



Hockley Residents Association

www.hockleyresidents.co.uk

Community Update January 2011

Happy New Year! The UK enters 2011 in the grip of one of the coldest winters on record and facing further cutbacks in council services due the enforced budget cutbacks. All this means that community spirit and cooperation will become increasingly important.

Hockley has a great record of residents' working together and the opening of the Massive youth centre last summer is a great example. A few residents, concerned that Hockley's youth should have somewhere to call their own, combined to work together to raise fund, build and run a youth centre. We wish them well going forward and hope we can build on this example. For instance, it is clear that ECC can no longer provide adequate snow clearance and we hope that local residents and shopkeepers can work together to keep pavements clear and enable our older residents to walk to the shops in bad weather.

In order to go forward we need to go back to 'the old days' and the HRA will play its part. Lets make 2011 a year to be proud of.

Parish councillor vacancy: With the government's Localism Bill on the horizon, it is likely that Parish Councils will play an increasingly important role in future. If you are interested in standing for the current vacancy, contact the council.

HRA Outings: As usual, the HRA has put together a range of outings for 2011, which all go by coach with pick ups around Hockley, so no transfers to worry about!

- Friday 4th March - A guided tour of Mayfair, with its many surprising and interesting places, followed by the Royal Opera House at Covent Garden.
- Saturday 14th May – Half a Sixpence at Cliffs Pavilion. Presented by Southend Operatic Society.
- Sunday 22nd May – We start in seaside Bognor Regis, with sites of historic interest, followed by Ramster Garden, which is a 20 acre woodland garden.
- Monday 13th to Friday 17th June_We will stay at Torquay's 5 star Barcelo` Imperial Hotel overlooking the sea, with daily outings to the surrounding area and local attractions.
- Sunday 10th July – Aldeburgh & Suffolk Punch Horse Centre. In the morning you can either go to Snape Maltings (mainly a shopping area), or go on to Aldeburgh and spend your time by the sea. In the afternoon we visit the Suffolk Punch Horse Centre.
- Thursday 11th August – Enjoy a guided tour of picturesque towns and villages of the Buckinghamshire Chilterns. We drive through the beautiful "Chequers" valley. Back to old Beaconsfield for lunch (included in cost), then we will visit the Jordans Meeting House built in 1688. Nearby is the Mayflower Barn said to be built from timbers of the Mayflower ship that took the Pilgrim Fathers to America.
- Saturday 24th September – The Wool Churches of East Anglia and Bury St. Edmunds. A guided tour of the Churches in the picture post card villages that were involved in the wool trade. After lunch we visit Bury St. Edmunds, a town with many places of interest, including the Abbey Gardens, Theatre Royal (National Trust) and The Nutshell (the smallest Inn in the country).
- Sunday 30th October – Rutland Water & Burghley House. At Rutland Water, where you get a chance to have a short boat trip around the largest man made reservoir in Western Europe. Followed by a visit to Burghley House, built between 1555 and 1587.

If you are interested in any of these outings please tel. Brian on 01702 204334.

Hockley Area Action Plan (HAAP)

The future of Hockley is once again up for debate. Rochford District Council (RDC) have put forward another 5 options for change, ranging from minimal change to major redevelopment, including an additional 149 homes. Details of the proposals can be found at : <http://www.hockleyresidents.co.uk/Other/>. They are also in the library and in the Winter edition of Rochford Matters.

In the past, you have told us that your priorities are:

1. Maintain Hockley's village character
2. Improve highways, particularly the Spa roundabout
3. No large supermarkets
4. No major redevelopment of Eldon Way; keeping the leisure facilities.

The HRA has carefully considered the new proposals but do not believe any of the options meet the above requirements, whilst still taking Hockley forward. The proposals create more retail units, and offices (whilst admitting demand is low!), and seem geared towards a town rather than a village location. We are also concerned that the Highways options are insufficiently developed and may not be feasible.

However, we do not believe that doing nothing is an option – the shopping area is clearly in need in revitalisation in order to meet tomorrow's challenges. The HRA has therefore compiled an alternative proposal as detailed below. This builds on the council's Option 2 and aims to create a more focussed shopping area along Spa Road, with fewer vehicle entrances (to improve traffic flows and safety) and more parking behind the shops, which is accessed via Eldon Way. They also aim to redevelop the station area with extra homes and drop-off points. If you support these views, please use the suggested response below.

