

## QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC TO THE CABINET MEETING ON 8 SEPTEMBER 2020

### Item 6 – Replacement of Flood Gates on River Chelmer

#### 1. Roy Chandler, to be put in person at the meeting

I am Roy Chandler, Director and Chairman of Essex Waterways Ltd which operates the 14 mile Chelmer & Blackwater Navigation from Chelmsford to Heybridge Basin, Maldon for public benefit.

Both our parent organisation the Inland Waterways Association and Essex Waterways urge the Council to support the recommendation of Item 6.

Retention of the weir and replacement of the automatic gates are essential in order to maintain the character of the rivers in the City centre as an asset and setting and to retain the water level in Springfield Basin with its waterside development. Without the weir and gates the rivers will become rubbish strewn muddy ditches and the wharf walls in the basin will be vulnerable to collapse. River use will be impossible and Springfield Basin unusable.

The redevelopment of Chelmer Waterside and linking the Navigation with the rivers was first proposed 35 years ago and will bring considerable benefits to the City and while we would have preferred a navigable cut, we fully support the Council's alternative of a new lock which will enable greater use of all the waterways.

We look forward to working with the Waterways Working Group and sharing our expertise to bring the proposals to successful fruition.

Thank you.

#### 2. Malcolm Noble, to be put in person at the meeting

The Chelmsford Civic Society fully supports the proposal to replace the automatic flood gates and install a lock that will improve navigation to the upper Chelmer. We also wish to endorse comments by Roy Chandler on behalf of CRACL in support of Option 1, as set out in the relevant Cabinet report.

### 3. William Marriage, to be put in person at the meeting

My name is William Marriage, I have been working in a voluntary capacity for over 25 years in various roles in support of the Chelmer and Blackwater Navigation, latterly as chair of the Chelmer Canal Trust, a registered charity which exists to preserve the Navigation and its environs for the public benefit.

The Chelmer Canal Trust would like to express support for the proposal in Item 6 to replace the Chelmsford Automatic Weir incorporating a new lock to allow full navigation into the City Centre. We are convinced that, if implemented, this proposal will enhance the experience of the waterside areas of Chelmsford for visitors and residents alike and will contribute to making Chelmsford a more pleasant place to live and work. We hope that you will support this proposal in principle and look forward to assisting you, through the Waterways Working Group and similar forums, with the detail and practicalities of bringing this idea to fruition.

### Item 7.1 – Land North of Broomfield Masterplan

#### Robert Eburne of Bloor Homes, to be read out by the Democratic Services Officer

This Statement has been prepared by Bloor Homes (Eastern) as the developer for Strategic Growth Site 8 which is the subject of the Masterplan to be discussed at today's Cabinet meeting. Bloor has worked positively with Chelmsford City Council Officers and other stakeholders for the last 18 months through an open and collaborative approach to the development of this Masterplan. At the same time, direct engagement has been undertaken with the Local Parish Councils and the residents of Little Waltham and Broomfield to create a set of proposals that meet, in full, the requirements of the Chelmsford Local Plan while reflecting the considerations of local people.

This shared process has resulted in a sustainable, landscape-led Masterplan that respects the local characteristics of the site and, indeed, embraces these features as key components of the future place. The Masterplan delivers a network of landscape features across the site designed to enhance habitats, connect with the wider countryside and secure significant Biodiversity Net Gain through the incorporation of a range of open spaces, trees and hedgerows.

In terms of the approach to transport, Bloor has worked hard to encompass the requirements of the Local Plan policy to secure the hospital link road through the site and have led discussions with the Hospital Trust, as well as carrying out additional technical work, to help facilitate the development of this route beyond the site into the hospital itself. Significant efforts have been made to accommodate sustainable travel in discussion with Essex County Council and importantly, to ensure that footpaths and cycleways are fully integrated with wider routes both locally and in connecting to wider Chelmsford.

Bloor is committed to securing sustainable development outcomes, in addition to those aspects already embedded in the Masterplan itself, including full sign up to the Live-Well Initiative. We have agreed with officers to augment this with a further Sustainability Framework providing additional information on key matters such as low carbon, energy efficiency, reduced water use and other matters.

In the spirit of joint working that has been established, Bloor is happy to work with the conditions as set out in the Cabinet Report to ensure that the Masterplan and subsequent development meets the requirements of the Council and our shared vision for this site.

This Masterplan will deliver on the ambitions of the Chelmsford Local Plan at a crucial time when meeting the need for sustainably proposed new homes, in the right place, is even more important as we strive to maximise housing supply during the recovery from the pandemic. Bloor is committed to the delivery of this site and will be submitting a planning application this year in accord with the Local Plan Policy.