

## MYLAND AND BRAISWICK NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

### STATEMENT OF CONSULTATION

1. Myland Community Council (MCC) was formed in 1999 as Myland Parish Council. Since that date the Council has maintained regular dialogue with the community in various ways and for various reasons. Following creation of the Council an all-household survey was carried out to assess views and needs as a foundation for the structure of the Council.
2. A key activity has always been to review and comment on planning applications and planning matters pertinent to the Parish. The emergence of the Colchester Borough Council (CBC) current Local Plan and its proposed impact in terms of the development of Myland heralded much broader planning concerns and generated further layers of community consultation.
3. During the period 2009 – 2010 much of the original survey information was revisited and updated to help inform production of *The Myland Design Statement* and *The Myland Parish Plan*. Local events, for example in the Parish Office, Church Hall and at the local annual Fete and further focussed surveys enabled presentation of ideas and the gathering of views. The Council's *Mylander* magazine kept residents regularly informed. The *Design Statement* and the *Parish Plan* are regarded as important documents in the Council's planning 'tool box'. Both documents were adopted by CBC as 'planning guidance'.
4. In 2011, with development details emerging and in line with the new Localism approach to community development, CBC appointed the Interdisciplinary Centre for Environment and Society (iCES) at Essex University to undertake a local community engagement exercise. MCC provided manpower to assist. The community feedback was independently analysed and reported by iCES. The findings were consistent with MCC's own research with the principal issues emerging as:
  - High level appreciation for the local green and open spaces, a concern for their future and a need to seek their protection.
  - Major concerns at the limitations of the local transport infrastructure and traffic congestion.
  - Amid positive comments about 'sense of community', significant concerns existed regarding the lack of community facilities.

This data, together with MCC's own, helped inform the content and vision of the adopted *Myland Parish Plan*.

5. In the midst of development and with the three major sites yet to start, (Chesterwell – 1,600 dwellings, Severalls Phase 2 – 1,000 dwellings and The Northern Gateway – mixed sport/leisure/retail/housing) it was clear that MCC faced challenges surrounding the community concerns and aspirations.

6. Awareness of the proposals for neighbourhood plans as part of the Localism Act and its aims to enable a greater voice at local level over development growth, appeared to be a potentially valuable addition to the MCC planning 'tool box'. The intention to develop a neighbourhood plan to address the needs of a sustainable community within an ongoing development framework received support from Ward Councillors, CBC and the Town's M.P. MCC subsequently applied via CBC for Neighbourhood Plan Front Runner status. Confirmation was duly received from the Rt Hon Greg Clark M.P. in March 2012.
7. It was proposed by CBC that the Plan should embrace Braiswick which is a neighbourhood adjacent to Myland Parish and part of Mile End Ward which the Parish largely covers. Representation to the Braiswick Residents Association (BRA) resulted in their desire for a joint Plan, the *Myland and Braiswick Neighbourhood Plan*.
8. The Neighbourhood Plan Working Group was formed comprising MCC councillors, BRA representative and resident representatives. This Group includes people with professional backgrounds in planning and housing.
9. Because of the development environment surrounding Myland a Myland Development Committee (MDC) was formed. This was structured as an open forum during which residents had periodic opportunity to receive updates on developments and to raise questions and concerns. The May 2013 MDC was dedicated to outlining the Neighbourhood Plan, its background and its aims. Following that meeting it was decided a new all-household survey should be undertaken. Following this event the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group Chair also addressed the BRA AGM where general support and encouragement to progress the Plan was received.
10. The new all-household survey (Myland and Braiswick) was carried out in late 2013 and early 2014 and focused solely on the Neighbourhood Plan. It concentrated on subjects pertinent to sustainable communities. This resulted in almost 800 detailed responses, the data from which was amalgamated and reviewed to produce a summary of community views under the headings now prescribed in the Plan. Briefly the results said:
  - Housing should be of quality design and meet all needs.
  - Education should cater for all needs in step with growth.
  - Employment should be supported at local level.
  - Environment should be protected and enhanced where possible.
  - Social amenity should meet the community's needs.
  - Sport and leisure should be available as key to health and well-being.
  - Roads and transport options should be available and effective.

11. Analysis of these results produced a set of high-level objectives and an overall vision for the Plan. This data when taken together with the other recent engagement exercises outlined above formed the basis for the policies drafted into the Plan with confidence that community views and aspirations have remained a consistent set of key messages throughout the whole period.
12. Further community engagement was enabled during the 2015 *Neighbourhood Plan Pre-submission Draft* consultation exercise which by law included prescribed statutory bodies and neighbouring parishes and wards. This was advertised to all local residents and businesses via letter drop, newspaper advert and email correspondence where appropriate. Community and statutory body responses to the pre-submission consultation exercise were then reviewed and appropriate amendments made to the draft Plan. Appreciation for the scope and depth of the Plan was expressed and a number of suggestions made by some statutory bodies to strengthen policies. Some examples are:
  - “Rydon support the vision and objectives and its...commitment to focus on quality of life”
  - “I congratulate the team for producing this very readable and compelling plan”
  - “The document sets out a clear desire for the achievement of a sustainable community and sustainable development, and this is considered to be entirely consistent with the purpose of neighbourhood planning”
  - Education policy to include reference to safe routes to schools.
  - Environment to policy include need to protect legacy buildings within development areas.
  - Transport policy to give higher profile to park and ride and car share schemes.
13. At all times notifications, updates and outcomes have been regularly reported via MCC and BRA websites, *The Mylander* magazine and MCC public meetings. Throughout the whole Neighbourhood Plan build period MCC and BRA have enjoyed and welcomed help and support through regular liaison with CBC.
14. On the 12 October 2015 and the 14 October 2015 respectively the BRA Committee and the MCC monthly public meeting fully endorsed the proposed Myland and Braiswick Neighbourhood Plan submission version.
15. A summary of the above is provided below.
  - June 2000: An all-households survey carried out on creation of Myland Parish Council.
  - March 2007-10: Local events in response to Colchester Borough Council's Core Strategy Policies, culminating in a Masterplan for Myland.
  - 2009-2010: Local events and questionnaires on the *Myland Design Statement and Myland Parish Plan*.
  - March 2010: Local events and communications on the response to the Chesterwell development masterplan proposals.

- October 2012: A local community engagement exercise covering Myland and run by Essex University on behalf of Colchester Borough Council.
- May 2013: Myland Development Committee public meeting on the Neighbourhood Plan.
- 2013-14: All households survey for the Neighbourhood Plan with related and other communications via the Mylander magazine and MCC and BRA websites.
- Spring/Summer 2015: Pre-submission Draft consultation with Myland and Braiswick residents and businesses via all property letter-drop, website and email communication. This in harmony with statutory body consultation directly by email.
- At all times: Quarterly updates via the Mylander magazine and monthly updates via MCC monthly public meeting minutes.
- October 2015: Endorsement of the Plan proposed submission version by BRA and MCC committees.
- All survey results and analysis, Working Group Notes and communication stream examples are available for scrutiny at the MCC Office.

## **November 2015**