

TDC Update – Manningtree – June 2016

TENDRING'S LOCAL PLAN TAKES MAJOR STEP FORWARD

Tendring's Local Plan has taken a major step forward and looks set to go out for public consultation next month.

The preferred options document which will shape housing and economic growth in the area over the next 17 years was agreed by Councillors.

Tendring District Council's (TDC) Cabinet then confirmed the document at their meeting today and it will go before **Full Council on July 5**.

That will be followed by an eight week consultation period which is expected to start on **July 14 and end on September 18**.

Neil Stock, TDC Leader and Chairman of the Local Plan Committee, urged all interested parties to take part in the consultation.

"People need to make their views known – whether they are in favour or against – as public feedback is a very important as part of the whole process," he said.

"Developers will certainly be making their voices heard if their particular sites have not been included in the options, or to bolster the case if it has."

Housing numbers have been identified for all the various towns and villages across the District.

The overall number of homes required has been set at 9,974 at a rate of 550 properties per year or 10,924 if that figure needs to rise to 600 per year, for the period from April 2013 to March 2032.

The figures agreed include 1,164 homes for the Colchester Fringe; 2,780 for Clacton; 819 for the Harwich area; 367 for Frinton, Walton and Kirby Cross; **520 for Manningtree, Mistley and Lawford**; 133 for Little Clacton and 100 each for Brightlingsea, Great Bentley and Thorpe; and 1,000 windfall sites.

The number for Weeley is 304 at 550 properties per year and 1,411 at 600 per year.

Cllr Stock said that the document will continue to be a moving feast until the stage is reached where it is put before a Government inspector and tested.

"We have moved on a pace with our decision last night and at Cabinet," he added.

"It is also important that we emphasise to companies that we are very much open for business and very keen to encourage employment development, as well as homes."

Cath Bicknell, TDC's Head of Planning, said that TDC is working closely with Braintree, Colchester and Essex Councils as part of the process.

"The aim is to make our submission early next year and we need a sound Local Plan to go forward," she said.

Exhibitions will be staged as part of the consultation; there will be leaflets delivered to every home and further information will be on TDC's website, www.tendringdc.gov.uk

COUNCIL SUCCESSFUL IN HALF OF PLANNING APPEALS

Planning appeals concerning schemes in Tendring have resulted in a fifty fifty success rate over the past year, it has been revealed.

Tendring District Council (TDC) has been involved in 83 appeals – of which 73 decisions have been received.

During the period from April 1, 2015 to March 31, 2016 there were 37 appeals dismissed and 35 were allowed - with one split decision.

This performance was below the 65 per cent success rate of the previous year but this partly reflected the increase in the number of applications received resulting from an economic upturn and the fact the Council did not have a Local Plan in place.

TDC's Planning Committee heard that this emphasises the importance of an up to date Local Plan and being able to identify a five year supply of deliverable housing in line with the Government's requirements.

There are planning appeals involving sites in Tendring for just under 1,000 homes coming up over the next year.

PLANS FOR UP TO 660 NEW HOMES GET THE GREEN LIGHT

Two developers have been given the green light to build up to 660 new homes on neighbouring plots of land.

Rose Builders have been granted planning permission for up to 360 homes on a site east of Bromley Road, Lawford.

The scheme – on 22.76 hectares – will include a village green, public open space, structural landscaping and a playground.

It will also involve two vehicular access points, pedestrian and cycle routes, a new primary school access with off-road pickup and drop off points, a community building and public toilets.

A proposal for up to 300 homes for Tendring Farms Ltd on land to the south of Long Road and west of Clacton Road, Mistley, was also agreed by Tendring District Council's (TDC) Planning Committee last night.

It was agreed subject to the applicants withdrawing an appeal against the Council's failure to determine the application within the target timescale.

The plans include two hectares of employment land with public open space and infrastructure.

Both applications are outline with further details to be put before the committee at a later date and both are subject to legal agreements being signed committing the developers to a contribution towards education and health provision.

Gary Guiver, TDC's Planning Manager, said that although bats are present at the Lawford site Natural England were satisfied that the Council had enough information to be able to proceed.

"We are satisfied that in this particular case that the benefits gained from this development will outweigh the loss of the green gap in this area," he said.

"We also know that the bats are there and they will have to be protected and their environment will be improved."

The Councillors heard both Lawford Parish Council and Mistley Parish Council did not object to the scheme, although Manningtree Town Council did.

TDC received 190 letters of objection along with a petition with 217 signatures opposing the proposal.

A complaint has also been lodged against Essex County Council as the highway authority, in its handling of the traffic issues.

There were claims that public safety had been put at risk in an effort to meet housing targets.

The development at Mistley had been previously submitted last year - and not determined by TDC. The developers have an appeal pending for December.

However, following legal advice the planning committee last month decided that had it been determined their reasons for refusal no longer stood and a duplicate application was resubmitted by Tendring Farms and given the all-clear.

JUST OVER A MILLION TO BE SPENT ON BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

More than £1million has become available to spend in Tendring thanks to increased income and improved agreements with funding partners, it has been revealed.

