

Hockley Parish Plan Group

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Proposed Urgent Care Centre at Southend Hospital

- NHS South East Essex is developing plans for an Urgent Care Centre at the front of A&E at Southend Hospital. Treatment in the urgent care centre will be provided by primary care practitioners (i.e. GPs and practice nurses). This will be a two year pilot which will be assessed and evaluated on a regular basis. If the pilot proves successful, NHS South East Essex will then go out to tender for the new service.
- The definition of urgent care is '*care and support that patients define as being immediately necessary, that is of a non-life threatening nature*'. Within the philosophy of urgent care provision is the notion of helping the patient to help themselves, rather than always providing treatment. Such supportive help might be taking the time to help the patient understand their condition and providing them with supportive information, or it might be registering them with a GP or dentist and making an appointment for them for the following day.
- On arrival all patients will be seen and assessed (triaged) by a GP, who will decide which of these options would be appropriate:
 - Life-threatening cases or patients needing the more specialist treatment provided by A&E staff will be taken direct to A&E
 - Patients needing urgent care will be directed to the reception desk to be booked in, and then receive clinical treatment/advice from a primary care practitioner (GP or nurse)
 - Non-urgent cases will be given supported redirection. For example, this might be suggesting that they make an appointment with their GP or visit their local pharmacist.
- The urgent care centre service will be operational 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, integrating fully with the existing hospital and out of hospital services, including out-of-hours services. Telephone advice and triage will also be available for those people who prefer to ring in. The service will be GP led multi-disciplinary team. They will all have the appropriate experience and expertise and training to take on this role.
- Over the two years of the pilot, the PCT will also develop a comprehensive range of intermediate or out of hospital services that will allow people to be supported at home or receive care closer to home.

NHS Budget Cuts

- NHS South East Essex has been advised to expect no growth in its budget from 2011/12 onwards. As costs will continue to rise, this effectively means cuts in services. The planned opening of two primary care centres in Westcliff has been put back to October 2011. Also a plan to open a new centre at Southend Hospital for non-emergency injuries and illnesses has been delayed by five months.

Good News for Bus Users

- After lengthy discussions with Essex County Council, HPPG are pleased to announce that additional bus shelters have been constructed in Hockley, consistent with the wishes of local residents, and as reported in the Hockley Parish Plan. New bus shelters can be found in Spa Road outside the Chinese takeaway, and in Greensward Lane near Greensward Academy.
- Following activities by Hockley Residents Association, HPPG and other local community groups, we are pleased to announce that Arriva are reverting to their previous frequency of six buses per hour to / from Southend (four No. 7s via Hockley and two No. 8s via Hawkwell) with effect from 4th May. Services to / from Rayleigh will be unchanged, i.e. one No. 7 and one No. 8.
- This is evidence that the community working together can get results. However, we must not forget the old saying – use it or lose it.

Rochford District Council's proposed Core Strategy Preferred Options

- The Core Strategy Submission Document together with consultation responses has been completed and was submitted to the Secretary of State on 25th January 2010.
- The next stage is the Examination in Public, the timetable for which is determined by the Planning Inspectorate Service who oversees the examination on behalf of the Government, but is likely to take place around February 2010. If found to be sound following the Examination in Public, the Council may then adopt the document.
- Based on recommendations from residents in the Hockley Parish Plan, HPPG has the following issues with the final version:
 - Development of a large scale housing estate (suggested as 150-200 residential units) on Eldon Way Industrial Estate, which leads to the loss of greenbelt / open spaces in the vicinity of Cherry Orchard Lane to accommodate the industrial units from Eldon Way
 - Inadequate infrastructure in terms of highway networks, public transport, parking facilities, school places, community services, and healthcare, to match the proposed housing allocations in Hockley and surrounding parishes to the east of Hockley.
 - The strategy does not include any details on development costs and responsibilities.

