

As a member of Althorne Community Together (ACT) and part of the steering committee which produced the Althorne Village Design Statement 2015, I would like to endorse the comments made by our Chairman, Terry Inkpen (copy attached).

I would also like to make the following comments in relation to the Maldon District Local Development Plan:

- In **Appendix D of the Five Year Housing Land Supply Statement 2015/16**, you have included a site at High View, Fambridge Road, Althorne, with permission no. 16/00190/FUL. I would point out that permission for this site is not extant – the application was dismissed on appeal –and this is not actually a new site. There is already a house on the site housing a family of 5 and they have merely applied for a replacement dwelling.
- Regarding the **Sustainability Appraisal Update Appendix C**, all three sites in Althorne would result in a loss of agricultural land and affect local character detrimentally which I find unacceptable. I do not believe that increasing the size of the village would encourage a viable and vibrant community. Having lived here for more than 40 years, I believe the village was most vibrant when it was smallest (including the time before I arrived) and the changes that have taken place have been caused by changes in employment patterns and lifestyles. Making the village larger will not make it more vibrant – assuming that is what we want to do.
The proposal for S19 for 445 houses would almost double the size of the village and would definitely *adversely impact on the existing settlement and community structure*.
Building on site S31, which lies in the Special Landscape Area in the Maldon District Replacement Local Plan, would mean the loss of views of the Grade II* listed church and the loss of the openness which is so much valued by Althorne villagers. The location is not close to existing bus routes unless you consider that a bus out of the village in the morning and back in the evening (Mon-Fri) plus a couple of random shopper buses some of which only run in school term time would make the location sustainable.
Site S29 with a proposal for 350 houses would not only destroy the tranquil long-distance views of the Crouch Valley but is only accessible via the railway-owned road which has no proper foundations and is in many places single track. I am not sure how it would help to provide affordable housing in a location where buses are non-existent and trains are expensive.
- **Infrastructure:** I live on the B1010 Fambridge Road, Althorne, which is the main route from Burnham on Crouch in and out of the Dengie Peninsula. There is currently a 40mph speed limit in my area which we are seeking to have reduced to 30mph. It is a dangerous road which is too narrow in many places for two large vehicles to pass (one has to mount the pavement). A recent data recording exercise showed that 9,000 vehicles pass my house every day. Similarly, the Dengie Hundred Bus Users Group was told today by Essex County Council that there is no money to support the current level of local bus services. The scale of development in Burnham proposed for the LDP will only exacerbate the situation.

I make no apology if I seem to be negative in my comments. The Crouch Valley is a beautiful, tranquil area and returning here makes the daily journey to London more tolerable for the many commuters who live here. It also provides a green lung for visitors from London and I believe it is important not to lose the qualities which are so highly valued.