

## **EB004 - Newsletter Articles**

### Spring 2013

#### Neighbourhood Plan

Thank you very much to everyone who returned their questionnaire about the Parish Plan despite some of you being unhappy about providing such information feeling that it was intrusive. The questionnaire was structured in such a way as to gather as much information as possible, anonymously, to give a 'picture' of our community in terms of demographic, travelling patterns, schooling needs, etc. This will feed into the sustainability aspects which will need to be addressed as part of producing a Neighbourhood Plan.

This opportunity comes about as a result of the Localism Act which received Royal Assent on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2011 after eleven months' parliamentary scrutiny, and was fully implemented in April 2012 by The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. The government published the National Planning Policy Framework in March 2012. This replaced the old lengthy and top down planning regulations and effectively put localism at the heart of future planning. Whatever plan we finally achieve will have to be in step with the Local Development Plan of Maldon District Council, which should be delivered in 2014, and this, in turn has to be in tune with both Essex County Council policy and Central Government policy.

This is a wonderful chance for our very small Parishes to have some autonomy in deciding what we as a community want to happen within our villages in the future; effectively it gives us a 'voice' and allows us to have aspirations and a degree of control. If you haven't already completed the form please do, as the larger the number of residents we have responding the better the chance of reflecting the widest possible view. Please return any completed forms to Vicky Anfilogoff at Fords Farm House, Hatfield Road, Langford or to the village shop at St. Giles' Church. Further copies are available if you have mislaid yours. We hope the information we gather will enable us to put forward plans that will enhance our two villages and endeavour to meet the requirements of our inhabitants for years to come.

### Summer 2013 Issue

#### Neighbourhood Plan Focus Groups

Saturday 29th June

Langford & Ulting Village Hall (for Langford)

Saturday 6th July

Crouchman's Barn (for Ulting)

These workshops/focus groups are intended to let you know where we are in the process of producing a Neighbourhood Plan and, more importantly, for you to be involved in the decision making process looking at and discussing, in small groups, some of the main areas that will feature in the Plan. Do come along and join in, it's your chance to put forward your views and have influence

on what happens in the Plan; the sessions will run for approximately two hours including a coffee break and will start at 10.00am. We look forward to seeing you there!

### Summer 2014 Issue

In the past year work has continued to build an evidence base for our Neighbourhood Plan. Councillor Vicky Anfilogoff, Chair of the Neighbourhood Plan writes: "We held two workshops last summer, one in Langford and the other in Ulting to provide opportunities for all residents to come and give their views on, and discuss their vision for the future development of our communities over the next 15 years. Whilst neither meeting was inundated with attendees, those who did come seemed to find them interesting and had ample opportunity to talk about various topics and put forward their views during lively discussions.

Additionally, we were at the Art Shows last year and this, again seeking residents' views and opinions and both of these engagements seemed to be quite successful.

You may remember that we sent out a residents' survey on which we had a 50+% return which was a wonderful response. Rachel Smith has completed an excellent piece of work on the results and translated them into a readable format which is to be put on the website so that everyone can see them. The plan at this stage is very much about gathering the views and aspirations of residents to provide an evidence base on which the Plan Policies will be formulated. To this end a survey of local landowners has been undertaken and is almost completed and a follow-up residents' survey has been distributed – it would be great if we had the same enthusiastic return rate! – also a business survey is in the pipeline. Additionally, Jenny Clemo has kept a spreadsheet showing steps achieved and processes covered and, inevitably, all that still needs to be done to achieve delivery of the plan.

Last month both Jenny and I attended 3-day Planning Camps delivered by the Eden Project and Locality, me to York and, subsequently, Jenny to Oxford. These were great opportunities (and free!). We both found them to be very full-on and intensive, packed with information delivered by the experts in their fields and attended by a large number of delegates from communities large and small representing just about every corner, nook and cranny of England.

Following on from this, through the auspices of the Parish Council, we applied for, and were awarded, a £7,000 grant by the Supporting Communities in Neighbourhood Planning Programme led by Locality in association with TRPI/Planning Aid England, CDF and partners. This has enabled us to go ahead and seek a Planning Consultant to keep us on the right track and, particularly, to help write the policies and we have engaged a very well qualified consultant based in Chelmsford who is really keen to be involved in producing our Plan. She is a great fit for us as she has local knowledge as well as terrific experience plus she is a NP examiner to boot!