The cash will go towards a Districtwide broadband project; the Garden Community Project; to provide agency staff as and when required and on a public convenience cleaning contract.

Tom Howard, Tendring District Council's (TDC) Cabinet Member for Finance, Revenues and Benefits, said the total figure was £1.024 million.

"I propose to spend this variance in these four key areas while at the same time Portfolio Holders and services remain committed to reduce spending and identifying where money can be saved," he added.

"Alternatively services can be provided in a different way which continues to contribute to the end of year position."

Cllr Howard said the main contributor to the pot had been income - either from fees and charges or a more favourable position in agreements with partners such as Council Tax sharing agreements with Essex County Council (ECC), Police and Fire.

He also announced that the previously named Austerity Reserve was being changed to the Building for the Future Reserve, which he felt better reflected its purpose.

“Estimated savings of £5million are required over the period from 2017/18 to 2019/20,” he added.

“Squeezing out budget reductions – no matter how small – will help the overall budget position in 2017/18.”

TDC Leader Neil Stock welcomed the announcement, especially the £500,000 being set aside for the broadband project which he described as a “statement of intent”.

The Council is working with ECC and other key partners to deliver broadband to as many areas across the District as possible.

A further £250,000 is in the pot to explore and develop Garden Communities opportunities with other partners, with one of the sites to be in Tendring.

Another £250,000 is available as an interim measure for central agency staff to ease recruitment and retention pressures as well as £24,000 for the public toilets cleaning contract.

FINAL PREPARATIONS UNDERWAY FOR SECOND CLACTON SEA AND BEACH FESTIVAL

Final preparations are taking place to ensure that Clacton’s second Beach and Sea Festival is even bigger and better than last year.

The event takes place on June 25 and 26 and it promises a host of activities both on the water and on land for all ages to enjoy.

One of the series of the British Kitesurfing Championships will be taking place off the coast with more than 100 competitors expected to be challenging for the honours.

The festival – which is organised by Tendring District Council (TDC) - is also hosting national and international windsurfers.

The British Slalom Association, which is part of the UK Windsurfing Association, is to stage race four of the National Slalom Series in Clacton on June 25 and 26.

A Stand Up Paddle (SUP) Boarding event is also being put on by the British SUP Association. Again the racing will take place over both days of the festival and will attract the top competitors in the country.

Two local sailing clubs have pledged their support by putting on events. Both Gunfleet Sailing Club and Clacton Sailing Club have announced races to coincide with the two days of the festival.

On the Saturday dinghies from the Gunfleet Sailing Club, based a mile to the east of Clacton Pier, will sail past West Beach with the aim of landing ashore just west of Martello Bay.

Then the next day there will be a pursuit race, starting from the Gunfleet Club along to West Beach where a triangular course will be set.

The slowest craft will be heading off at 11am with the rest following at staggered times – with the fastest last away. The winner will be the boat in the lead at the finish at 12.30pm.

Also on the Sunday at 3pm the Clacton Sailing Club will be holding a catamaran race, beginning at its HQ two miles east of Clacton Pier, up to the West Beach and back.

The Viking Saga and James Stevens will be running boat trips which proved extremely popular last year. An increased programme of musical entertainment is being put together, along with children's entertainment, and a Saturday night beach party which will go on until 9pm.

Tanya Ferguson, TDC's Cabinet Member for Tourism and Culture, said: "I am really looking forward to the festival with so much going on. More details of the musical entertainment will be released next week."

It will all kick-off with a procession from Clacton Town Hall on June 25 starting at 10.30am arriving at the Lower Promenade around 11am. The theme is "Oh, I do like to be beside the seaside."

RESIDENTS INVITED TO SHOW SUPPORT FOR NATION'S ARMED FORCES

A ceremony is to be staged in Clacton next week to demonstrate Tendring's on-going support for the country's Armed Forces.

Organisations, Councillors and residents are being invited to stand side by side outside the Town Hall on Monday June 20.

A specially-commissioned Armed Forces Flag will be hoisted from the flagpole in Station Road at 11am.

It will be flown throughout the week by Tendring District Council (TDC) in appreciation of the contribution made by all those who have served in Her Majesty's Armed Forces over so many years.

It is anticipated that a number of organisations will be attending the ceremony with their own Standards.

The Armed Forces Flag will then remain in place until after Armed Forces Day, which this year has been designated as June 25 by the Ministry of Defence (MOD).

TDC Chairman Jayne Chapman said that she is both proud and honoured to be taking part in the ceremony by hoisting the flag which will be blessed by the Rev Eva Walker.

"I would like to see a large number of people turn up and be involved in this important ceremony and everyone is welcome," said Cllr Chapman.

“It will be a special and poignant tribute to our Armed Forces and a chance to recognise those who put their lives on the line for all of us each and every day.”

The Council will also be flying a British Armed Forces Flag at its Weeley offices but there will be no ceremony at the site.

Alan Coley & Carlo Guglielmi