

# Hullbridge Parish Workshop

## 1 Summary of Notes and Findings

### Comments received during the Presentation Stage

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

- Concerns raised over the Malyons Lane future development as to whether local services and infrastructure can cope
  - 'Secondary schools already at capacity, doctors' practices and dentists already have fortnightly waiting times'
  - Road infrastructure needs improving with new roads constructed before the development commences.
  - Electrical supplies often unpredictable – power cuts.
    - Severe issue with an ageing population

### Comments received during the Walkabout Stage

- Pooles Lane:
  - Very narrow at points; a problem which is exacerbated by HGVs servicing the Caravan Parks and generally poor sight-lines.
    - Possible solution – a sign-posted give way system, could help to avoid cases of vehicles having to mount the pavement. Is there sufficient sight-lines to allow this to operate? Could sight be improved? → Mirrors? Cutting back hedges?
  - Footpath along Pooles Lane could be extended on opposite site of the road to the playing fields entrance so as to avoid pedestrians having to cross over 4 directions of traffic
- Pooles Lane Playing Fields
  - Parkwatch 'ranger' scheme – Parish Council funded?
  - Equipment is generally varied and in good condition, but clearly some equipment is damaged e.g. the 'ship'
- The Dome (used to?) has a small and infrequent Doctor's Practice. Could this be brought back/expanded to help take some of the pressure off Riverside Medical Centre?

- Footpaths:
  - Suggested that Coastal footpath should be restored to Ashingdon
  - Coastal walk 'falling away' and needs maintenance yet unclear who has ownership/responsibility. Peppercorn rent paid to maintain the footpath.
  - New promenade walk along the river.
  - New footpath suggested across the Crouch/some kind of crossing
  - Property owners in close proximity to the footpaths must be made duty bound to report issues to the relevant managing body – possibly already area?
- Ferry across the Crouch to South Woodham Ferrers? Businesses such as the Anchor could access new group of customers. Funding?
- Ecotourism options were raised, such as attracting Lower Road bus stops need laybys to pull into to allow fluent flow of traffic. How can we also attract more dog-walkers/ramblers/holiday-makers to support local businesses?
- Any potential for a rail extension servicing Hullbridge/Battlesbridge? Probably not the population to justify such a huge investment as would be necessary.
- Road improvements to Watery Lane desperately needed – “unsafe”
- Bus route to Chelmsford (X30 serves Rayleigh)
- Improvements are needed to the roundabout at the junction of Lower Road / Ferry Road.
  - Bus stop to the immediate west of this roundabout needs relocating as it is a cause of holding up cars, creating traffic.
- Potential on the junction of Watery Lane / Hullbridge Road junction to widen the road on the southern side to create a dedicated turning into Watery Lane.
- The divide created within the village around the issue of those children eligible for free school transport to the nearest secondary school and those that aren't needs to be addressed.
- Overall concern shown about the resilience of the road network.

## Comments received during the Discussion Stage

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

- Ditches at rear of Harrison Gardens need maintenance and clearing. The new development is to put increased pressure on these.
- New development at Malyons Lane site;
  - There are concerns that the current view for existing residents will be negatively affected.
  - 'The site is far too close to existing telecommunications masts which have been proven to be a health hazard within 400m. This will cover the vast majority of the new site'
  - Roads are already congested, "highways review studies are inaccurate and do not represent the actual situation, therefore leads to development being approved on false information"
  - During the development, noise from the site must be restricted to certain times.
  - Drainage at the site must be adequate so as not to worsen the situation of poor drainage at existing dwellings.
- Hullbridge prone to flooding;
  - Concerns over if a severe event was to happen, rapid evacuation of people would not be possible along the few entry points to the village.
  - Watery Lane becomes severely flooded at times, receiving far more use than ever before due to Rawreth Lane being gridlocked.
  - Watery Lane is in need of upgrades to surfacing, width and drainage.
- Footpaths;
  - Coastal footpath is in need of maintenance due to erosion
  - Roadside footpaths in general are in need of resurfacing due to potholes and uneven surfaces.
  - "Cycle paths plans should be dropped in order to fund footpath improvements"
  - Footpaths too narrow along Lower Road and Ferry Road

- Vegetation needs cutting back along Lower road and Central Avenue, as drivers' vision is being obstructed.
- Additional bungalows are needed due to an ageing population
  - The existing bungalows need a policy to preserve them instead of being rebuilt/ additional storeys added to them.
- No further development of flats is wanted in the village.
- Hullbridge would like to above all retain its village status
- Caravans on junction of Watery Lane – no gypsy sites wanted.
- Brownfield sites should be utilised as they have become hotspots for fly tipping and are now eyesores.
- 20 mph zone suggested throughout residential roads in Hullbridge
- Another pedestrian crossing should be installed opposite the Medical centre/ Day centre

## **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 2.6 out of 5

How would you rate the presentations?: Respondents answered an average of 2.8 out of 5

How would you rate the discussions?: Respondents answered an average of 2.9 out of 5

Respondents felt that aspects that were done well included:

- Officers attitude was calm and polite, listening well to issues
- Officers present to provide answers
- Opportunity was given to all to speak about what it is they want to see in their Parish in the future.
- Seating arrangement was well planned
- Discussions were lively
- The event got people thinking
- The walkabout
- Post-it style comments onto maps providing useful information for Rochford District Council to take away.

Respondents felt that aspects that could be improved on included:

- More notice of meetings/workshops/events with more information given about the event.
- Clearer written invite letters as some believed the session to be a drop in session
- Visitors need to be provided with more information as to what the purpose of the day is, as it would improve the quality of discussion
- Event needs more officers with decision making capabilities to answer questions.
- More two way information rather than stickers onto a map without immediate feedback.
- Reassurance needed that the residents suggestions will be carried out.
- Make use of Google Maps to visually identify problem areas
- Check that OS base maps are all up to date.
- 3D models could be used to visually present information.
- Clarity of presentation could be improved.
- Too many people talking over each other

- A microphone would be beneficial

Respondents felt that the project should be taken forward by:

- More information provided post workshop
- Provide regular feedback and information on how things are progressing.
- More meetings with the public should be held concerning the impact new developments will have on all residents in South East Essex.
- Dates should be made public as to when work is due to start in Hullbridge on any of the issues raised at the workshop
- Looking at the housing problem on a larger scale than just Rochford District.
- A forum in six months time to hear the steps taken to solve the issues raised.