



Hockley Residents Association

Minutes of Hockley Residents Association Meeting
Held on Tuesday the 12/03/13 at 19.30 hrs in Kilnfield House
Chaired by Vice Chair Alan James – AJ

The meeting was attended by 11 members / visitors. From AJ's memory and a few notes the residents meeting ran as follows:

1. HAAP

We spent the whole meeting discussing the Hockley Area Action Plan. AJ was asked if he knew how many responses RDC had had on the Pre-Submission Document and he said he would try to find out for the next meeting. An article was read out from the Rochford Matters that denies a number of proposals that appear in the Pre-Submission Document including the building of a large supermarket. A 3,000sqm is mentioned in the RDC document, we already know that the Coop is not happy with this as stated in their response to the RDC document. It was suggested that a 3,000sqm supermarket is larger than the Rayleigh Coop and nearly as large as the Rayleigh Asda. We spoke about the number of rumours that Tesco or Sainsbury's are involved.

We spoke about lack of parking for Sainsbury's, delivery arrangements and the crossing issues. It appears that deliveries and the crossing issues are going to be addressed. I was suggested that if Salisbury's was allowed to build a large supermarket it would get rid of these current issues and make the area more pretty. The general consensus was that it would put an enormous pressure on the current shops leading to mass closures as a large supermarket would be able to sell a greater number of non food products. It is believed that the future of Hockley shops should remain as specialist nature and not a supermarket or high street nature.

We spoke about the Hockley Parish Plan and it was concluded that although RDC state in the Pre-Submission Document that they have taken it in to consideration we believe they have not. It was suggested that we should have a copy of the Hockley Parish Plan available at the next HoRA meeting to go through and check out what residents really want. It was suggested that the Parish Plan did not say that residents wanted to retain an industrial site in the village but it was also pointed out that it did not say that residents wanted it removed. There was a worry that the current shops in the proposed development area would not get relocated and would be lost forever. There was a complaint that there have a number of consultations by RDC but they are just not listening to what resident are saying. It was suggested that the majority of people that work in Eldon Way do not live in Hockley but a number of people disagreed with this. It was stated that Eldon Way generates a whirring noise during the night and it was believed this comes from a plastics factory. It was suggested that if a large supermarket was built in Eldon Way the noise could be worse with deliveries and late night opening. I was also suggested that the majority of local residents would probably drive to the village rather than walk as a large supermarket would encouraged them to do larger shopping trips.

A number of people reiterated that Hockley is a large village and they want it to remain a large village and not a small town. It was felt that the RDC document and its plans were very vague but the major objection was that a 3,000sqm supermarket would be too large. It was felt that if a 3,000sqm supermarket is built all the other supermarkets including the one at Hawkwell Parade will gradually close. This will then give little choice again and put up prices in the one remaining village supermarket. It was suggested that Hockley would end up like Woodham Ferrers with a large supermarket and a few shops around it that mainly lay empty as they cannot compete. I was suggested that a new large supermarket could improve the architecture of the village but from past examples this was doubted. It was stated that previous examples of building styles were given but they were only artist impressions and may not be what we end up with. Rochford was given as a good example but it was pointed out that the 5 year old Coop and underground parking complex has been and antisocial disaster.

Concerns were also expressed about proposed homes that may be built along the railway line regarding cramming them in with insufficient parking etc. It was stated that RDC have done a terrible job of communicating their proposals to the point of being secretive. They made a good start but it has gradually gone downhill ever since. We discussed the traffic issues and the lack of traffic studies and traffic management in the proposals. It was generally felt that this should be done first and not rely on a developer doing this as they would be biased. Highways have stated that our roads have spare capacity but we all know that at certain times of day we get hold ups getting in and out of the village. It was generally thought that there was not much that could be done to improve the current traffic situation. There was an opinion that a large supermarket chain would not want to build a large supermarket in Hockley if they thought it would be effected by traffic hold ups but example were given where this has happened elsewhere. We spoke about the proposed pathway to the Library area but it was felt this was generally unnecessary and will not happen anyway.

2. Police Meeting

The next Hockley Police Meeting will be held on tomorrow evening Wednesday 13 March 2013 at 19.00 hrs in Hockley Library.

3. Next Meeting

The next Hockley Residents Association meeting will be held on Tuesday 09 April 2013 at 19.30 hrs in Kilnfield House.

AJ closed the meeting.

www.hockleyresidents.co.uk