

Residents' Meeting to Discuss Hockley Area Action Plan Consultation Document

Held - CJ's Bowling - Eldon Way, Hockley, Essex
1900-2100

Note-taker: Oliver Asha.

Introducing the panel - Oliver Asha, Chairman and Miss Yeadell

Introduction to the matter by Miss Yeadell.

Chairman's question: How many people have heard about the options

2/3 people have heard about the AAP

Most people only heard about the change because of the meeting.

Questions from the floor.

1. All options mentioned - a supermarket proposed on corner of Bremeton & Spa road - really bad site - probably the worst place. Plus in all the options, the supermarket is in the same place - have Tesco's already bought that site. Plus wherever they put the supermarket - there's never anywhere that they give access for lorries.
2. Do we know if Tesco's are involved? Are they seeking planning or development - Ms Yeadell - Tesco's have bought a couple of properties, including Alldays. Can anyone confirm for sure.
3. Live in Bramerton road - worried about the supermarket and the amount of traffic. Spoke to Sam Hollingsworth - They'll send the Action Plan if you ask for it. The road is not the council's problem - it's Essex County Council's problem. Person to speak to is Mark Lawrence 0 Strategic development engineer - will look at traffic problems. Woodlands road problem will also be very silly. Speak to Sam Hollingsworth and Mark Lawrence (Essex).
4. Heart is being ripped out of Hockley to build a Tesco's Superstore
5. Moved here 1 year ago because Hockley is so attractive as it is. Second number 4 above.

Chair - people of Hockley and ^{Hopwell} consider this to be a village and feel very strongly about it.

6. Hockley did have a heart, a beautiful village green.
7. Huge amount of housing to be built - problem speaker foresee stress on local infrastructure. By building more houses and flats, there could be 2-400 extra cars on the road - the traffic lights at spa road won't make any difference - spin off is stress on public services, schools, doctors, dentists, hospitals.

Chair - left in 1997 - remember the problem of infrastructure and schooling - 3 miles as the crow flies.

8. Traffic 0 how can they use a road like Hockley Rise as a main road - not a main road - Weststrings, the road is breaking up. What will happen when a lot of cars come through Hockley Rise. Seconded and Thirded.
9. Are they allowed to create a problem for the Essex council (traffic)
10. By looking at the roundabout at the Spa, they've looked at it in isolation and not in context of the whole area, thus making it a worse problem
11. Southend Airport is now in consultation - the group behind that say that Airport lorries will go through Hockley - Alarming.
12. If Tesco's come in, then the local traders are seriously affected, small businesses are being pushed out.
13. Why do they want to make a new village green in 0 they got rid of the last one! It's probably a chance to create new building space, like they did last time.
14. Spa Road is already the main access route for the Wharfs and 3 industrial estates - more housing will create more traffic, which will create more problems.
15. Question on behalf of the United Reform Church - it's not in the plan. Not an affected area. Big car-park next to the church. Will it be 7 days? Assume yes.
16. If Tesco's have already bought Alldays is there anything we can do?

OA answer - the processes seem not to have been followed.

Chair says that a similar thing has happened in his area and the plans were delayed. He can state that if the process hasn't been followed, then it should be revisited. It affects the whole proceedings.

17. The width of the pavements - Nobody has ever found that the pavement has been widened. They want to widen the roads. Speaker is the parish priest - all 6 plans are using the parish yard - the council couldn't work out who owned it - priest says that there is a sign outside.
18. There aren't many people for the scheme. Are there any councillors here
19. It's Jerry Thomas.

Jeremy Thomas 0- One of the councillors for Hockley Central - Mission here tonight is to listen and report - not in the planning department - will take good note of all points made and will pass onto the relevant people. Not appropriate or prudent to comment on anything at this stage - can assure that he will take notice and it will not go unheard - general applause.

20. Live in Hamstead Gdns. 1 house demolished, 5 placed in its place. If they build the 250 houses, then they need to build several thousand houses in the area, will this be the thin edge of the wedge. Target is 4600 by 2021.

Chair 0 if the plan goes ahead then they can reach their target.

21. In this plan there doesn't seem to be any extra parking - the parking at the back of the supermarket is the same size as the one on Somerfield.

