



COLCHESTER ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

Minutes of the Colchester Association of Local Councils meeting held on Thursday 9th. June 2016 at 7pm in the Marks Tey Village Hall

Present: Cllr John Gili-Ross (JGR) Chairman, Robert Johnstone (Vice-Chairman), Alan Walker Marks Tey, Lawrence Alexander Fordham PC, Mick Mead Gt. Horkesley, Ian Moore & Brian Turner Layer de la Haye, Andrews Stacey & Chris Graves Langham, Neil Lodge Wivenhoe, John Lindsay Messing cum Inworth, Brian Hindley & Chris Clark Dedham, Steve Bays Tiptree, Malcolm Bartier Copford with Easthorpe, Susan Chamley Chappel, Alan Frost Abberton & Langenhoe & Mark Graham Mount Bures

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and especially welcomed some new faces around the table. Thanks to Laura Chase (CBC Planning) who has attended previous CALC meetings.

1) To receive apologies. There were no apologies received

2) To confirm the minutes of the last meeting held on 3rd. March 2016

This was proposed by M. Bartier and seconded by R. Johnson.

This was agreed unanimously and the minutes were signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

3) Guest Speaker Laura Chase – Colchester BC Planning to discuss the consultation arrangements for the Local Plan in July and August after its consideration by the Local Plan Committee.

Laura started by saying that she wanted to come when the consultation period was over but today she would just be giving the members an up-to-date knowledge of where CBC is at with the local plan.

CBC went out for consultation on the “Call for sites process” and land owners have come forward offering land for development. The sites must be sustainable and Colchester Borough Council has few remaining brown fill sites. The local plan aims to provide a “Garden Village Communities, meaning the larger proposed sites are being planned over the longer term.

CBC is working closely with Tendring Council and Braintree District Council. BDC is slightly ahead of CBC regarding the draft plan and CBC draft plan meeting has changed dates from 16.06.16 to Tuesday 5th. July 2016. The local planning committee meeting is to make recommendations whether CBC should go out for consultation.

CBC has earmarked certain Strategic Development Sites and will be concentrating on these sites together with numerous documents / plans.

In the next consultation phase, up to 14 venues will be visited to spread the word before finalising the local plan document. CBC is to send out event posters as well as using social media and the Parish Council network. The Consultation documents will be made available for “on line” comments.

CBC has until 24.06.16 as a deadline for posters etc. to be circulated to Parish Councils. BDC has already published its Local Plan and has part 1 in place.

Signed.....1st. September 2016



COLCHESTER ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

The LP will look at schools, doctors, infrastructure, recreational facilities as well as housing.

Questions and Answers.

What is the CBC definition of a “Garden Village”.

- Laura stated that it is devised on sustainability / community development trust / infrastructure / new community. There are outline plans for establishing Garden Villages at Greenstead and Great Tey and a projection of 10 years before completing significant future development.

Has CBC stopped working on the Local Plan until after the elections?”

- Laura had no knowledge of this happening at CBC.

7000 houses have been suggested in the Wivenhoe area including to the east of Colchester.

- This particular development will take up to 2050 to complete and the housing pans proposed within the Wivenhoe NP would form part of this number.

Should Councils consider putting a Neighbourhood Plan in place if one is not already being worked on.

- Many Councils across the borough have started neighbourhood planning. These were being acknowledged within the Local Plan
- M. Bartier asked Laura “when is the Garden City infrastructure being put into place as Wivenhoe is in the later stages of an NP which deals with local issues and planning in the defined plan area which may overlap with the Local Plan covering the whole of the Colchester area. Laura stated the Local Plan must fit in with Government policy but will take into consideration the aspirations of NP’s.
- Alan Walker had seen a good report on Garden communities in the Tendring papers and agreed to send the clerk a link to the BDC part 1 for circulation to members.

When will the document be on the CBC website.

- The draft Local Plan should be on the website by 24th. June.

Infrastructure is controlled by Essex Highways and there appears to have been no direct communication between CBC and Essex Highways. Why?

- Laura stated communication is getting better between different organisations.

“The infrastructure development plan, which is the preferred options given to Government, but will ECC buy into your plan?”

- Laura stated they will be working with all their partner organisations.

After the consultation period are items still negotiable in the local plan or is it a done deal?”

- Laura stated that it will be what CBC thinks will work best for CBC.

Is the normal process being observed and Is CBC Full Council being involved with the local plan or are they only involved at the last stage?

- Laura said that the Local Plan committee puts the case to the Full Council for ratification. Councillors must get to their individual Local Plan committee member to try and influence their decision.

Signed.....1st. September 2016



COLCHESTER ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

What are Councils doing with respect to Neighbourhood Plans

- Tiptree PC stated they are a long way behind with their NP. They have an agreement with CBC to give their numbers to CBC. Not being very specific but CBC is assuming Tiptree will have a 15% growth in housing which equates to c. 650 houses.
- Myland Local Plan referendum is expected to be September '16.
- West Bergholt is at the final stages of production before submission to CBC and the Inspector.
- Fordham are doing a NP and are engaging fully with CBC.
- Social media plays an important role in engaging with residents and businesses.
- If no NP exists in Parishes then they will be expected to accept the LP determination for their respective areas.
- CBC attends all meetings for the CBC Local Plan in Wivenhoe.
- Members were asked if any Councils are not doing a NP and 7 members indicated they are not doing a NP.
- NP costs can be partially recovered by grants.

Joint ventures with other boroughs? Dedham has 3 boroughs bordering their Parish Council. Are CBC communicating with other districts/boroughs as well as Suffolk CC.

- Laura confirmed they are engaged but not as actively with Suffolk CC.

