



UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL
 Felsted & Stebbing Ward
 District Councillors Sandi Merifield & John Evans



DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORT: SEPTEMBER 2021

CLLrs Sandi Merifield and John Evans are pleased to present their Monthly Report to the Parish Council. .

STANSTED AIRPORT PLANNING APPEAL

Since our last report, the Secretary of State (against whom the application to challenge the Planning Inspectors' decision is being made) has submitted a set of reasons why the Inspectors were, in his view, justified in reaching the Decision they did.

A copy of these reasons will be published shortly on the UDC website dedicated to the Appeal process and we shall report more fully at your next meeting when the materials are publicly available. For readers' convenience, the UDC link to the entire Appeal is to be found here:

<https://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/article/7028/Stansted-Airport-planning-appeal>

LOCAL PLAN

We reported to you in July as to the stage of preparation of the Local Plan including the topic of "housing numbers" and the status of the Call for Sites process. The outcome of the Call for Sites was published in map/outline format on the UDC website and the interactive link is to be found here:

<https://udc.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=cd2fe11bef1742feaeaf0ff48610f873>

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You will be able to see here the sites submitted across the District and of course in the Parish and their respective indicated capacity (for residential dwellings and employment/mixed use etc) by “drilling down” on the link to each of them.

Across the District, 299 “sites” (of very varying sizes – small to very extensive) were submitted by landowners/promoters as being available and thus merited, in their view, consideration in the allocation of locations for potential development in the draft Local Plan.

Given the Government’s “requirement” to supply annually a minimum of 706 dwellings across the District during the plan period, running to 2040, the sites submitted would if all were allocated provide land able to accommodate approaching **six times** the number of required dwellings – so far in excess of the requirement.

The subject has been covered in two workshops arranged for members of Parish and Town Councils at the end of July and your representatives were able to attend and helpfully ask questions/put forward their views.

Officers will now be evaluating the “suitability” of all the sites identified in terms of their technical characteristics and once completed, will be checking with the Parish and Town Councils the factual accuracy of the summaries prepared, prior then to consideration being given at the Options stage (early in 2022) by the Local Plan Leadership Group of potential allocations of the larger potential development locations, district wide.

A report to Cabinet containing a recommendation as to strategy has been prepared by the Local Plan Leadership Group and would be perhaps useful as further background information:

<https://uttlesford.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s24646/Local%20Plan%20Preliminary%20Outline%20Strategy.pdf>

Presently, an exercise is underway as to the sustainability policies to be applied (to promote sustainable development) and a scoping report which represents the first stage in the Sustainability Appraisal process. Its purpose is to identify the scope and level of detail of the information to be included in the Sustainability Appraisal report.

https://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/media/11049/UDC-Local-Plan-SA-Scoping-Report-final-draft-for-consultation-Aug-2021/pdf/UDC_Local_Plan_SA_Scoping_Report_final_draft_for_consultation_Aug_2021.pdf?m=63764211381310000

Usually, this consultation would be limited to a small number of statutory consultation bodies. However, UDC is keen to give everyone the opportunity to comment and hopes that the innovative digital report

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platform deployed by its consultants, AECOM, will provide an easier way to understand and comment upon the material.

<https://planengageuk.alytics.com/uttlesford-lp-digital>

and this is out for consultation until **22 September 2021.**

STANSTED AIRPORT - NIGHT FLIGHTS AND OTHER MATTERS

Night flights ex Stansted are not only a matter of considerable irritation to residents but also have potentially a notable adverse impact on their health.

The Government is undertaking a consultation as to their consequences, justification and possible mitigation and UDC has the opportunity of commenting on them until the end of September. A draft report has been prepared which will come to Cabinet on 2 September, following a review by the Stansted Airport Advisory Panel ("STAAP") (a UDC Member body which John has now been asked to join) and it is to be found here:

<https://uttlesford.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s24868/Cabinet%2002.09.21%20Night%20flights%20consultation%20003.pdf>

Further work is being undertaken by STAAP prior to the consultation deadline and we shall keep you updated as to the final submissions ultimately made to HMG. There is a body of opinion among Council Members that night flights should and to the greatest extent possible be prohibited. However, this is a decision for the Department for Transport but in areas where many dwellings cannot be effectively double glazed (because of their listed/heritage status), noise intrusion by reason of night flying can be understood to be particularly noxious.

Sandi has also recently been appointed, representing UDC interests, to Stansted Airport Consultative Committee ("STACC") which is an independent body made up of different industry, trade, employee and outside bodies (including Stansted Airport Watch).

We shall report as to the further workings of both STAAP and STACC in future Reports.

PLANNING APPEALS

An Appeal was heard in July by the Planning Inspector in respect of an outline application for the construction of 60 dwellings north of Rosemary Lane, Stebbing and his Decision was handed down on 27 August (as you know the Inspectorate is expected to determine appeals in short order these days). The Appeal was refused, the development not permitted, and the reasons given were largely based on what would have amounted to the adverse impact on landscape value and heritage assets in the vicinity.

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[https://publicaccess.uttlesford.gov.uk/online-applications/files/1A8BE93E4821BB6D77ED0FF32B6E881C/pdf/UTT_20_1102_OP-APPEAL -
_APPEAL DECISION NOTICE-3689715.pdf](https://publicaccess.uttlesford.gov.uk/online-applications/files/1A8BE93E4821BB6D77ED0FF32B6E881C/pdf/UTT_20_1102_OP-APPEAL_-_APPEAL_DECISION_NOTICE-3689715.pdf)

Although this Decision is of course site specific, there are general principles which may be of use and application to the deliberations of your Planning Sub-Committee. The UDC policy regarding development in the countryside has on this occasion been supported, albeit for reasons justified by valuable landscape and heritage considerations, notwithstanding the absence of a five year land supply and thus the application of the presumption in favour of sustainable development. Issues as to road safety and ecology were also material in the consideration given.

WARD MEMBER'S INITIATIVE

As the Autumn approaches, we would like to remind community organisations from within the Parish that we are able to provide some financial support, using our annual UDC Councillor initiative funds whenever the opportunity arises and are always ready to receive proposals or enquiries. We have supported the Felsted Friendship Club as you might recall, following Cllr Moore's approach earlier in the Summer.

OUR SURGERY/GENERAL

Finally, we have resumed our face to face surgery with residents immediately before this Parish Council Meeting and look forward to meeting Felsted residents once again by this means

We were approached by some residents on Braintree Road concerning the travellers' recent encampment, and while we were aware of steps being taken by the Parish Council and other bodies, we did "knock on the door" of the residents concerned afterwards so as to make them aware of our interest in this trying and difficult issue.

As ever, of course, we would be very happy to hear from any parish councillors or residents by email or phone should there be anything they think we can help with or answer any questions you may have on our report.

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