

PARISH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, BURNHAM-ON-CROUCH

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FROM THE SECRETARY TO THE PCC
JULIE CLEVERLEY



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Sunday 29th September 2013

Planning Policy Team
Maldon District Council
Princes Road
Maldon
CM9 5DL

Dear Sir,

I have been asked to respond to the proposed Local Development Plan on behalf of the Parochial Church Council of St Mary's in Burnham. Members of the Council met to discuss their response to the draft plan. In general members felt that the decision over the size of the proposed development should be left to elected local councillors, however they were keen that the following points be raised.

1) Members had firsthand knowledge of young families who had been forced to leave Burnham-on-Crouch because of the lack of suitable and affordable housing within the town. Some of these families had been fortunate enough to find accommodation in neighbouring villages, but others had left the area completely to the detriment of the local community. Therefore members felt strongly that within the housing development a high proportion should be set aside for families that are starting out on the property ladder and this means that houses need to be suitable and affordable both for private purchases and for rent. There was concern that the LDP appeared to have a focus on providing accommodation for older people without addressing the significant need for affordable family accommodation.

2) Members were concerned that large numbers of houses are proposed for construction on the northern edge of the town. These properties will be some distance from local facilities and amenities which are situated on the other side of the railway line. We would like to see in the proposals some thought about how community facilities could be developed to help these new families integrate into the town. The Parochial Church Council does own some land and would be interested in exploring with the local authorities ways in which this might be used for the benefit of the community. In particular we noticed the lack of community space, which could provide a focus and meeting place, in addition to the Church.

3) The Council also discussed the likely impact on St Mary's School and were delighted to hear that School Governors had already discussed their response to the plan. Members were pleased to be able to support the Governors in their willingness to explore options with Essex County Council as to the future demands for education. The Church and the School have a shared history of support which has resulted in many benefits for the children, as their learning has

been enriched, and their staff, Governors and parents have been encouraged to hold on to their Christian values and nurture each child as an individual. The council were delighted that more children might be able to experience the distinctive and valuable education that this school offers.

Finally, members asked me to record their thanks for all the information that has been provided and for the opportunity to shape the Local Development Plan for this community.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Julie Cleverley". The signature is written in dark ink and is underlined with a single horizontal stroke.

Julie Cleverley
Secretary to the PCC