

Please note that the following comments are not necessarily the views or policies of Rochford District Council. In the interests of clarity and consistency, all comments recorded on the day have been noted below, even where the responsibility for action does not fall within RDC's remit

1 Summary of Notes and Findings

Comments received during the Presentation Stage

See Presentation document for full Presentation given at the Workshop

- Great Wakering Parish Plan → key evidence base document, includes issues and options throughout the Parish and was put together by the local community
- Local primary school → originally built as a secondary school? Possibly unsuitable for primary school-age children
- Problem with school places for certain year groups. Essex County Council (ECC) data suggests an overall surplus of places at the school but point was raised that this did not differentiate between year groups and some year groups are currently oversubscribed
 - Issue of the impact of current developments on school places was raised. Noted to attendees that ECC do factor in developments into their projections but that these were subject to change on a rolling 5-year basis. Not clear therefore that the school will still have a surplus once all the development has completed
- Inadequate public transport towards the Shoebury area at present. Local children who attend schools in the Southend unitary district affected
- Section 106 agreements explained to attendees. Concerns were raised about contributions towards education and in particular how capacity will be built in to developments
- Point raised that ~420 houses to be delivered in Great Wakering has not resulted in a substantial increase in education capacity (e.g. a new school), but 600 houses in Hall Road has triggered the building of a new school. Questions asked of why this is – school contributions based mostly on ECC recommendations which are themselves based on projections on population and capacity
- Whilst Broadband is available in the village, some areas are still on dial-up – particularly the rural area east of the village

- Medical Centre in special measures? 2011 Census information on quality of care and general wellbeing may not reflect the current situation
- Some rural areas still not connected to 'proper' sewage network

Comments received during the Discussion Stage

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

- East of St. Nicholas' Church only partially connected to sewerage and gas networks
- Reasonably good bus service at present, to Southend crucially. Bus services are changing imminently however and impact of this not yet clear. Residents would benefit from later buses and buses serving the airport
- Deliveries at Co-Op difficult and often block roads/damage surroundings trying to reverse into the narrow side access.
- Crossing in front of Co-Op has the effect of narrowing the lanes for traffic which is exacerbated further by on-street parking. Results in cars having to drive on the wrong side of the road, which is a particular issue for the buses which use the high street
 - Replace with Zebra crossing? No physical infrastructure in road so roads could be rewidened, whilst vehicles would be compelled to stop to let people cross in/out of the Co-op
- Parking on High Street, as well as delivery vehicles parking outside of shops/houses at times result in High Street coming to a stand still
- At other times, cars speed down the High Street endangering pedestrians and other motorists
- Bin outside estate agents? Move bins to allow mobility scooters through where it isn't kerbed
- Street lights switched off at night. Certain places seriously need these to be on in the interests of road safety, e.g. Star Lane/Barling Road roundabouts
- Potential for a "Slow Down" sign near Morley's sharp bend → concerns raised about accidents → stationery vehicles turning in
- Viability of pubs is a potential issue, although there are a few still running
- Viability of PO – very well used, potential for expansion?
- Primary school: second floor on existing single-storey to rear? Potential to allocate land between school and homes on Alexandra Road for expansion?

- Swimming Pool – open to the public for events on certain days, option for extra revenue?
- Policing – local residents do not feel as though there is any police presence in the parish. More visibility needed. Some long-time residents feel that crime has notably increased in recent months
- “New development should pay for improvements to existing play spaces”
- British Legion is well used and a great community asset
- Allotments are a great asset but undersubscribed – more awareness? Scheme to get residents more interested/aware?
- Sports Centre and “Rec”
 - Play equipment, fields and football pitches are all very well used
 - Could benefit from more benches/picnic tables/bins as currently are only a couple of these.
 - Play equipment mostly good but could do with regular improvements as used regularly and wears down
 - ‘Outdoor Gym’-style equipment would be popular with local residents
 - More youth facilities, e.g. skate park
 - No public toilets; football changing rooms have some but these are almost always locked
 - New play space west of sports centre?
 - BMX facilities? Improvements to existing cycle ‘speedway’ could be great attractor and asset to the village
- Can anything be done to consolidate the 7 or 8 KES buses which currently serve the village
 - Leave and return outside of peak times
 - Fewer stops? More centralised locations?
- Some pavements and footpaths in the parish are in a particularly poor state
 - Narrow footpath next to the Anchor, uneven surface, unclear about ownership. Potential for adoption by Essex Highways?

Comments received during the Visioning 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 3 out of 5

How would you rate the presentations?: Respondents answered an average of 3.1 out of 5

How would you rate the discussions?: Respondents answered an average of 3.8 out of 5

Respondents felt that aspects that were done well included:

- Presentations with facts and information about the role of the Parish in planning
- Multiple people presenting
- Time for questions and answers with officers listening and allowing open discussions
- The walk about the village to see where changes are needed and voice concerns and needs
- Showing the Planning team personally what the issues around the village are
- Comment making on maps allowed for everyone to express their views
- It was felt the meetings are a refreshing initiative

Respondents felt that aspects that could be improved on included:

- Advertisement of the event could be improved, more adverts in physical form.
 - Flyers at Post Offices, Doctors Surgery, Churches etc.
- Refreshments should be provided throughout and more plentiful
- A separate meetings for Parish Councillors and 'normal' residents

- An employee from Essex County Council should be attending these events
 - Specifically for Great Wakering Parish, an employee from the education department.

Respondents felt that the project should be taken forward by:

- Engage with schools and youth groups
- Holding meetings at varying times (daytime and evening)
- Officers reading the Great Wakering Parish Plan
- Providing online feedback
- Encouraging communication by email
- A formal response to the issues raised
- Actually seeing change within the village as a result of this workshop
- Feedback on RDC website
- Parishioners feel left out from RDC, would like more communications and to have comments sent out to them
- A further follow up meeting should be held to inform parishioners of the outcome from the workshop and what is going to be done