

# Ashingdon 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*

- Ashingdon Road : Recurring issue of congestion
  - “The road has become a literal car park”
    - Claim that it is the ‘busiest rural highway in Essex’
  - Reduce the speed limit to 20mph – perhaps would deter speeders but would this add to congestion?
  - At times, ‘it is impossible to turn out of drives’
  - ‘Congestion poses a major problem for the emergency services who are struggling to meet targets.’ Deep concern amongst residents that ambulance services would not be able to respond to an emergency at their homes promptly.
  - Pollution levels need monitoring, especially to control NOx – who monitors these things?
  - Footpaths are very narrow at points
  - Too much noise pollution
- Contrary to some of the statistics being advertised, standard broadband speeds are actually relatively low, with limited fibre access available but at an additional cost.

### Comments received during the Discussion Stage

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

- How are NHS services going to cope with additional pressures from new housing developments? Both hospitals and doctor's surgeries. Perception that local services are already stretched thin and “this is going to get worse.” NHS consulted on major schemes which should avoid this.

- Is development fulfilling the needs of existing residents in the area or just to attract others into the area? “Should consist of more 1 and 2 bedroom houses.” An Ashington Housing Needs Survey was conducted in the past, RDC to try to get copy of this.
- Policy needed to protect Bungalows:
  - More bungalows needed due to an increasing ageing population
    - “Some of these bungalows will need ambient assisted living which will in the long term save money on health care”
- Church Road has a poor quality road surface
  - Also has a reputation for being used by ‘boy racers’ – anti-social behaviour seems to have no police response
- King George’s field is great asset but being underutilised
  - Can toilets be reopened? Currently field has become de facto toilet especially on weekends when people use the field for sport. Does not create a welcoming or particularly nice environment for residents to use
  - What happened to Green Gym idea?
- What can be done to improve tourism in the area? Recently had the anniversary of King Canute’s Assandun conquest and 2020 will mark the 1000<sup>th</sup> year of St Andrew’s Church
- Future housing development to the west of Ashington Road needs reconsideration:
  - Fences at rear of existing properties will need replacing to have additional height
  - Affordable houses not wanted as they are perceived to increase the rate of antisocial behaviour
  - Pressures on existing services and infrastructure will be too great
- Drains along Ashington road cannot cope:
  - Perceived lack of maintenance
  - Put forward that ‘new drain designs do not effectively drain water’
  - ‘HGVs cause issues with subsidence which damages drains’
  - Ditches will need to be cleared. Has been done in the past, but it is not clear to residents whose responsibility this is

## Comments received during the Visioning Stage

- New Towns
  - “Instead of clusters of developments alongside existing towns and villages, a new town should be built with its own infrastructure and services so that the existing areas retain their identity”
- Coastal footpath – is it possible to reconnect this? Government scheme is looking to achieve this, and would potentially result in a footpath all the way to Wallasea
- Can footpath between Stanley Road and The Chase be re-established at top-end through scrubland?
- Ashingdon Hall – can it be modernised? E.g. café, locking car park
- Pavement between 432 Ashingdon Road and Mace Store too narrow and very dangerous with passing traffic
- Potential for ‘avenue of trees’ down Golden Cross Road?
- Fambridge Ferry – “Approved by Essex County Council, DoFE, Maldon D.C, North Fambridge Parish Council and Ashingdon Parish Council, and Crouch Harbour Authority” – will it open?
- Fambridge Road – reduce speed limit? ‘40 ton lorries’ and no footpath, no room to pass
- What happened to the planned “Rochford Outer Bypass” – will it ever be built?
- Tourism
  - ‘Ashingdon would like to be included’
  - Rich history including Battle of Assandun (heritage board to be erected at church), and 1000 year old St Andrew’s Minster (in 2020)
  - How can we achieve this? Links to Canewdon historical assets? Coastal walk/cyclepath? Perhaps can also tie in with RSPB Wallasea Island site to create local area of historical/natural value to attract tourists. Would need appropriate infrastructure to support this, e.g. advertising, BnBs etc. Would also support local ancillary businesses e.g. cafes, hotels

## 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