

**HAVERHILL TOWN COUNCIL
HAVERHILL AREA FORUM**



Present: **Cambridgeshire**
Duncan Ogilvy, Bartlow Parish Council
Councillor Rachel Paintin, Horseheath Parish Council
Councillor Paul Poulter Linton Parish Council
Councillor John Batchelor, S Cambs District Council, Linton ward

Essex
Nigel Chapman, Steeple Bumpstead Parish Council
Councillor Ian Westrope, Steeple Bumpstead Parish Council
Councillor David Porth, Sturmer Parish Council

Haverhill Town Council
Mayor David Roach
Councillor Tony Brown
Councillor John Burns
Councillor Maureen Byrne
Councillor Pat Hanlon
Councillor Quillon Fox
Councillor Paula Fox
Councillor Betty McLatchy
Councillor Ivor McLatchy
Councillor Barry Robbins
Councillor Clive Turner
Councillor Anthony Williams

Suffolk
Councillor Paul Bishop, Clare Town Council
Claire Ebeling, Town Clerk, Clare Town Council
Marion Farrant, Clerk, Kedington Parish Council
Councillor Margaret Marks, St Edmundsbury Borough
Councillor Mary Evans, Suffolk County Council, Clare Division
Councillor Julian Flood, Suffolk County Council, Haverhill Cangle
Division

Apologies: **Essex**
Saffron Walden Town Council
Councillor Simon Walsh, Essex County Council, Thaxted Division.
Councillor Howard Rolfe, Uttlesford District Council, Ashdon ward

Suffolk
Councillor Andrew Bramwell, Haverhill Town/St Edmundsbury Boro
Council
Councillor Jason Crooks, Haverhill Town/St Edmundsbury Boro
Council
Councillor Karen Richardson, St Edmundsbury Borough, Kedington,
Little Thurlow Parish Council

In attendance: Colin Poole, Town Clerk Haverhill Town Council
Vicky Phillips, Assistant Town Clerk, Haverhill Town Council
Alisha Jenkins, Apprentice Office Assistant

2 members of the public

Welcome

Mayor of Haverhill, Councillor David Roach welcomed everyone to the meeting.

MINUTES

		Action
HAF /001	<p><u>Apologies for Absence</u> The above apologies were noted.</p>	
HAF /002	<p><u>Purpose of the Haverhill Area Forum</u> Colin Poole, the Haverhill Town Clerk, explained the purpose for holding this forum, and expressed the hope that such a meeting would enable all involved to discover common interests and goals and to enable continuity of messages to be carried forward. The forum will be about talking, listening and finding out where we all stand on issues.</p>	
HAF /003	<p><u>What should we be talking about?</u> From the questionnaire sent out with the invitation, several issues were raised: Co-operation, Planning & Development, Transport, Leisure and Traffic/A1307 Corridor.</p> <p><u>Co-Operation</u> Cllr Evans, SCC, explained that Wickhambrook and the Bradley's GP Surgeries were now being put under pressure due to Haverhill patients, not able to obtain an appointment in Haverhill, filtering out to the villages for their appointments. Cllr Marks, SEBC, suggested that patients were attending Addenbrookes Hospital rather than West Suffolk Hospital as there were better bus and transport links to Cambridge. Cllr McLatchy, Haverhill TC explained that due to lack of GP's at Haverhill, the surgeries were having to share work using mixed skills. Cllr Poulter, Linton PC, welcomed the opportunity for co-operation and more inclusion as he felt village parishes were generally ignored and held high hopes for the forum. Cllr Westrope, Steeple Bumpstead PC, also said that Steeple Bumpstead had problems with their GP Surgery. Patients from Steeple Bumpstead used the A&E at Addenbrookes and West Suffolk and felt that his parish were considered poor relations to Braintree and Witham. He felt Haverhill was their town for services. Steeple Bumpstead also had issues with transport as they were the shortest route for those travelling to Stansted. The development of 95 houses in the parish would contribute to this problem. Cllr Hanlon, Haverhill TC asked if NHS England could be invited to the next Haverhill Forum. Cllr Byrne, Haverhill TC was disappointed with the presentation given by the CCG to Haverhill Town Council and felt there was a massive task ahead and that co-operation was needed with other partners. Cllr Byrne had concerns that there was no extra money available and that the Haverhill area had lost £1.2m funding for health care and that there was</p>	

