

FOCUS GROUPS – JUNE / JULY 2013

LANGFORD

HOUSING & DEVELOPMENT – Langford

Key Issues	Details	Evidence	Options		Comments	Actions
			Policy	Site proposal or allocation		
What do you think is the most appropriate housing development in the village?	Affordable housing for local people Some appropriate housing Keep village feel Small units Modest numbers Infill development Additional housing in central area to make village more viable				Generate more input Keep village going/evolve Give the village a centre	
What needs does the village have for the future?	Keep village alive Young and old Mixed				Ulting Lane is a good example of community	
Issues around this?	Hard for Parish Council to do anything as precept				Infill is an option but should be kept modest	Look at infrastructure for any future development

	is small					No railway in Maldon Increase in use of infrastructure
What are your preferences with regard to future development in the village?	Mixed development Infill or small areas	Ulting Lane is a good example – community feel			Infill/individual house rather than lots of new roads or cul-de-sacs No more than doubling the size of the Parish in 15 years	
What sort of development is required - housing / business / other?	Commercial catered for Housing (infill/affordable small development)	Oval Park and Mr. Robottom Landowner has come forward – affordable/open market Essex Water Co. might be interested in affordable housing scheme		Village centre Infill Affordable	Local people / more “affordable” But access needs consideration	
Any other comments / issues that you would like to raise.	Pub would be nice but unsustainable				Local people need to be catered for when looking at development Parking needs consideration especially near main road	

TRANSPORT - Langford

Key Issues	Details	Evidence	Options		Comments	Actions
			Policy	Site proposal or allocation		
Transport – does anyone use the bus?	Sometimes – car used more Buses need to line up with trains Bus finishes early					
Does anyone use the free Tesco bus?	Does not come to Langford					
Use of Dengie Dart?	Not known – don't know if it goes to station now					
Use of community transport scheme?	No one in this group had used the scheme					
How do young people get about?	Lifts from parents Car School bus service Bus service finishes early evening					
Cycle route to Heybridge?	That would be useful	Dangerous road			This could be looked at as an	Encouragement

	One member's husband cycles to Chelmsford				action, project	
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SERVICES – Langford

Key Issues	Details	Evidence	Options		Comments	Actions
			Policy	Site proposal or allocation		
What are the issues around accessing services – health care, schools, shops, library?	Services and facilities could support some new/more development but not lots	Using nearby services, hall in village, shop in church. Post round would change, services would need to support this				
Do you have any issues regarding broadband?	Yes	½ Mb sometimes - poor			Improvement needed	
Do you have any issues regarding mobile phone coverage?	Variable					
Do you look at the newsletter?	Yes - good					

Are you happy with the content?	Good service provision in Maldon and Hatfield Peverel					
Is there anything you would like to see included?	School places - Heybridge					

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT – Langford

Key Issues	Details	Evidence	Options		Comments	Actions
			Policy	Site proposal or allocation		
Is it important to you?	Yes, this area is surrounded by countryside Want to keep it rural	Langford Conservation Area Chelmer & Blackwater Conservation Area				
Should it be taken into consideration when new development is proposed?	Yes, keep its “feel” Should be taken into consideration in policy/guidance on design or plot size	Existing development is open – larger plots	Yes could look at this			
What are the most important pieces of	Village green (Ulting Lane green)	Need to keep open aspect			Wildlife corridor Country park	

green space in the village?	Rear of Village Hall Parkland setting	Community use				
Importance of footpaths?	Have them Used Old railway line – though it floods					
Importance of river?	Yes – history, walking, museum, boating	Boats using it more – well used facility				Could get too busy Parish Council could look at this – limiting lock use?
Does development have any impact on the river?	Needs to be considered in this					

LEISURE & RECREATION – Langford

Key Issues	Details	Evidence	Options		Comments	Actions
			Policy	Site proposal or allocation		
Do you play golf?	Maldon Golf Course used by local and Maldon residents Well used					
Do you go to the gym?	Benton Hall Waves, Maldon				Access by car mainly	

Do you use the footpaths in the village?	See other sheet					
Do you use the Blackwater Rail Trail to access Maldon?	Used for dog walking – not used for cycling as much now	Not kept as previously Floods				
What activities would you like in the village?	Village Hall used regularly and well supported by locals and outside				Hall is good size for village – grounds are important too (note this in plan)	
Hotel	Brings in people – used by non locals				Being upgraded	