The HAAP is extremely important as it will set the planning guidelines for years to come and will affect your future and that of your children. So, whether you agree with us; prefer one of the council's options; or even do not agree with any of them, please tell RDC either:

- online at <http://rochford.jdi-consult.net/ldf/> or
- write/email them at the address below by 4 February 2011.

Copies of our suggested response can be downloaded from <http://www.hockleyresidents.co.uk/Other/>

Costcutters: We were extremely sorry to learn of the recent fire at the newly refurbished Costcutters store and hope they will be back up and running soon. Congratulations to the Harrison's restaurant staff whose prompt action in raising the alarm averted what could have been a disaster.

RDC Central Area Committee: Your next opportunity to quiz local councillors is on 13 January at 7:30pm in Hawkwell Village Hall.

Contacting the HRA: A reminder that our meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm in Kilnfield House (by the station) and are open to all members of the public. Our next meeting is on 11 January.

We would also welcome your comments via our Facebook page – Hockley Residents.

Thank you for your ongoing support – best wishes for 2011.

To Planning Department, Rochford District Council, Freepost CL1858, South St, Rochford, SS4 1BW
(or email: planning.policy@rochford.gov.uk)

HAAP Consultation January 2011

I/we wish to register the following objections regarding the above consultation:

Chapter 4. Overarching Frame work: **Object:** Previous consultations have made clear that highways infrastructure improvements to the key junctions at: Spa roundabout; Eldon Way; Station Approach and Plumberow need to be determined as a precursor to any redevelopment. Insufficient attention has been paid to these key requirements.

Option 1: **Object:** Insufficient benefits.

Option 2a: **Object:** Inappropriate changes and missed opportunities.

Options 3: **Object:** Inappropriate changes and over development.

Options 3a: **Object:** Inappropriate changes and over development.

Chapter 8. Transport options: **Object:** Previous consultations have made clear that highways infrastructure improvements to the key junctions at: Spa roundabout; Eldon Way; Station Approach and Plumberow need to be determined as a precursor to any redevelopment. Insufficient attention has been paid to these key requirements and the sketch proposals provided have not been researched and may not be viable.

Option 2: **Object:** This option forms the basis of an appropriate plan but does not go far enough but **support** an enhanced version as follows (changes in italics):

Roads (*key priority and subject to viability confirmation*)

- Improvements to Spa Roundabout e.g. Slip lanes or Table top crossing
- *Improvements to Eldon Way, Station Approach, and Plumberow junctions*

Parking:

- *Added/Consolidated parking square behind shops on west side of Spa Road reached via Eldon Way and (if possible) Bramerton Rd*
- *Added on-street parallel parking in Spa Road and pick-up/drop-off points both sides of Hockley Station*

Building changes

- *Redevelop shops on Southside of Main Road, opposite Potters, to remove 'pinch -point' on B1013*
- *Change from retail to housing at Costcutters Parade of shops*
- Modernised retail units with 4 flats above Seemore Glass
- *Modernised retail units with 2 added retail units at Factory Shop/Car park area (to remain single storey)*
- *Redevelop Co-Op Undertakers etc and extend to join existing shops either side, removing access roads creating additional Retail*
- Community centre with library/health centre/shops at current library location with 13 flats and 2 retail units
- ~~*2 large format retail units in Eldon Way (delete from proposals)*~~
- Replacement of one industrial building with light industry/ offices/ parking square on Eldon Way
- Retail unit near station in Spa Road replaced by house
- *Housing on north side of Station along Plumberow Ave, to include railway drop-off point*
- *Retail option (possibly a market) to be considered for Sorting Office site*
- *Options for undeveloped portion of Foundry Estate to be considered.*

General

- Enhanced station frontage & Pedestrian link to Eldon Way (*but care re safety considerations*)
- Enhanced shop fronts, paving and streetscape Spa Road / Main Road / Southend Road
- Improved safety, consolidated and new leisure space on Eldon Way
- Flexible employment opportunities, enhanced frontages to leisure/other buildings on Eldon Way
- New link through Catholic Church from Spa Road to Southend Road

Cont'd.....

Signed

Name

Address

Date2011

(NB Closing date 5:00pm 4 February 2011)