

LITTLE WALTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Extra-Ordinary Meeting held on 10 March 2018 at 7:30pm in the Tufnell Hall

Present: Councillors Edith Robertson (Chair)
 Peter Brown
 Tony Campen
 Malcolm Taylor
 Jackie Ketley
 Teresa Dando
 Barbara Denny
 Suzanne Walker
Clerk Councillor Knight
City Councillor Councillor Aldridge
County Councillor Councillor Aldridge
25 members of the public were present

Meeting commenced at 3.00pm

18/64 Apologies

Received from Councillors Goff and Kingham.

18/65 Declarations of Interest

None.

18/66 Public Forum – To receive any representations from the Public

The Chairman explained the two sites which are within this Parish being a proposal for 450 houses and an additional access road to the hospital at Blasford Hill and some 3,000 houses north of Essex Regiment Way which is described as a Garden Village. The plan refers to the construction of a North East bypass but it is unclear if that road will be completed by the end of the plan period. Chelmsford City Council had cancelled their original exhibition due to the fear of bad weather and the subsequent Parish Council meeting had been poorly attended. The City Council's exhibition had then taken place on 8 March and thus a fresh meeting had been convened by the Parish Council to hear residents' views. It was explained that residents should also respond to the City Council and the deadline is 14 March. There are also proposals for development in Great Leighs which will have an impact upon traffic. It was confirmed that not only will the Parish Council respond but also a response will be made with other Parishes with whom the Parish Council has been collaborating and planning and traffic reports have been commissioned to support those responses.

At the request of a resident the County and City Councillors identified themselves.

A resident from Domsey Lane complained that her area of the Parish will face a dramatic change as at present it is very rural. She was concerned that some other existing housing has become very overlooked by new development and would wish the changes to environment to be considered together with sympathetic landscaping.

A resident from Chelmer Avenue requested that there be green buffers.

A resident from Blasford Hill was concerned that the plan makes no reference to Little Waltham. She was concerned regarding the types of houses that may be built and felt that a new access road from Blasford Hill may present a danger regarding extra traffic.

A resident asked about the green belt and whether it would be preferable for houses to be built in closer proximity to the A12 such as in the vicinity of Highlands Park. It was noted

that although the City Council has reviewed green buffers there has been no review of the Green Belt and that land in the vicinity of Little Waltham is a higher agricultural grade. Comments were also made about the suitability of Hammonds Farm as it is closer to the A12

A resident noted that the extra roads would not increase capacity but only deal with the extra housing so there would be no benefit gained. It was noted that Braintree District Council is also progressing its local plan which will increase traffic by way of additional development.

A resident mentioned the impact upon amenities and the impact on this beautiful area.

A resident mentioned the location of green wedges and the potential position of a suggested Country Park.

A resident raised a concern regarding the capacity of schools and medical facilities including GP surgeries.

Comments were made by a resident regarding the fact that it is not possible to walk across Essex Regiment Way and it was mentioned that a crossing is contemplated in the draft plan.

Councillor Aldridge spoke and raised concerns regarding the ability of infrastructure to cope with the proposed development including roads, school and medical facilities.

Councillor Knight spoke to confirm his opposition to the plans as it will overwhelm this Parish and said that he is available to residents.

18/67 To consider Chelmsford City Council Local Plan

The Parish Council is drafting its response and objections will be made on the basis of whether infrastructure can cope with the proposed development, whether roads will be delivered as promised in the plan, the fact that there has been no review of the Green belt thus resulting in high grade agricultural land in this area being considered for development.

Meeting concluded at 3.45pm