate terms and Rochford District Council needs to be forceful with its recommendations to County and National level.
- Move public consultation
- Periodic updates to inform public on issues raised and proposed plans
- An integrated approach with other Parishes is needed – especially for issues regarding transport/schools/medical services.