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MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD AT BRADWELL WITH PATTISWICK VILLAGE HALL

On Friday 23rd May 2014

**To discuss issues relating to Gateway 120 plans for the A120 Braintree
to Marks Tey**

Present: Cllr. Renee Hockley-Byam (Chairman); Cllr. Henry (Bob) Biggs;
Cllr. Mark Harden, Cllr. Barbara Coutts, Parish Clerk Diane Jacob, Bradwell PC.

Pritti Patel MP; Cllr Rodney, Bass Essex County Council; George Keiffer &
Steve Clark, Haven Gateway; Jon Hayden, Corporate Director Braintree DC;
Cllr Lady Patricia Newton, Braintree DC; Catherine Brookes and Fiona Semple
, Highways Agency; Martin Barrell, Environment Agency; Cllr. James Abbott,
BDC & ECC; Cllr Elizabeth Blundell, Colchester BC.

36 Members of Public

Apologies received and accepted from:

Bernard Jenkin MP (Statement read), Brookes Newmark MP, Robert Crayston,
Gateway 120 (Statement read); Kat Goodyear SuDs ECC;
Cllr Debbie Tyrie, Bradwell PC

1. Introductions and Welcome. Pritti Patel MP opened the meeting saying that she was making a case to Government and that there is a strong economic case for improving the A120. She said In order for this to take place it would be down to all Authorities to work together on a strategic business case for future plans. There had been lots of third party hearsay, media reports regarding housing, and extension of schools in the local area. The public should, when invited to do so, have their say.

2. As required by Section 33 of the Localism Act 2011, Parish Councillors are obliged to leave discussions where they have a disclosable pecuniary interest. To participate in discussions regarding the A120, the councillors will require a dispensation, and for this purpose Bradwell & Pattiswick Parish

Council resolves to delegate the Clerk the power to grant a dispensation from exclusion to all Councillors for the purpose of considering items on the agenda. Proposed to grant power to the Clerk to grant a dispensation, proposed by Cllr Bob Biggs, seconded by Cllr. Renee Hockley-Byam. All in favour.

The Clerk granted the dispensation for members to discuss items on the agenda.

3. Written Statements from Bernard Jenkin MP and Robert Crayston, Gateway 120, read out by Cllr. Renee Hockley-Byam

4. Minutes for the last meeting held in Bradwell Village Hall on 28th February 2013 signed as a true and accurate record, proposed by Cllr Bob Biggs, seconded by Cllr Renee Hockley-Byam.

5. Pressure on Local Plan from National Government

Cllr Lady Newton - Yes there is pressure on from National Government regarding the Core Strategy and Local Plan, which is sound and now in place. But in parts the exercise is still ongoing, 4,637 dwellings up to 2026. Site allocations not adopted only draft policy. Will allow small sites but no strategic allocations based on old regional figures. Would need to review Local Plan. Published in February 2014 a timetable for review of Local Plan, allow for adoption new local plan by 2017. Awaiting strategic Housing Market Assessment reports which will be coming out shortly. Anticipate a huge increase in the need for dwellings. Significant pressure all over Essex.

Cllr Elizabeth Blundell – CBC will not be taking part in Gateway 120. 5,000 people in Colchester on housing list for homes. Review and consultation underway. Social housing is being reduced. Site allocations – both BDC & CBC have a 5 year supply of housing and plentiful supply of land. New Local Plan early in 2015 Participation from the public would be welcomed

Cllr Rodney Bass – A120 is a trunk road – managed by Highways not the responsibility of ECC. The road will not be built without robust developer contribution. Important to establish with Highways preferred options for the long term. 1. Housing should not be built without infrastructure; roads cannot be built without further consideration to hospitals, schools, and businesses. 2. Need to consider long term needs. If plans were in place now, building of a new road could not commence until 2021 at least. 3. Need to establish the options. On a personal note would like to see the A120 dual from Galleys Corner to Easthorpe. A120 is important in order to sustain economic growth.

Cllr James Abbott – There is no need for new development on such a large scale, to turn a Village into a Town in order to get better infrastructure.

Could dualling the A120 be paid for through Government? Update on Local Plan is required.

Pritti Patel MP – No funding available from Government they do not have the funds – agree A120 is not fit for purpose – Local Core Strategies need to be in place.