ULTING

HOUSING & DEVELOPMENT – Ulting

Key Issues	Details	Evidence	Options		Comments	Actions
			Policy	Site proposal or allocation		
What do you think is the most appropriate housing development in the village?	Small development Round Ernest Does? ECC salt heap? No real village				Access to roads Ulting is a dispersed hamlet Nowhere suitable	

	development boundary – not much scope for development				for development	
What needs does the village have for the future?	Many people are commuters who will move away as they retire Some stay		No housing estates – not typical development in Ulting		Housing estates not wanted – eg. Roughlands site	
Issues around this?					Road not suitable for increased traffic – through traffic is a problem already	
What are your preferences with regard to future development In the village?	Restricted development Conversion of existing buildings		Not adverse but very restricted numbers		Dispersed, disparate community Inappropriate for much development	
What sort of development is required - housing / business / other?					Services are non-existent Unsustainable location?	
Any other comments / issues that you would like to raise.	Opposition to Oval Park housing development	Wrong place for housing Not sustainable			Only new builds in Ulting: The Owls, Fairwinds bungalow, conversion of Grove Farm, Elms Barn, Ulting Hall flat	

TRANSPORT – Ulting

Key Issues	Details	Evidence	Options		Comments	Actions
			Policy	Site proposal or allocation		
Transport – does anyone use the bus?	No					
Does anyone use the free Tesco bus?	No					
Use of Dengie Dart?	No					
Use of community transport scheme?	No					
How do young people get about?	Lifts from parents Taxis Bicycle Walk					
Access to A12					Witham slip road is still dangerous Road closures – more notice needed to warn people	

SERVICES – Ulting

Key Issues	Details	Evidence	Options		Comments	Actions
			Policy	Site proposal or allocation		
What are the issues around accessing services – health care, schools, shops, library?	Shop/PO at Woodham Walter closed recently Agricultural supplies – Does Upsons Farm Shop/Co-op/Tesco Express (Danbury)/Tesco (Witham and Maldon) PO – Hatfield Peverel Doctors Small community bus – not likely to be used Heybridge/Plume School s – Taxi				Move here knowing that you will have to drive to access services	Internet – can have everything delivered Problem if you can't drive
Do you have any issues regarding broadband?	Yes – lots					Contact Essex Superfast Broadband again
Do you have any issues regarding mobile phone coverage?	Yes – coverage poor but don't want a mast	O2 Vodafone TMobile			Teenagers have more of a problem with	Generally speaking against progress

					mobiles/broadband speeds	
Do you look at the newsletter?	Yes	Excellent newsletter				Have funding for another year
Are you happy with the content?	Yes					
Is there anything you would like to see included?	Footpaths good – Maps? Historical information interesting Aerial photographs of properties in village Paragraphs from clubs/churches in each issue					

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT – Ulting

Key Issues	Details	Evidence	Options		Comments	Actions
			Policy	Site proposal or allocation		
Is it important to you?	Yes – very		Chelmer &			

	important		Blackwater Conservation Area			
Should it be taken into consideration when new development is proposed?	Definitely – amenity for wider community	Particularly canal				
What are the most important pieces of green space in the village?	Lock Cottage campsite Ulting churchyard Riverside/canal Flood meadows Fishing lakes				Campsite - Is planning permission required?	
Importance of footpaths?	Very important for local people and wider population Essex Farm rides Association – certain farm tracks/bridleways				Lots of cyclists – towpath/Blackwater Rail Trail	Green way to travel – the more people cycling the safer it is Recreational/Leisure
Importance of river?	Very important – draws a lot of people from outside village					Cyclists and children Road racers Good thing for wider community – healthy thing to do – discourage traffic on small roads
Does development have any impact on the river?	Yes it would impact on the views					

LEISURE & RECREATION – Ulting

Key Issues	Details	Evidence	Options		Comments	Actions
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Do you play golf?	No					
Do you go to the gym?	No					
Do you use the footpaths in the village?	Yes					
Do you use the Blackwater Rail Trail to access Maldon?	N/A					
What activities would you like in the village?	Exercise class					
Other	Village Event next year Litter is a problem – Try litter pick again?		Public Green Space?			