

# Hockley Parish Workshop

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*

- Infrastructure insufficient
  - Severe traffic at peak times along the B1013
    - One minor incident or road closure causes gridlock.
    - Congestion impacts on the attractiveness of Hockley to potential new businesses.
  - Speeding in Hockley, many drivers continue at 40mph throughout the village. The village is in need of more 30mph signs/ traffic calming measures on High Road.
  - Spa Road roundabout, in need of improvement (larger roundabout/ slip road)
  - Suggestions that some of RDC's council tax allocation must be put aside for infrastructure improvements. New highways must be pushed for by the LPA to Essex.
  - Many more crossing points are needed under/over the railway line. For vehicles and pedestrians.
  - Existing crossing on Greensward Lane, needs to have traffic lights removed.
  - Install a new Zebra crossing opposite 'Bobbins'. More priority to be given to pedestrians.
    - Additional housing would be accepted if infrastructure was developed prior to housing.
- More cycle lanes are needed to improve safety.
- Some Hockley residents would rather Hockley stays the same and would prioritise Hockley maintaining its village status.

- The greenery, especially mature trees should be preserved.
  - New developments seem to have a lack of soft landscaping.
- Schools' statistics are inaccurate, need to be revised to take into account additional housing in the future.
- Consult the Parish Council to engage with local leisure cyclists about new cycle routes to Wallasea Island.
- Parish Council needs to have involvement in the current local development plan.
- More assurances are desired, to inform the public that Section 106 monies are being spent on infrastructure projects.
  - This includes roads, healthcare
- Hockley Area Action Plan should be followed more closely or re-submitted as all issues have been covered within the Plan.
- Cars are being driven within Hockley woods – new gates/ barriers? Ensure gates are kept locked.

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

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

- Eldon Way 'Brown sign' to notify visitors of the facilities located on the site.
  - If funding becomes an issue, funding could be provided by Parish Council or Businesses.
- Safeguard Green Belt, SSSIs and Ancient Land for the future.
- New entrance to Hockley Primary School via path to the north, facilitated by a new car park near Hockley Community Centre to remove the issue of on street parking at school collection time.
- If new virgin land is to be used for housing, then rather than allowing developers to build larger 4/5 bedroom houses, intelligent architecture should be considered to increase the density of housing to minimise use of the Greenfield site. For example
  - Town houses.
  - Also denser development can provide more affordable housing for new buyers or smaller houses for downsizing. However the issue of viability of providing lots of affordable housing needs to be addressed.

- Affordable housing should stay affordable. For example, any residents should not be permitted to extend the property to increase its value, the properties should retain their affordable price tag.
- The Parish Council has a lack of influence in Planning.
- Rather than workshop style sessions, questionnaires/surveys should be sent to households to have a wider response from a wider demographic.
- Concerns over the already dense nature of Hockley, and the use of infill developments and windfall sites to meet the housing demand.
- Protection for Plumberow Mount/Meadow
- New connecting roads proposed between Southview Road to Greensward Lane; Chestnut Close to White Hart Lane; Broad Walk to White Hart Lane. These could help ease congestion by opening a new crossing route over the railway.
- More policing of the train station to address issues surrounding safety.
- More disabled parking bays within Hockley centre.

## 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 out of 5

How would you rate the discussions?: Respondents answered an average of 3 out of 5

Respondents felt that aspects that were done well included:

- Chatting to Officers in a one to one style after the presentation stage was helpful.

Respondents felt that aspects that could be improved on included:

- It was felt that discussions may have been more constructive if respondents were restricted to a minute each.
- It was felt by attendees that the session may have been more useful if interruptions had been kept to a minimum.

Respondents felt that the project should be taken forward by:

- A further meeting help to inform the community of the progress on all issues and ideas raised throughout the initial session.