no provision for mental health. Cllr Byrne also agreed that villages had come under pressure since the Haverhill Walk-in Centre had been taken away, as villagers and Haverhill residents had used this facility. Cllr Byrne felt that the 5 year plan was too long and that something needed to be done more quickly.

Planning

Cllr Batchelor, South Cambs DC, suggested there was no cross-border coherent planning continuity and that S106 money should be able to be used cross border.

C Poole agreed and spoke about Highways England putting planning conditions on a development in Haverhill, requiring improvements to trunk road junctions in Braintree and at Forwentways.

Post meeting note: SEBC Planning confirmed that s106 is available across borders.

Cllr Westrope, Steeple Bumpstead PC, explained that Steeple Bumpstead was on the shortest route for those travelling to Stansted and Audley End. Steeple Bumpstead were keen to see Haverhill develop as it benefits them.

Cllr Burns talked about the North West and Gt Wilsey developments in Haverhill.

Cllr Porth, Sturmer PC, expressed concerns about CGR County Boundary changes. He was, however, confident that these would not go ahead. Overall, he was pleased with the consultation process as he felt that the planning process rarely took into consideration local parish/consultee concerns.

C Poole asked members to look at the map provided and asked what issues concerned them.

Sturmer PC were concerned that boundary changes would affect income for Braintree District Council from Days Inn and that his Parish Council felt that Haverhill were encroaching into the parish.

C Poole explained it was about clarity of the boundaries and only about bringing the bypass under one management, not extending further.

Cllr Turner, Haverhill TC expressed concerns over the lack of footpaths near Culina and that there were problems resolving this due to the development being cross-county.

Cllr Porth, Sturmer PC felt that issues needed ironing out at meetings like this.

Mayor Roach suggested that boundaries will change and that the Boundary Commission would take it out of our hands. However this meeting was a good way forward in understanding the concerns and issues of surround parishes.

Transport

Cllr Westrope, Steeple Bumpstead PC. A revived bus service to Stansted would improve the situation of too many cars driving through villages.

Cllr Marks, SEBC. The bus service to Cambridge was excellent, however, transport links to Bury St Edmunds for the College and Hospital were diabolical and that there needs to be an on-demand service.

Cllr Burns, Haverhill TC explained that the existing buses servicing Cambridge and Bury, as well as around town, should be direct and that the old 'hopper' service in Haverhill should be re-instated to cover the town. Village routes should be brought back.

Cllr Bishop, Clare TC. There was the 236 one bus an hour for Clare.

