

Motion - Future development in Epping Town Centre

“This Council notes:

(a) that Essex County Council intends to vacate the current Epping Junior School site in St John's Road as part of its plan to amalgamate Epping Junior School and Epping Infants School on the Infants School site in Coronation Hill, and that as a result the County Council is likely to sell the Junior School site for development;

(b) that consideration is being given to the future of the Epping Depot, which is adjacent to the Junior School;

(c) that the future of the former Youth and Adult Centre in St John's Road next to the Junior School is uncertain once the building is no longer required as a temporary home for Epping Infants School;

(d) that the draft Epping Conservation Area Appraisal identifies County Council land behind Epping Library as in need of regeneration;

(e) that other development proposals have been suggested in the area including land at Bakers Lane car park and next to St John's Church;

(f) that there is a concentration of community uses in the area including Epping Library, Epping Register Office, Epping Hall, St John's Church Hall, St John's Church, a dental surgery and Epping Methodist Church;

(g) that the Cabinet recently approved the preparation of a development brief for The Broadway, Loughton in order to make the most of the potential of that area;

and is of the opinion therefore:

(i) that the likely redevelopment of some or all of these sites will have a dramatic effect on the centre of Epping;

(ii) that if sites are brought forward for development in a piecemeal and uncoordinated fashion, Epping could lose important community facilities and find unsustainable pressure being placed on local infrastructure;

(iii) that if the County and/or District Councils dispose of land in this area the impact on the community and the importance of providing community facilities for Epping and the surrounding area should be fully considered and should not be of lesser priority than obtaining the largest possible capital receipt;

and calls upon the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Economic Development and the Cabinet:

(a) to ensure that a development brief covering the area likely to be affected by redevelopment is prepared;

(b) to include in the scope of the development brief

- the need to take account of the built heritage in the area,
- the potential to improve and/or relocate community facilities,
- all other relevant issues.”

Mover: Councillor Mrs J H Whitehouse

Seconder: Councillor Ms J Hedges