

North Community Forum – 26 June 2013

Local Plan	
Questions	Answers
It is a year since consultation took place on the local plan and was updated in March ignored all site allocations. Matter for resignation, there is a lack of response and regard to community views.	Public said they were happy with Option 2 (1,200 houses in Saffron Walden) now it has been proposed 880 under the new scheme.
19,387 responded to consultation and Council has not listened to people.	Pledge to option 4 if regional spatial strategy was reviewed we said the Council would amend the plan if it changed and that is what we have done. Consultation is not a referendum. Twenty years ago there was a huge campaign against Swan Meadow and Council had to make a decision which I think all would agree has been an asset.
3,000 people's objections have disappeared from the Council's website which is worrying.	The Local Development Framework working group – exhibitions factual positions recorded. 80,000 people live in Uttlesford. Comments are available on the website.
What analysis has been undertaken of the 3,000 responses?	A lot of people have said they do not want 800 houses in Saffron Walden but this is a district wide plan. Planning inspectors would not allow for a plan without growth in Saffron Walden
<p>You commented about Swan Meadow which I think is a disaster and in completely the wrong location. Saffron Walden is an ancient medieval town people's houses flood because the water meadow was removed. Friday before Christmas the car park was not full. It is outrageous you say it was a good decision.</p> <p>How many homes do we actually need? We are building houses that are not affordable for people who work locally. There is 1,500 waiting for housing on the Council's waiting list.</p>	<p>The Council has over 1500 on the waiting list. In Dunmow 50 houses on the Sector 4 development will be affordable and will go to people on Uttlesford's waiting list. There will be 5% bungalows for elderly people also care homes. Dunmow will house 55 bed and 70 elsewhere</p> <p>The Council has to build houses where the land is available.</p> <p>Of 40% over 14 in number. Of that 40% 70% will be houses for rent though housing associations the remaining 30% will be shared equity as in recent developments in Saffron Walden. This enables people to get on the housing ladder.</p>
<p>Everyone has a plan until they get punched in the face. Inspectors will not approve a plan of less than 15 years. Uttlesford District Council has no coherent plan. Councillor Rolfe said the London Borough of Haringey which went through, but this was before planning policy was in place.</p> <p>Melton Mowbray was rejected for only having a plan for 13 years and also because services were on the opposite side of the town, sounds</p>	<p>1 No it is not policy. The Council has a legal obligation to consider that. Applicants have legal rights too. Applications continue to come forward and have to be considered.</p> <p>2, We cannot go ahead without Highways Agency – this is laid down procedure in the legislation.</p> <p>3 We are continually in touch with the Inspector. National Planning Policy Framework says it</p>

<p>familiar? Public have not seen results of the consultation. Councillor Ketteridge said job of Essex County Council to put in a plan, if Highways Agency hasn't supplied the information, why are we waiting? Councillor Rolfe said the Council is listening but you are not hearing.</p> <p>1, Without a policy we are letting developments happen as we can't stop it. 2 Why are we waiting for Highways Agency? 3 Why not talk to the Planning Inspector now?</p>	<p>needs to be drawn up over an appropriate timescale, preferably 15 years, not it must be 15 years. Many authorities are in the same boat, we do not have a 5 year land supply because Woodlands Park only builds 15 houses per annum so the Inspector will not take that into account.</p>
<p>Why do you not have a 15 year plan?</p>	<p>Working as a demographic basis over a 13 year plan period. We consulted on preferred sites</p>
<p>Local Plan it is not hundreds of Council without one rather less than that in England. When went out to consultation, Great Chesterford had suddenly vanished off the options. If land were available for Great Chesterford there are two senior councillors and a senior officer who reside there. What steps have been taken to avoid undue influence in that decision?</p>	<p>Strategic land assessment, this e-mail went out to every land owner and developer when they came back, parcels of land were researched for sustainability. If land is not put forward it is deemed unavailable. Can't talk to developers if land not in SHLAA.</p> <p>Resent that allegation that officers influence decisions on their back door. It is for members of the Planning Committee to make the final decision.</p> <p>Government is concentrating on economic growth as their over arching goal, for clarity this is their pledge and their wish for houses to be built. The emphasis is wholly on sustainable development the Government is really majoring on this.</p> <p>We are dealing with this through the local plan. If councils do not have a five year supply of land will be in trouble. We will be vulnerable to developers otherwise. This is happening everywhere not just Uttlesford, we want to achieve this in a structured way.</p>
<p>In Dunmow between 2001 – 11, 280 houses per annum. People and houses increased at 3% per annum.</p> <p>82% went to people from outside the district. Dunmow, under the neighbourhood development plan faces applications for 1,200 houses built over a 7 year period. Taking into account 800 proposed by Wickford 70 – 90 houses per annum in Dunmow. This is uncontrolled expansion how will Uttlesford District Council protect Dunmow?</p>	<p>Acknowledge that Dunmow and Eisenham are taking a large proportion of the development.</p>
<p>How are we go from 3% over a 4 years period to 7% per annum?</p>	<p>There are three elements to sustainability, economic, environment and social and a weight</p>

