

**Question****Response**

Alison Mayor, Rayleigh

What value does the local police force place on fostering good relationships with the young people of Rayleigh and what input does it have into local primary and secondary schools?

Young people are a key group within our community and it is essential that good relationships are fostered with them at a very early age. To that extent we have recently appointed a School Community Support Officer with specific responsibility for liaising and working more closely with the local primary schools. Both secondary schools in Rayleigh have a School Partnership Police Officer, who has for many years worked closely with teachers to deal with criminal and behavioural matters in schools. The police are key partners in running Crucial Crew, an annual event aimed at all primary schools within the District. It provides a great opportunity for the children to talk on a one to one basis and to build up confidence and in some cases respect for the police. The Police also work closely with Essex County Council in running the driving awareness project in primary schools, concentrating on road safety. Police staff are actively encouraged to engage with local youngsters, visiting locations where they gather, listening to their concerns, gathering intelligence and communicating the concerns of others to them. During the Rayleigh Community Initiative the comments from local youngsters were very important in influencing the Action Plan.

Alison Mayor, Rayleigh

a) Could the committee please detail how the figure of 1800 possible new housing units in Rayleigh was determined?

The Council's approach to the general distribution of housing is set out in section 4.6 of the Regulation 26 draft of the Rochford Core Strategy. The document has recently been subject to public consultation and the responses received are now being analysed and will be reported, in the first instance, to a meeting of the LDF Sub-Committee in September.

b) How will the Head of Planning & Transportation keep track of how many units are being built?

The Council has residential land availability monitoring framework in place, which accurately counts the

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number of new units completed in the district on an annual basis. Full details are available in the Council's Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) published in December every year.

Alison Mayor, Rayleigh

a) Regarding Rayleigh conservation area plan, will the recommendations in paragraph 13.25-13.28 be implemented?

The recommendations for amendments to the boundary of the Rayleigh Conservation Area have, in principle, been accepted by the Council as a result of the approval of the Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan. There is a legal process to follow for revisions to Conservation Area boundaries and it is expected this will be completed in the current municipal year.

b) In general terms, what impact will the Conservation Area plan have on development and alterations in the town centre?

The policies currently included in the adopted Rochford District Local Plan provide the framework for the protection and enhancement of the Conservation Area. The Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan seeks to build on the policy framework and provide a set of practical management proposals that will, over a period of time, improve the appearance and character of the town centre.

Jenny Rawlings, Rayleigh

In our close (Graysons Close, Rayleigh) we have a green near a row of garages. During the stormy weather in January a tree fell over into the road from the green. A resident removed the tree debris from the road and left it on the green expecting the Council to collect. Others and I reported the need for the removal of debris. Alas this went on and on and nothing was done. The people who cut the verges and have included this green for over 40 years did not do it any more presumably because of the debris which now had a Xmas tree added by some kind soul.

The green is in private ownership and is not the responsibility of the Council. The Council has no legal powers to require the removal of a tree or collapsed tree on private land unless it poses a danger.

With regard to grounds maintenance, the Council has always operated flexibly with its contractor and has not necessarily restricted activity to its own land or land for which it has a maintenance responsibility. However, the Council has no powers to require the maintenance of private land unless it becomes detrimental to the amenity of the area or poses a danger.

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After really being at the end of my tether I was informed that the green was not owned by the Council but they would remove (some, not all) of the debris as an act of kindness! These were the words used.

I have been in contact with the garage owners and they do not have on their deeds anything about being responsible for the green and I am asking whether it would really be that difficult for the verge cutters to return to cutting the green. It has become an eyesore in the extreme.

Richard Beard, Rayleigh

What can be done about the indiscriminate parking occurring on a regular basis opposite road junction namely Eastcheap/Willow Drive. This presents a danger to traffic in all directions of this junction during the day and especially at night. Highway Code:- section 217 point 5 explains.

Mr T S Meech, Rayleigh

Will the Council stop development in central Rayleigh?

Ms N Trippier, Rayleigh

Would you please confirm over how many years these new houses are to be built in Rayleigh accordingly how will the required infrastructure be phased in?

Mr Yarnell, Rayleigh

What steps can be taken to make the flood plain usable?

In this case the site is no longer accessible by our grounds maintenance contractor. We are going through the formal process of identifying the owner and seek the completion of the necessary remedial works. Once this work has been completed, we will instruct our contractor to resume grounds maintenance activities.

This section of road is now restricted Monday to Friday between 11 am and 12 noon, so I must assume the parking is occurring outside of this period. I plan to visit this area on 6 September so will look into the issue that Mr Beard has raised.

The Council has no control over applications that may be submitted for re-development. If an application is submitted it must be considered against adopted local and national planning policies.

The plan period for the Rochford Development Plan documents that will replace the adopted Local Plan runs until at least 2021, but the Government has said that it expects local planning authorities to look beyond that date by several years in making decisions about future land allocations. All developers will be asked to provide appropriate infrastructure.

None as far as is known; the Council would not wish to see any new development within areas at risk from tidal or alluvial flooding. These areas are

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Mr Yarnell, Rayleigh

Are there sites where planning permission has been granted but not exercised, i.e. developers holding back to profit from increasing land values? If so, can they be made to use them?

shown on the Local Plan.

The only known site within the district that has not been developed and has an extant planning consent is the Carter and Ward site in Rayleigh. An elderly persons home has recently been constructed on the corner of that site.

Essex County Council have apparently stated that the number of new homes suggested to be built in Rayleigh should be reduced by 300 (1800 to 1500). Will this be complied with?

This relates to future projections for school places – the Council will be examining carefully the implications of new housing development on primary and secondary schools, but the provision of schools is only one of many factors that must be considered in making decisions about allocations.

Mr Yarnell, Rayleigh

A 'single new village' has been suggested within Rochford where the developers could be charged with providing appropriate infrastructure. What scope is there to consider this as an option? (It would release pressure on Rayleigh, which is already at saturation point.)

This was an option considered by the Council, but it has been concluded that sustainable extensions of the existing urban settlements is a better option. Whatever the size of site, developers will be required to contribute towards the provision of appropriate infrastructure.

Ms L Allen, Rayleigh

How do you believe that Rayleigh alone can support approximately another 1,800 houses? What about roads, schools, doctors, swimming pool, community centre, sewage, buses and jobs?

The Council has to make difficult decisions about future allocations for housing and other land uses for that matter. These decisions about allocations and the provision of infrastructure are ones that must be tackled across the district and not just in Rayleigh.

Alistair Moffat, Rayleigh

How will the existing infrastructure – roads, schools, sewers, etc – cope with the extreme influx of c. 5000 people if 1800 homes are to be built in the area and what steps are being taken to ensure existing facilities are not overloaded to the detriment of existing residents?

An update will be provided at the next meeting of the West Area Committee.

<b>Question</b>	<b>Response</b>
Ann Hatchman, Rayleigh	An update will be provided at the next meeting of the West Area Committee.
1) How will local community absorb this many houses?	
2) Why not concentrate on regeneration further up country?	An update will be provided at the next meeting of the West Area Committee.
Pam Bailey, Rayleigh	As above.
How can we direct the housing towards the north of the country?	