

Local Plan Panel Statement – 5th July 2016

Such a large area growth as outlined in the reports creates concerns and opportunities for the whole of the borough and Marks Tey is particularly affected.

Marks Tey Parish Council commends the three councils on their joint working, the projection of a plan into the 2030s, and distilling all of the information into the 'doomsday books' before us. They contain lofty ambitions and if the numbers are correct the approach of new settlements rather than creeping urban expansion is correct.

On the specifics of where those settlements are situated, Marks Tey Parish Council has written to Colchester Borough Council giving its view of the future of our locality. Marks Tey is not sustainable as it is at present, saddled with an infrastructure deficit that makes day to day life in the locality difficult, but the prospect of being swamped by a large garden community turning a largely rural location into an urban one is a major threat to many of the 2500 residents of Marks Tey. Another major threat of the proposals is that Marks Tey could be put in limbo for much of the next 10 to 15 years with steadily worsening infrastructure until a future is clarified.

Marks Tey Parish Council gave its future views because there had been no consultation by the Borough Council with the Marks Tey community and poor communications as the proposals were developed and this is not a good start for such ambitious aspirations.

Marks Tey Parish Council's desire is to work with the Borough Council to ensure that your proposals constitute a betterment for the people of Marks Tey.

Our responsibility in the consultation is to check that the set of proposals and the abilities of the Borough Council, do give betterment, and have the capability and reliability of being delivered given the uncertain economic times and, that specific timescales for more information are given to the community. With a proposals of such national importance there will be new skill sets required by local borough council officers but the opportunity for new national prominence for Colchester. Failure gives the risk of National notoriety.

Marks Tey Parish Council's requests, that unlike to date, the Marks Tey community is fully involved by the Borough Council in ongoing investigations and governance and that our peer parishes accepted the compromise that such area growth imposes on us all, and joins with Marks Tey Parish in demanding a level of excellence that will make us all proud.

Allan Walker
Chairman, Marks Tey Parish Council