

Committee: Cabinet
Date: 27 March 2014
Title: Felsted Parish Plan
Portfolio Holder: Cllr Susan Barker

Agenda Item

16

Key decision: no

Summary

1. Felsted Parish Council formally adopted the Parish Plan at their meeting in December 2013 and has asked that it be accepted by the District Council as a material consideration in determining planning applications and in preparing the Local Plan.

Recommendations

2. That the District Council adopt the Parish Plan as Council Approved Guidance in determining planning applications in the Parish and as background evidence in the preparation of the Local Plan.

Financial Implications

3. None

Background Papers

None

Impact

Communication/Consultation	The plan has undergone significant community involvement in its preparation
Community Safety	The plan deals with aspects of community safety
Equalities	Every resident was given the opportunity to comment on the Parish Plan
Health and Safety	None
Human Rights/Legal Implications	None
Sustainability	The plan deals with aspects of sustainability None
Ward-specific impacts	Felsted
Workforce/Workplace	None

Situation

1. The Felsted Parish Plan is a document describing how the community could be developed over coming years to improve the quality of life for those who live there. It contains an action plan with target dates for achieving the identified actions.
2. The plan was produced with the involvement of local residents. An initial meeting was attended by over 30 residents and was facilitated by an officer from the Rural Community Council of Essex. A second meeting followed where a steering group was formed. A survey was sent to all households, a selection of organisations, schools and businesses. A total of 932 adults and 156 young people from 523 households completed and returned the questionnaires.
3. The responses to the questionnaire raise a number of issues of concern, including traffic congestion and parking. Most people felt that there should be no further housing development within the Parish. In terms of house types most respondents were in favour of small houses or large family homes and sheltered accommodation for the elderly but not large executive homes. The majority of people were against affordable housing to buy, but the majority were in favour of affordable homes to rent. There were concerns about the lack of services like the police and the lack of capacity at the surgery.
4. The planning related activities in the Action Plan include a commitment to implement a Neighbourhood Plan to protect and enhance the rural nature of the Parish; to introduce measures to reduce congestion and improve parking in Felsted village centre and Watch House Green; to provide houses to rent/shared ownership for Felsted people with an established need; to protect and maintain green spaces in Felsted Parish; to secure a faster and more consistent broadband delivery service; to encourage and protect the provision of adequate medical services to Felsted people and to protect and promote the provision of a full range of amenities in Felsted Parish.

Risk Analysis

5.

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
That the Village Plan is not taken into account as a material consideration	1. Little - Officers will be aware of the plan and will include reference to it in any relevant reports	2. Some - The views of the community are not taken into account, devaluing community-led planning	The Parish Plan is included in a check list of items to consider when determining applications within Felsted Parish.

1 = Little or no risk or impact

2 = Some risk or impact – action may be necessary.

3 = Significant risk or impact – action required

4 = Near certainty of risk occurring, catastrophic effect or failure of project.