22. At what point will the shortsighted council housing policy stop? When they've concreted the whole of Essex?

Chair - it's a problem for the whole of the Thames Corridor - there're empty houses in the North of the country - it's amazing. Alarming.

23. Interested to know where the councillor for Hockley Council lives. Do they live in Hockley - NB He's gone

24. Is there anyone in this room who wants any of these options?

Show of hands - Nobody wants him to!

25. Urge everyone to tell their neighbours. Lots of people haven't heard about it.

Chair - please can everyone give their details to the email list (or address where needed). Can people prepare newsletters? I would urge this. Let people know about any underhand dealings etc. Able to sustain 6 months of cover - at least fortnightly articles in the local press. Communication is the key. Working to a tight deadline. It would be good if the whole process has been delayed until there is a proper consultation.

26. Aren't they legally obliged?

Chair - Yes -

QA - I'll prepare a pro-forma

27. Beware of the fact that the survey tries to draw you in? It has used a survey from a year ago that seems superficially attractive. Look after your local businesses - will the local shops be adequately valued?

QA - Valued by an independent surveyor

28. Call for a boycott of Tesco's. Do Tesco's own it for sure

QA - FBI - HAMER

29. Do we know if there's a developer behind the plan?

Chair - if you have particular skills or insights.

30. Will there be a chair of a steering committee?

Miss Yeadell - This is for the residents themselves.

Chair - up to the group to appoint the committee.

Needs the community to get involved to help one another.

31. Surely as none of us knew until the last minute that

32. DO we have to stop it before the 30th.

QA - Object to the council - if this doesn't work then there may be need to an injunction - but try to put the breaks on before the 30th - tell them that they haven't consulted

33. Speaker couldn't find anything on the internet & couldn't get any info or links

34. Speaker says that you need a username and PIN Number - once you do the Hockley site is on the "hot news" section.

Chair went through a chain of documents to find this, the AAP was hidden under a bunch of other documents.

35. Proposals are filed under need to "improve the village" -

36. They are going to make Hockley into a town. Is it a town?

QA - Will look into this for the committee

37. A village is a town without a Tesco's.

38. Speaker says that there is a double standard 0 before they didn't want Hockley to join with the next town, now they have changed and say that Hockley is to become a town.

Chair concerned that there have been anecdotal comments on the Hockley plan from a long time ago, now taken out of context.

39. We are all agreed that we don't want this in the village. Can we get the planning committee into the hall in order to grill them.

Chair - has managed to get a meeting on his case and forced a meeting - the council meeting was cleared and in order to have a peaceful end to it all, the councilor spoke to the people. No reason why we shouldn't speak to the planners.

40. It's an underhand way that the government must build a certain number of houses in an area. Councillors will be in a position where they have to vote for a certain number of plans.

Chair - Hand over to OA

OA - Object using the local authority procedures - participation and sustainability = then there is the last gasp point of a Judicial Review if none of the other points work.

Ms Yeadell - Beckett said that due to the present financial circumstances, the gov will have to shelve the housing quota until the situation has improved. Council can't claim that it's all the government's fault in this instance.

There is a collection tin in the back.

41. Appalled that there is nobody here from any of the councils - town/ parish/ county/ rochford/ etc (the earlier councilor has gone home). Why haven't they come to this meeting?

Chair says the council is always on our side!

42. Did we tell the council?

Miss Yeadell - Did contact Elizabeth Hart - Essex - Didn't invite the other councilors for Hockley - know what they're like!

43. Shall we put up posters?

Chair said that this is a good idea as everyone has a sense of ownership of the issue. Raises awareness. When a committee goes into a room, everyone will know that they represent the whole of the town.

44. Apart from letters of objections etc, what can we do? Form a committee?

Chair said that anyone actually wanting to help should come forward and join the committee tonight so the load can be spread.

45. We mentioned that the poster campaign is ver good - can we use the local newspapers to do anything?

Is there any press here? - Not yet.

46. 400 "disgusted of Hockley" - Knock Trevor Burden off the letters page.

Chair - good books in the library of how to conduct yourselves - when actually challenging these things - you have to challenge the proposal and not the people. You have to object on subject - keep the communication doors open throughout the whole process. Councillors know how to deal with Mr Angry, but not

47. A number affected by the blight. What is the time processes

OA - Speak to me at the end - worst case - could be until 2021