Cllr Rodney Bass – However bid in process with SELEP (South East Local Enterprise Partnership) for small maintenance and ongoing repairs, pinch point issues could be funded by public money. It was pointed out that the A120 is part of the European Trunk Road Network however no funds would be forthcoming from Europe.

Haven Gateway Partnership – Objective is economic development, housing is not the principal part – creating more jobs etc. Without that growth there would be less opportunity for funding. The District Core Strategy – 14,000 new jobs, six and half thousand businesses in the area, for businesses to grow and ensure infrastructure is in place to support these jobs. Essex, Kent and East Suffolk are part of the strategic corridor for growth. Confirmation that there is no scheme on the table for the A120 at the moment.

Catherine Brookes – Responding to question from Bradwell A120 Committee regarding infrastructure she replied the A120 Bridge, has passed all structural tests, programme for refurbishment is ongoing. Assessment taken place, remedial works planned.

The Highways Agency has a set priority to be a good neighbour.

Route Based Strategies – A120 Capital Money Allocation for 2020/21 from government will be three times as much as for 2015/16. Route Based Strategy is based on Highways congestion, safety, economic growth and pinch points.

Money could be available for traffic calming measures.

Cllr Elizabeth Blundell – Accidents occurring more frequently now.

Cllr James Abbott – Criticised recent works at Galleys Corner & Marks Farm. Design poor, money spent but no improvement to condition of traffic. More consultation of local public views needed before works pushed through, Bradwell has one of the largest Quarries in Essex. What is needed is an on-line A120 solution with proper bypasses for Bradwell and Marks Tey. The final decision should be made public for everyone to comment on.

Ron Marks – Resident from Skye Green

Southern Route - why not a more direct route to A12, Rivenhall and Kelvedon, could link villages such as Tiptree etc

Cllr Rodney Bass – Option could be considered. Developer contributions do not determine elements of roads – only public opinion.

Road First then Development. Suggested route B1023 Tiptree to Feering would enter A12, just north of Feering. Jobs and housing comes with better roads

Tony Bramley – Resident from Marks Tey

Commenting on routes – if the new road joins the A12 too far south it won't be used. Economic growth also causes more congestion.

Christa Pennack – Resident from Feering

New development would adversely affect Feering roads.

Alan Walker –Resident from Marks Tey

The future of the A120 should be considered long term. Walking along the footpaths in seriously dangerous at present when heavy Lorries go thundering past. The Lorries also shake the foundations of all the homes, some hundreds of years old, along the length of the A120.

Pritti Patel MP – Conservation issues must be addressed when considering route based strategy, etc. Highways website has a link.

Flooding National Planning Policy

Responding to a question from Bradwell's A120 Committee Martin Barrell from the Environment Agency said any new development will increase run off. Flood risk is assessed and checked at planning stage prior to any development.

Debbie Morgan – Resident from Coggeshall

Said Central Government has refused to fund improvements to the A120 between Braintree and Mark Tey, yet they have asked for the Local Development Plan to be shelved as they require a much higher level of new build in the area. Bearing in mind that this stretch of the A120 is one of the most dangerous roads in the UK, surely it is reckless for local Councillors to approve higher building numbers in the area considering the number of serious accidents that have happened along the A120 in recent years."

John Croockenden – Great Tey

Whilst we are all still thinking about improvements, economic growth has been made and we have wasted 6 years in discussions, this should have gone ahead before. Even if the government has no money to offer.

Cllr Lady Newton – Leaders of a number of Councils, get together regularly and take an overall view where infrastructure might be needed.

Cllr Elizabeth Blundell – Looked at the Tendring Local Plan etc. ECC perspective relies on the District Councils. They do not have any ability to gain capital. Very little long term plan regarding the Earls Colne Junction to Coggeshall despite numerous accidents, should also to be considered when considering the A120.

Cllr Mark Harden (Bradwell) asked whether there is any policy or guidance on the level of contribution that would be sought from private developers for a project of this nature to receive the go ahead. The response was that there is no policy or guidance on the subject but the contribution would have to be substantial.

Re Gateway 120 Consortium

It was confirmed that Gateway 120 Consortium do hold regular meetings with MPs, Highways Agency, ECC and local councils but any proposal would have to fit in with the Planning framework. There is nothing on the table at the moment.

Priti Patel MP - There is a lot of third party speculation. It is down to the Local Authority when a public consultation is required. The public should make their views known direct to Local Authority or through their MP.

MEETING Closed at 4.10pm
Next meeting to be confirmed.