Alan Walker mentioned that the Councils must make sure that CBC produce the best Local Plan they can to provide support to the local communities.

Copford PC asked that if their NP is not produced on time could the Copford clerk liaise with CBC directly. Laura answered Yes

Dedham PC was advised not to go ahead with their NP as the ANOB plan will be sufficient. Is this true.

- Yes it would be a strong consideration.

The Chair thanked Laura for her interesting and informing talk and asked that she takes away all comments made.

4) To receive reports:

a) Treasurer' report

- Kevin Money informed the meeting that he had received the subscription of 2016/17 from 19 Councils. The bank account showed that CALC had £1591.30p in the current account and providing the remaining 10 Councils send in their subscriptions the association can continue financially

b) Local Highways Panel

- The LHP met after the last CALC meeting. Papers for the meeting were not sent in advance which in part is blamed on CBC's unwillingness to provide admin support for the LHP which provides highway and PROW funding for Borough projects. As CBC had a substantial budget underspend in 2015/16 it was queried why CBC does not fund the administration.

Signed.....1st. September 2016



COLCHESTER ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

- spent each year. It has not been possible to implement all schemes in the same financial year due to highway planning timescales.
- LHP first activity is to allocate funding to validate each project on the LHP list. Following validation the LHP then decides on the projects to continue with based upon options and costs established by the validation. After agreeing to implement a project it can still take over a year for the project to be delivered.
- The LHP meeting agreed validation costs for numerous projects in Rowhedge, Wakes Colne and Tiptree. A PROW in Myland – Braiswick footpath 41 – was approved for implementation following site visits.

Cycle Routes after a detailed discussion R. Johnson asked JGR to bring to the attention of the LHP - why was there no consultation on many recently implemented cycle routes. and gave an example of one cycle route where Councillors from CBC, ECC, and P&TC sector as well as local residents were against this scheme. JGR would bring this to the attention of the LHP.

c) Governance Board – Malcolm Bartier informed the meeting that he had nothing to report.

d) EALC - Brian Hindley informed the meeting that amongst the several matters discussed at the meeting the following is of interest to Councillors.

1. In respect of Devolution this will be a slow process and Parish and Town Councils may be required to supply more services into their communities than currently is the case.

EALC's ECC member, Councillor Mick Page, announced that the EALC President Councillor John Jowers has been appointed as ECC Deputy Chairman. He was pleased to announce that the CIF fund is continuing for this year and he will remain involved in the fund. A total of £120,000 is available for each District and Angela Balcombe said that there had been already been several expressions of interest. Councillors are urged to make their applications. A grant of £400 is available for halls and community building to implement WiFi and this will be restricted to the first 50 applicants.

2. The financial report of the EALC was given and reflects the success of the training offered by the EALC which has increased each year in recognition by the sector of the importance of quality training for all councilors and their staff. Already half of the courses had been filled for June and July. In July a new course on VAT will be offered
3. The Executive Committee was reminded that it is good practice and important to engender resident confidence and support that when Precepts are determined that councils detail the community projects that would be delivered by any increased precept particularly if the rise was higher than normal. Devolution will provide further opportunity for the sector to have greater financial responsibility for their futures
4. A recent HR survey conducted by EALC will be used to bring forward several initiatives in what EALC will provide in training terms. Not all Councils have a staffing committee and most have not had any training, which is one of the cornerstones of the Local Council Award Scheme that every Council should aim to achieve. Not all

Signed.....1st. September 2016



COLCHESTER ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

Councils have a separate Personnel Committee, although not often required they are extremely important and ready to be used if needed.

5. Essex Rural Partnership will have a meeting on 06.07.2016 when a new strategy will be launched.
6. Superfast Essex Broadband. An update of the present position was given and maps are available on the Superfast Essex website. Essex is on target to produce 96% coverage. Areas not covered by BT will have various alternative suppliers including satellite with funding provided by Government. Epping Forest is currently benefitting from a pilot programme to provide fibre directly to homes using a company called Gigaclear.
7. At a National level the possible move to end rates for public toilets is continuing via NALC.
8. New Councilors are encouraged to attend training courses. Essex has more clerks trained and undergoing CiLCA course than any other county.

5) Information Sharing:

It was proposed that CBC Chief Executive and or the Leader of the Council could be asked to attend a future CALC meeting. An alternative might be for representatives to meet with both the CEO and the Leader, to address topics including.

- Planning support for NP's
- Zone Wardens and their team
- LHP admin support
- NEEP support
- Relationships between County and Boroughs in relation to Highways

Local Community Action Panels (L-CAP) administered by CBC are changing to reflect the new ward boundaries that occurred in May. The police have agreed to support the proposed changes however some LCAP Chairs who are volunteers are not happy as the changes appear to be orientated more towards CBC administration and not the people they are intended to serve. Out of the 7 Chairs that attended the meeting half threatened to resign by the end of the meeting. It is unclear when CBC will agree how to proceed with LCAP's.

Wivenhoe's pontoon has been opened and is free with easy access for the public.

6) Date of next meetings:

Thursday 1st. September 2016 at Marks Tey Village Hall at 7pm

Thursday 1st. December 2016 at Marks Tey Village Hall at 7pm

Thursday 2nd. March 2017 at Marks Tey Village Hall at 7pm

Thursday 1st. June 2017 at Marks Tey Village Hall at 7pm

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.50pm and thanked everyone for attending

Signed.....1st. September 2016

Page 5

CALC Secretary/Treasurer: Kevin B. Money, 25 Boydin Close Witham Essex CM8 1PD: Tel:01376 521616

calc.clerk@gmail.com : <http://www.essexinfo.net/calc/>

CALC Chair: Cllr John Gili-Ross Tel: 01206 242236, email: john.giliross@gmail.com