Southend Airport Expansion Proposals

- Southend Airport bosses submitted a planning application on Tuesday 13th October to extend the runway from 1,605 to 1,905 metres to allow larger jets to carry business and leisure passengers to destinations all over Europe. If approved, they hope to have the new runway operational by 2011, providing job opportunities. The plan is to complete the runway extension, the new terminal, and the diversion of Eastwoodbury Lane by May 2011 in time for the 2012 Olympics.
- To address some of the main concerns of residents, the new plan includes a reduction in the number of night flights from 900 to 120 per month, and to reduce the proposed number of flights over Leigh by increasing the number over Rochford / Stambridge areas.
- The plan was approved by Rochford District Council in December 2009 and Southend District Council on 20th January 2010. The plan will now be reviewed by the Government before final approval.
- The updated version of the Joint Area Action Plan preferred options for the regeneration of London Southend Airport and including the development of new Business Parks in the adjacent area has been deferred, pending a response from the Secretary of State on the above application.
- The new rail station is currently under construction and planned to open mid 2010.
- A planning application for a new control tower falls within criteria of permitted development and as such can be considered as approved.
- HPPG has previously registered concerns on air quality pollution, noise, and traffic congestion in the Hockley area.

Proposed Development in Stambridge

- A planning application from Colonnade Land LLP to construct 326 homes in the Coombes Farm area in Stambridge Parish was unanimously rejected by Rochford District Council primarily for the following reasons:
 - Not in accordance with Rochford District Replacement Local Plan or Rochford Core Strategy
 - Inappropriate development of greenbelt (agricultural to residential)
 - Environmental protection
- An appeal has been raised by the developers

Proposed Development in Hawkwell

- A planning application from David Wilson Homes to construct 330 homes adjacent to Clements Hall in Hawkwell West Parish was unanimously rejected by Rochford District Council primarily for the following reasons:
 - Not in accordance with Rochford District Core Strategy (maximum 175 homes in Hawkwell)
 - Inappropriate use of greenbelt
 - Buildings, including 3 storey buildings, out of character to the locality
- An appeal has been raised by the developers

Rochford District Council's Proposals for Hockley Town Centre Development (HAAP)

- An updated version of options for Hockley Town Centre development is proposed to be available for May 2010, after which there will be a further public consultation.
- HPPG has several issues with the current proposed options including:
 - Who will pay for redevelopment and related infrastructure
 - Location and size of the proposed supermarket
 - Location of the proposed healthcare centre and community hub
 - Possible loss of the Royal Mail sorting office if relocated
 - Will loss of jobs on Eldon Way Estate be offset by new jobs in retail, commerce and leisure?
 - Redevelopment of Spa junction is not radical enough to prevent traffic congestion
 - No proposals to improve public transport
- A Public Meeting was held on 10th November at Greensward Academy when senior RDC councillors answered questions on HAAP. There were strong feelings in the audience that the Options paper had been very badly presented and did not support the views of local residents and businesses.
- RDC's proposals for **Rochford Town Centre Development** and **Rayleigh Town Centre Development** have been published for public consultation and responses are under review.

Hockley Village Centre Redevelopment Survey

- A list of the total comments in the survey plus an analysis of key 'wants and don't wants' from local residents have been issued to RDC Planning department to supplement the survey results published in October 2009, and assist in the preparation of the next version of HAAP.
- The **key** requirements of Hockley residents can be summarized as follows:
 - Village atmosphere and character must be retained – Hockley must not become a small town
 - No major housing developments as infrastructure, space and traffic are already at breaking point
 - No major redevelopment of the shopping area – minor improvements and renovations only
 - Better range / variety of retail outlets by filling vacant premises with traditional village type shops with no more takeaways / fast food outlets / cafes / estate agents / charity shops
 - Better quality supermarket in terms of product choice, layout and prices - no large supermarket due to the adverse effect on small local businesses, increased traffic and inadequate parking
 - No major redevelopment of Eldon Way Industrial Estate leading to relocation of businesses to greenbelt locations, but support for more leisure facilities, a youth centre, and possibly a healthcare centre
 - Free or cheaper short term parking and availability of parking spaces nearer to the shops to support local businesses and traders, and discourage residents from shopping outside the village at large stores nearby that provide free parking and a full product range
 - Improved junctions (Spa pub, Hockley Station, Plumberow Avenue, Folly Lane, Hockley Rise), relocation of pedestrian crossings from junctions and / or replacement by pelican crossings, and relocation of bus stops with lay-bys at all stops to enhance traffic flow

Farmers Market in Hockley

- Monthly Farmers Markets were started up in October 2009. They are held on the second Saturday of the month at the Old Fire Station, where a quality selection of products can be found such as cheeses, pickles, jams, honey, meat, bread, cakes, cards, sweets and plants as well as a greengrocer's stall. There is also a place to have teas and cakes, and a chat with other local residents and local councillors.
- Please support this initiative from Hockley Parish Council, which is consistent with the village character frequently requested by local residents.