	<p>is put against each of these factors. Government's emphasis is getting things off the ground.</p> <p>People moving into the district we have no control on the market, however in relation to the 40% affordable houses this is for local people or those with local connections.</p> <p>Herbert's Farm Estate and Little Walden Road were won on appeal by the Inspectorate and you lose control of the process.</p>
<p>No clear answers to questions, difficult to trust the process. Not seen any evidence of social housing.</p> <p>1, Gt Chesterford, why can't we put houses there?</p> <p>2 People do not see a holistic plan. Schools, education, retail, roads etc.</p>	<p>Every piece of land around Uttlesford has developer land around it. In 2007 Option 4 was overwhelming opposed so moved away from that will not make sense now to put 3,000 in one place.</p> <p>Not just about housing framework its supply of water, employment and land.</p>
<p>Government's economic policy cannot rely on that. Discussion of numbers or locations of houses. Sight of important issues lost economy and escalating housing prices for such a long time. What numbers of jobs is UDC expected to plan for and can create if developments go ahead? Plans for sewerage works and secondary schools in area.</p>	<p>Employment sites existing at Shire Hill Industrial Estate through to Radwinter Road and out near Stansted Airport (A120 – M11) both are part of the local plan. Lots of opportunity at Chesterford Park.</p> <p>Secondary School a statement willing to provide schooling for education in town. Essex County Council is responsible for education. Water Boards responsible for sewage.</p>
<p>How many people do you expect to be employed locally? Large numbers already work outside of Uttlesford?</p>	<p>Required in the local plan to provide employment land.</p>
<p>Education proposals were made for expansion. Discussion not being had with Essex County Council.</p> <p>Traffic problems – Head of Fire Service already warnings of dangers of appliances to get to areas within the town.</p> <p>Pollution above legal level in certain areas is not addressed by Uttlesford or Essex County Council.</p> <p>When applications are considered in absence of Highways Plan. Please be assured they will not be passed if pollution increased.</p> <p>I have asked to see Highways Plan as the elected local County Councillor and have been told by UDC I won't see sight of it.</p>	<p>The Plan was commissioned by Uttlesford and we will see it first.</p> <p>Economic development plan based on an economic scenario could make a decision to go for an economic growth agenda.</p> <p>As an Essex County Councillor you could be talking to the Highways Agency and put pressure on them to resolve this matter.</p> <p>Fire station difficult to find a suitable alternative.</p> <p>Essex County Council Highways is a consultee if they say it is acceptable then Uttlesford cannot overturn it.</p> <p>Essex County Council not finished the plan,</p>

Highways Ranger Services

Question	Answers
High Street in Saffron Walden has lots of trip hazards. Outside the Temeraire Public House there is a 6 inch deep and 6 inch wide rain grill in the pavement. I have reported this to Highways about 6 months ago. Can this be looked at?	This is not within the scope of the Rangers service. The request needs to go through Saffron Walden Town Council to Essex Highways Maintenance, or report it direct on the Essex Highways website.
Is the Ranger service countywide? Do you or Essex County Council take junk out of hedgerows?	It is a countywide initiative. No Essex Highways do not have the responsibility to remove rubbish from hedgerows this is a District function.
Thank you for all the work you have done in Debden	I will pass this compliment on to the Rangers team.
Does the Highways Rangers carry out regular maintenance in Saffron Walden Town Centre? Outside Costcutters there are a lot of chewing gum and cigarette butts on the pavements. Needs a regular cleaning regime.	Rangers carry out one off jobs for the Town Council. I understand the Town Council are very much aware of this problem of chewing gum and are looking into the best, most cost effective way to remove. Cigarette butts is an on-going problem.
If County Highways identify a reported fault as a low priority could it be passed to the Highways Rangers?	That would all depend on the request and the nature of the job. You can submit a request to the Rangers via your local Town/Parish Council.
Think this is a jolly good idea. Is there anything the Rangers could do to manage verges? Could they reinstate footpaths in Walden Road?	Verges are the responsibility of Essex Highways unless they have a local agreement with a Town or Parish Council. The Rangers do carry out some verge clearance, not within the remit of Essex Highways, on request from Town or Parish Council, but must be on land owned by ECC or Parish Council.
Drains could Rangers tackle them?	No, it is a Highway's maintenance issue, outside the remit of the Rangers.

Economic Development	
Question	Answers
Arkesden not getting very far with Buzz COM no responses and no where to put receiving dishes. Should look at County Broadband who has permission to put dishes on churches.	Two sites agreed today for Buzz COM equipment. They are not the only show in town, UDC have giving support. We are trying to plug the gap until more providers are in place.
The Council should be working with local businesses and ensure they pay the living wage to employees, which would assist the economy.	
Joined up thinking is needed. The other day I sat in a traffic jam in Walden. Are you really dedicated to improving buses in Saffron Walden? How will the extra traffic contribute to the vitality in Saffron Walden? You take about improving the town centre yet Councillors approved out of town shopping centre.	