

☎ Maldon

Inspector David Vickery DIPT&CP MRTPI
c/o Mrs Andrea Copsey, LDP Programme Officer
Examination Office,
Longcroft Cottage,
Bentley Road,
Weeley Heath,
Clacton-on-Sea, Essex, CO16 9BX. (via email and post as requested)

Tuesday, 03 March 2015

Re Burnham and Southminster Education Capacity + Matter 6

Dear Mr Vickery

Below please find my considered response regarding Education Capacity in Burnham & Southminster:

- I believe this proposal should be dismissed without any more detailed consideration. It represents a disproportionate and contrived effort by developers to build more extra homes in the Dengie Peninsula (the very least Sustainable area for extra housing in the entire Maldon district) over and above the 450 rationally identified by MDC in the LDP. If this proposed major modification to LDP numbers were to succeed it would:
 - Turn the local Education service provision processes upside down
 - Parents would have their very young children forcibly bussed/pushed back to a religiously run Faith School that is against their beliefs and first choice preferences
 - Drive extra cost to the public purse to pay for home collection, delivery, supervision and safeguarding of young entry level pupils. Given the semi-rural spread out nature of much of the housing in Southminster and Burnham catchment, these logistics will be very expensive and create real complexities for parent's having children in different schools, with the primary age pupils being collected and delivered at the same time by the education authority at exactly the same time as elder children without authority provided transport were required to be delivered/collected to their school
 - Create extra greenhouse gases directly arising from the extra transport
 - Irrevocable effect the lives and lifestyles of pupils and parents for the worse
- Please can you also :
 - Delete the **wording "Developments of less than 10 dwellings with planning permission have been excluded from the forecasts"**. – *Given that Burnham is a very small town and Southminster only a medium size village, the vast majority of planning approvals currently are for less than 10 dwellings, and most of these extra houses are of 3-4-5 bedrooms .. Which to me implies a pretty high primary child content. Arbitrarily excluding these would make a nonsense of the principles of creating the cap mechanism in the first place*

- *Ask for the work carried out to develop the Statement be repeated as it appears that the 3 schools concerned (one of which is an Academy with greater independence) were not directly involved in the data quoted and some are now disputing key facility numbers*
- I also remain concerned about the detailed wording of MDC Document **'Proposed Modifications in relation to Infrastructure Capacity 2nd February 2015**, only a few copies of which were available at the hearing and which has not subsequently appeared on the MDC LDP webpage for comment.
 - I believe it needs major modification to make it robust and able to deliver its intent. Data needs to be real time, with a base date set when the clock starts ticking (I think you suggested February 4th 2015) from which all school capacities/ utilisation data and all pupil housing-related projections would be tracked. Given the unique characteristics of the Dengie Peninsula, the scope of the pupil housing-related projections needs to be expanded to include any Rural Allocation additional approvals that are near enough to impact on Burnham/Southminster schools Eg: Althorne
 - Education capacity in Burnham is on a knife edge, precise and up-to-date easily accessible decision support material is vital

Matter 6:

I understand and welcome the move to abolish the ill thought out Reserve Site classification and controversial mechanism. However I am at a loss to understand where the completely fresh proposal to increase the ..

'LDP housing target of a minimum of 4,410 to 4,650 dwellings between 2014 and 2019'

.. comes from. Surely if MDC wish for serious analysis and comment on this very late and dramatic change, they should state their data rational reasoning for review as well as the bald numbers..

Many thanks for your consideration

Yours Sincerely

John Hitcham