	<p>Clare had a problem in that they were on the 'fastest' route between Cambridge and Colchester and that was a huge issue with HGVs using sat nav negotiating the narrow corners and listed buildings on route. There had been discussions regarding changing A roads to B roads, but this was not going to happen.</p> <p>Cllr Evans, SCC said that a Lorry Group Scheme had been set up to address these sorts of issues.</p> <p>M Farrant, Kedington PC said that they had the same problem with HGV's.</p> <p>Mayor Roach thought that better signage may help.</p> <p>Cllr Burns, Haverhill TC spoke about the railway and that it could be a long-term solution.</p> <p>Cllr Q Fox, Haverhill TC highlighted the need for lorry drivers to use HGV dedicated sat nav.</p> <p><u>Leisure</u></p> <p>C Poole handed out the What's On guide and passed on N Keeble, Arts & Leisure Manager's thanks to those who support the Haverhill Arts Centre from outside of Haverhill. 40/50% of people visiting the Arts Centre were non-Haverhill postcodes.</p> <p>The Arts Centre has an effective Marketing mail-out system and has the capacity for other Communities' events to be promoted in the Arts Centre brochure. C Poole encouraged the surrounding community to submit details of events they want to publicise.</p> <p>Cllr Marks, SEBC, explained about the Borough's big Agenda on Sport and Physical and Mental Health.</p>	ALL to note
HAF /004	<p><u>Haverhill Vision 2031</u></p> <p>Cllr Burns, Haverhill TC gave an overview on Haverhill Vision 2031.</p> <p>Cllr Byrne, Haverhill TC had concerns about employment for young people.</p> <p>Claire Ebeling, Clare TC, thought that there should close links with upper schools and employers with apprenticeships.</p> <p>C Poole explained the role of Haverhill's Youth Skills Manager and would ask her to contact the local Councils.</p> <p>Information about apprenticeships and employment could be put in village magazines.</p> <p>Cllr Poulter, Linton PC felt that self-employment for young people should be encouraged.</p> <p>Cllr Turner, Haverhill TC explained about the MENTA facility in Haverhill.</p> <p>Cllr Burns, Haverhill TC suggested two-way communication through websites. Also that there was some concern over future employment as there was limited industrial land available in Haverhill. The owner of Gt. Wilsey development had designed homes with home-working in mind.</p>	CP
HAF /005	<p><u>A1307/A1017 Corridor</u></p> <p>Cllr Byrne, Haverhill TC supported the railway and felt that there were too many cars using the A1307 and asked if the villages signed up for the railway campaign? Young people were in favour of the idea of a railway.</p> <p>Cllr Batchelor, spoke about City Deal and that £39m would not go far. There were four options on the table, priority on cycle and bus lanes, a park and ride at Fourwentways, a bypass and railway.</p> <p>Cllr Flood, SCC, emphasised the need to put pressure on local MP's to get them on board.</p>	

	<p>Cllr Burns spoke on the railway and that Rail Futures were supportive. Cllr Boulter Linton PC, spoke on the need for evidence based solutions for strategic transport and City Deal as the scores for the A1307 proposals did not score sufficiently on the figures used, as it is only at two short periods of rush hour that the road traffic was a problem. Cllr Brown did not believe that villages along the A1307 would want new roads cutting through their countryside. C Poole agreed with Cllr Boulter that the road scored low on road congestion and advised that he had met with City Deal's consultants to understand the scoring process and that the consultants said that without significantly more congestion the scores would not justify major investment. He said that Cllr Flood was therefore correct in that there needs to be a strong political argument based on economic arguments to get improvements. Essentially that required consensus and acting together for a single solution. Cllr Batchelor, mentioned that by-passing Linton using the old railway line didn't score highly either. D Ogilvy, Bartlow PC agreed that there is a need for decent data based on facts. Cllr Poulter, Linton PC, agreed that a solution without objective evidence on traffic travelling from Haverhill could just push the problem to the 'Gogs'. Cllr Paintin, Horseheath PC, suggested that a dual carriageway would still clog up at Linton. Cllr Westrope, Steeple Bumpstead PC, suggested that businesses and schools could stagger their start / finish times. Cllr Marks, SEBC, added that the schools made a huge contribution to the problem and therefore may be where solutions could be found.</p>	
HAF /006	<p><u>Open Forum</u> Cllr Turner, Haverhill TC spoke on the formation of working party for Haverhill on Civil Emergency Planning. He asked if others had experience of creating such a plan and whether they needed to be connected. Cllr Westrope advised that Steeple Bumpstead have a Civil Emergency Plan. Claire Ebeling, Clare TC, said that Clare also had an Emergency Plan and spoke on the necessity of a cascade system.</p> <p>It was decided that the Town Council could forward links of parish newsletters to other councils, if other councils wished to forward details to Haverhill Town Council.</p>	ALL
HAF /007	<p><u>Date of next meeting</u> It was proposed that the date of the next meeting would be 12th September 2016.</p>	

Closure

The meeting closed at 9.21pm and was followed by refreshments & networking.