We are optimistic that by the end of the year or, certainly early 2015, the Plan will have gone out to independent examination, you will have voted on it and it will have been delivered.

### **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN RESIDENT'S SURVEY – REMINDER**

Please can you complete the survey that was delivered to you during May and return it in the SAE even if you've missed the 14th June deadline. So far only 19 out of 56 surveys sent to Ulting residents have been returned – Langford has returned 33 so far!

We want everyone in Langford and Ulting to have the opportunity to tell us what they feel is the right amount and type of development for our villages. Your responses to this survey will be analysed and this information will form the basis of our draft Neighbourhood Plan. Our last survey in 2012 resulted in an excellent return of 55%. If you require another copy please contact Jenny Clemo. (Tel: 01245 380852 or email: [ultingcattery@gmail.com](mailto:ultingcattery@gmail.com))

#### Winter 2014 Issue

An important Reminder....

Can we please remind Langford parishioners and those living in the properties in Heybridge to send their signed petition forms back for the boundary change. It is very important that we get as many petitions as possible (signed by all those in the house eligible to vote not just the householder). This is especially important for those Heybridge properties whose benefit the boundary change is for.

Can we please also remind businesses to return the Neighbourhood Plan business survey too. We aim to do the best for our communities, but we need your input!

#### Spring 2015 Issue

Update on the Neighbourhood Plan

The Pre-submission Draft of the Plan is nearing completion. Vicky Anfilogoff and Jenny Clemo recently met with our Consultant, Ann, who is now working on finalising policies which the Parish Council has been evolving based upon the majority views generated by the surveys and public consultation meetings over the past two years. As part of the process a Character Assessment of our Parish - a major task - was required and Irene Allen and Jenny took this on and it is now almost finished. When it is completed the Plan – after being viewed by the Parish Council - will be out for consultation to all residents and statutory external consultees either online or to view as a hard copy at designated places in each Parish to gather your views, and there will be a form for residents to express their thoughts on each of the policies. There is a statutory time limit for this process of six weeks, after which time we will review all of the forms and see if any alterations need to be made. Since there was, by and large, a clear majority of opinion on each topic in the surveys for a specific outcome we are hoping that there will not be too much need to change things as the policies set out to support these views. We will also endeavour to capture in the Plan any aspirations that we have as a community that are not planning related and are continuing, long term wishes such as the 30mph speed limit through Langford. We are looking through all of the responses we received for further things to add to this list and would welcome any other thoughts on this. Jenny and Vicky are also undertaking a sweep of other Neighbourhood Plan examiners' reports to get a feel for their style as we will be able to put forward three names to Maldon District Council to choose our examiner. We are also currently double checking the Housing Needs Survey to make sure that data recorded, figures given and graphs all tie up before including it in the Plan. Unfortunately, as you can see from the information above, there are statutory time constraints on each process in making the Plan which rather ties our hands insofar as current planning applications are concerned. However, it is a document that would weigh very heavily in the scales against undesirable development and the best we can do is to get through this first stage as quickly as possible. We really want this pre-submission document to reach as many people as possible, so to ensure that you receive a copy would you please send your email address to Vicky at [anfilogoff@googlemail.co.uk](mailto:anfilogoff@googlemail.co.uk) or Jenny at

ultingcattery@googlemail.com, so that we can ensure that you are kept fully in the picture and can have your say. Thank you.

Summer 2016

Chairman's Report includes:

The Neighbourhood Plan continues on its way. On receiving the Inspector's Report we have had a very good and useful meeting with our two District Councillors, senior members of MDC's planning staff and our consultant to address the issues raised and have now commenced working on revisions to the original document.

Summer 2017

Chairman's Report includes:

At around this point last year we had just received back the Neighbourhood Plan from the Independent Examiner and were in discussions with Maldon District Council as to the best way to move the Plan forward. In the ensuing period we have agreed all of the Examiner's recommendations with the exception of the housing policy which we are very committed to achieving to answer the needs of our community. After lengthy deliberations we are now pursuing this from another angle in order to realise the very low number of small houses/bungalows required to fulfil the need demonstrated in our original survey.

Summer 2019

Chairman's Report includes:

It feels extremely good to be able to report that the Neighbourhood Plan is getting back on track with Jenny Clemo having now completed its updating in line with changes to Maldon District Council's Adopted Local Plan and the Inspector's Report and I would like to thank her for the hard work she has put in to achieve this result. This has now been sent off for review.