



Hockley Residents Association

www.hockleyresidents.co.uk

Community Update October 2008

1700 new homes in area threaten Hockley - but RDC plan omits impact on us!

RDC's new Core Strategy allocates 50 additional houses to 'West Hockley' and 1,650 in surrounding villages. It proposes 450 houses by 2015, with another 1,300 to follow and an additional 1,090 in Hullbridge and Rochford. Incredibly councillors voted (on party lines) in favour of this plan despite the overall impact on Hockley being completely omitted.

Hockley occupies a unique pivotal position in the District and impacts on the village will include:

- Extra traffic on the B1013 and Ashingdon Road and at the Spa bottleneck. Also on Lower Road
- Extra traffic to/from further development at the airport and more parking at Hockley shops/station
- Extra demand on our very limited health service. PCT dates show that Hockley has the worst GP/patient and dentist/patient ratios in South East Essex
- Extra demand on schools, particularly Greensward
- Lack of public transport. Most of Hockley, Hawkwell and Ashingdon will soon have just one bus an hour. How will the new and widespread housing (including 'affordable housing') be serviced?

The HRA believes that the Core Strategy is incomplete and unsustainable. It is a requirement that the plan must be 'sustainable' and RDC have commissioned consultants to review this. However, this will be done before public consultation on the plans, so we have no confidence that public concerns will be taken into account and wonder just how committed RDC are to genuine consultation?

The Plan will be discussed at a RDC meeting on 13th November at 7.30 pm at Hawkwell Village Hall. Printed copies are to be issued in November, or at <http://cmis.rochford.gov.uk/CMISWebPublic/Binary.ashx?Document=15705>. If the Plan is approved it will be virtually impossible to stop this development. So, please make sure you have your say **NOW** by registering online at <http://rochford.jdi-consult.net/ldf/> or write to Planning Policy, RDC, South Street, Rochford SS4 1BW. If you do then please send a copy to the HRA at 2 Tonbridge Road, Hockley SS5 5HL or to brian.guyett@hockleyresidents.co.uk, which will help us to ensure a comprehensive response is submitted also – but please tell RDC direct first. Please submit your views by **17th DECEMBER**

THIS IS IMPORTANT – IT WILL AFFECT ***YOU***

“MR HOCKLEY” LOOSES LAST FIGHT

The HRA was deeply saddened when its vice chairman, Parish Councillor, and former Rochford District Councillor, Richard Vingoe died on 25th June 2008, after a long illness, at the early age of 61. Richard and his wife, Lesley, lived in Hockley for 38 years, during which time he dedicated himself to the community. Richard was elected to the Parish Council in 1984 and was Chairman on four occasions. In 1990, Richard was elected as HRA member to Rochford District Council, retiring in May 2002. During that time he was Chairman of the Planning Services Committees for eight years.

Richard also cared for our youth and was a Governor at Greensward College. Previously he had been a Governor at Plumberow School. He was also Scout Leader for a number of years. He also found time to be an active conservationist and established the nature reserve at Apex Corner, as well as leading projects in the local woods. Whilst an RDC councillor, he led the fight to secure the appropriate development of the Etheldore/Wood Avenue site, including protection for the wildlife.

Well respected across the local political spectrum, Richard became known as “Mr Hockley” and will be severely missed by the HRA and everyone who knew him. Hockley will be the poorer for his passing. But, perhaps above all else, Richard was a family man. As well as Lesley, he leaves a son, Kevin, and a daughter, Jennifer, whose 3 children were a source of great pride and delight to Richard. It is sad they will not be able to grow up to know him and our thoughts are with them.

Next MEETING: 11 November 2008
KILNFIELD HOUSE (BY THE STATION)

Forthcoming Events

Saturday 22nd November – Show at Cliffs Pavilion, Southend-on-Sea. This is the evening performance of West Side Story performed by the Southend Operative & Dramatic Society.

Saturday 29th November to Monday 1st December – Three day Christmas break. We are staying at the Hilton Hotel, Bromsgrove, which is 30 minutes from central Birmingham. We will have bed, breakfast and evening meal. All rooms have tea & coffee making facilities. There is a well-equipped gym and a 60ft. heated swimming pool. We have stayed here before, and the food and accommodation are both excellent.

On route we will visit the Worcester Christmas Fayre. This is a Victorian Themed Market held outside in the heart of the City. Apart from the market there are many other places of interest, including the Cathedral and the Museum of Worcester Porcelain. We hope to arrive at our hotel by 4.30 p.m.

Day 2 – Sunday. Today we will visit the Black Country Living Museum. This is a chance to see what life was like in this area the turn of the 19th Century. Historic buildings of the area have been rebuilt here. You can explore the shops, houses and workshops in the Canal side village, take a lesson in the old school room, explore a coalmine, ride on a tram or a horse and cart. You can taste fish and chips from the 1930's Fried Fish Shop, washed down with a pint of real ale from the Bottle and Glass Inn. There are various industrial sites, and a working fairground, plus many other interesting features to numerous to mention.

Day 3 – Monday. Before returning home we will spend the day in Birmingham. This will give you a chance to do some Christmas Shopping if you so wish. Or you might prefer to visit some of the many historical buildings or places of interest. There is a 'Jewellery Quarter, which brings together 500 retailers and workshops, as well as museums, botanical gardens and a Cathedral. If you fancy canal side walks there are many buildings of historical interest in the canal area..

If you are interested in any of these trips - please telephone Brian on 01702 204334

Hockley Parish Plan Group Issue Action Plan

The Hockley Parish Action Plan final working document, identifying responsibilities for implementation and funding and a timescale for each proposed action, was completed in September. It shows not only the actions derived from answers the residents and businesses gave to questionnaires but also comments on the progress made or work in progress. The Group intend to produce an updated Action Plan annually to show the residents whether their wishes are being addressed and to generally comment on progress. In addition HPPG will continue to issue a quarterly newsletter to inform residents of progress and latest initiatives related to their recommendations. Their website will also carry full details and a copy of the Parish Plan, which carries many interesting items about Hockley. See www.hockleyparishplangroup.co.uk or visit Hockley library.

Primary Care improvements under consideration

The HRA has obtained data from the Primary Care Trust (PCT) which shows that Hockley:

- has the worst GP/patient ration in the whole of South East Essex
- has by far the worst dentist/patient ratio, with under 30% the pro-rata equivalent of Southend.

Despite this, Hockley is one of only two areas with no plans for improvements!

We have taken our complaints to the PCT and they have accepted our findings and promised improvements. The PCT is currently producing an updated strategic plan and further discussions are planned to agree the way forward. We will keep you advised.

We are also please that a new part-time dentist will start shortly at White Hart Lane surgery. Telephone 01702 206011 for an appointment.

Stop Press New proposals for 10,000 homes "East of Rochford" received by RDC. Watch HRA web-site for details.

If you have any views or comments contact the Editor - Lesley Vingoe
at 7 Marylands Ave, Hockley, SS5 5AQ, 01702 202829