HPPG Quiz to support the MASSIVE Project

- A sell out quiz was organised on 5th February by HPPG at Hockley Public Hall in Bullwood Road to raise funds to support the launch of the new youth centre in Eldon Way. The organisational efforts of volunteers from HPPG, MASSIVE and Hockley Public Hall, plus the skills of quizmaster Trevor Fulcher ensured a very successful and entertaining evening.
- Raffle prizes and donations were provided by Southend Theatre Group (Tickets for Calendar Girls at Cliffs Pavilion 1st – 6th March can be obtained from the Box Office 01702 351135), Greensward Academy, Urban Bar & Bistro, Co-op Supermarket, and volunteers from HPPG, MASSIVE and Hockley Public Hall.
- A total of £1,912 was raised from ticket / raffle sales (£662), and very generous cash donations from **Barclays Bank** (£750) and **Hockley Residents Association** (£500).

The MASSIVE Project (Essex) – Latest Status

- The Massive Project is well under way, building work to convert the upstairs of an Eldon Way industrial unit into a youth centre for 11 to 17 years olds began during the first bad weather, and continues at pace. A surprisingly large space is being turned into two areas, one quite cavernous and suitable for games, theatre, or anything else for that matter, and a smaller more intimate area, with the required facilities of toilets and kitchen.
- The smaller room is to have soft seating, low tables, TV's, computers, and so on. The larger area has a cafeteria and tables and chairs, and will have plenty of space left for table games, such as table tennis, pool and air hockey.
- It is hoped to be able to afford a stage at one end, and a music mixing desk.
- A disabled access lift is being installed as is a fire escape along the side of the building.
- The money raised so far has been sufficient to get the majority of the work finished, plus we have more in hand for rent and running expenses. Many local people have been generous with donations, of both money and work, which has helped to stretch the funds raised from bequests and other funding bodies' grants.
- In addition to the pledge of £2,500 for furnishings in last year's budget, HPC have set aside a further £7,500 for 6 months rent for the Centre, to be paid in the next financial year beginning April 2010.
- The MASSIVE Project is a private charity, made up entirely of local residents, and is supported by HPPG, HRA, and the Parish Councils, all of whom have contributed in some way. We welcome anyone who has an interest to contact the committee for information, or to offer help. Tel 01702 204148.

Traffic flow and Road Safety

- **Making the Links – Making it Happen** - Making the Links is an initiative from Essex County Council to provide funding and help to Parishes wishing to carry out actions from their Parish plans. The money comes from ECC via Rural Community Council of Essex to the Parish council who have to match it with 20% of the cost from their precept. The Parish council and the Parish Plan Group have to agree a number one priority.
- HPPG met the Parish council in October 2008 and agreed a whole raft of possible actions. Our top priority was one or two Pelican crossings but having looked at the costs we felt that this was outside the range of the Making the Links fund. So our number one priority was a road safety item of vehicle activated flashing speed or message warning signs on all the approach roads to Hockley from Rayleigh, Hawkwell and Ashingdon. HPC had already applied for funding for two solar powered signs each side of Greensward Academy so that took care of the road from Ashingdon.
- HPC therefore applied for funding for two signs on the approaches from Hawkwell and Rayleigh. Two solar powered signs have now been installed on the Rayleigh road near Fountain Lane and at the top of White Hart hill near Hockley Rise.

Shop at my Local Campaign – Your Opportunity to Get Involved

- Five reasons to shop locally:
 - Friendly and personal service
 - Wide variety of quality goods
 - Invest in your community
 - Reduce your carbon footprint
 - Sustain local businesses and jobs
- Join the campaign to access:
 - A range of exclusive vouchers and discounts
 - Information about community events
 - The online business directory
 - Shop at my Local news
- Contact www.shopatmylocal.com for more details