

[REDACTED]

14th October 2013

Re: Local Development Plan Consultation – October 2013

Dear Sir/Madam,

We are writing to express our views on the proposed Local Development Plan (LDP) for Burnham on Crouch. We have extracted some key paragraphs from the Consultation Document issued by Maldon District Council which we have used to support our views. The points that we wish to raise are summarised below:-

We accept that the current proposal for three smaller developments is preferable to the previous one, which concentrated all of the houses in one area. However we do believe that the plan is flawed in three ways; firstly there are still too many houses proposed as part of the LDP; secondly windfall developments that will occur over the development period are NOT included in the 450 houses proposed for Burnham and; thirdly we **strongly believe** that the developments require to be phased over the 15 year period of the plan and not front loaded in the first five years to suit developers.

We further believe that a large proportion of its inhabitants will be commuters as there is no excess demand for the larger houses within the local population. Burnham has tremendous charm and character that has been developed over centuries. There is currently a high level of cohesion within a community where most people either know, or know of, a large proportion of the population. This helps to build a community spirit and enhances the quality of life for all the residents.

The LDP refers to reductions in 'rural isolation'. We believe that the vast majority of Burnham residents choose to live here precisely because of this. We further believe that the people of Burnham choose to live here because of the nature of the place and that if they wanted to live in larger towns, they would move elsewhere, or indeed not have chosen to live here in the first place.

The document refers to "good cycle and pedestrian linkages and enhanced public transportation and contribution to a new health provision" What do these vague words actually mean? Your planners confirmed at the surgery held in Burnham on 7th September that there are no provisions for additional schools, no highway improvements, (despite the B1010 already being one of the most dangerous roads in the county, apart from the re modelling of the junction between Maldon Road and Church Road. What Public Transport enhancements will actually be provided to support these developments and to offset the recognised increase in greenhouse gases to ensure the sustainability that refer to?

Any likelihood of a community hospital in Maldon appears to be as far away as ever. As in previous development plans, the concept of such a facility has again been proposed as part of this LDP. What is the probability of this ever being built? We are over 40 minutes away from a hospital in Burnham and an increasing population will only serve to further stretch the emergency services, if no improvements are included as part of the development plans.

Burnham has no permanent Police presence now and I understand that the Fire Station is also likely to close in the near future. How are these issues compatible with a projected increase of over 20% in the local population?

In conclusion, we accept that additional houses will be built in Burnham. We would wish to ensure that the houses that are built are what Burnham wants and are not built solely to suit developers. We strongly support the neighbourhood plan and look to see that it is prepared to meet local needs. We are very sceptical about the promised infrastructure enhancements as we have been here before and this will form an important part of local opinion going forwards.

Yours faithfully,

[Redacted signature]