



# Brightlingsea

## Town Plan

### 2011



DRIVERS  
AGENTS

## BRIGHTLINGSEA TOWN PLAN

Dear Resident,

As the Chairman of the Steering Group, which has worked to produce the finished Town Plan, I would like to thank all those who have given their time and considerable efforts to bring this about. Not just the Steering Group, but our friends from Warwick Network Limited, who have put together our findings from the Questionnaire that was sent out some long time ago now, and which perhaps many of you may have forgotten about, or thought it would never come to pass. There were those who expected it to be completed and published within a couple of months, but the usual time span for such a project is two years, and we are just within that time-frame.

Without the residents of Brightlingsea, taking the time and thought to completing the questionnaires and asking many and varied questions or making comments, it would not have been possible to draw up a Town Plan at all, so thank you too. I would also like to thank Mr Gordon Miles, who has written a poem about Brightlingsea, and who has given us permission to re-produce it in the Plan.

You will see from the document or the disc, a picture of the town as it is now, with recommendations on how it might change for the better in the future, without losing it's uniqueness. After all, that is why we enjoy living in Brightlingsea.

Vivien Chapman  
Chairman



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*Note; appendices are bound separately*

## FOREWARD

The Town Plan was launched on Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> June 2009 in St. James's Church. Sarah Sapsford from The Rural Community Council of Essex (RCCE) came along to help explain the idea behind it, and there was plenty of input from those attending, with questions and discussion. Afterwards, representatives of various interested groups came forward, and we thought the Steering Group would be born from that.

As it turned out, this would have proved to be too large a committee, and so we formed a small Steering Group, four Councillors - Vivien Chapman (Chairman), Marion Beckwith, David Dixon, Mike Holding, and two non Councillors - Gerry Pulford (Secretary), and Bob Shotton. There are many acknowledgements we must make, for without the help of many people, we wouldn't be here today.

Now that the document has been produced, those interested groups and organisations, plus representatives from statutory bodies, such as the police and fire brigade, will come into their own, to take forward the ideas and plans within the document.

Since the Questionnaires went out, certain aspects have been covered and things have moved on. For instance, we have a 'Considerate Parking' initiative; members of the groundstaff at the Town Council have been trained to issue fixed penalty notices for anyone dropping litter or allowing their dogs to foul the pavements, and other areas where this is forbidden - all public open spaces. Further the Councillors have received training in making Witness Statements. Many residents attended the District Council's exhibition about the possible future development in the District and gave their comments about how much new development there should be in Brightlingsea. Planning rules are now going through changes anyway, which will give more control to local people. A new bus route from Brightlingsea to Clacton, via Great Bentley, began on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2011.

The Questionnaire was open to be completed by all households in Brightlingsea. There was a response of just under 30%, which is considered good and representative. The number of people, including children, in the responding households was 2130, representing 25% of the population.

The Questionnaire forms contained many written comments, which have been used to interpret the results more fully, and in certain cases, as the basis for additional analysis. The full tabulated results of the Survey, and the written comments, are bound separately; and are available as an appendix to this Plan.

## Brightlingsea - A Short Description

Brightlingsea is a small town situated on the estuary of the River Colne in Essex. The town consists of approximately 3600 dwellings (*Census 2001: updated 2007. 3546*) and has a population of about 8400 persons including children (*Census 2001 updated 2004 : 8146*).

Colchester lies approximately 10 miles inland in a north-westerly direction , and the seaside resort of Clacton is approximately 8 miles along the coast almost due west; but only reached by a road detour inland to avoid the various creeks around Brightlingsea which lead away from the main estuary.

The Town grew mainly because of its connection to the sea, the resultant development of oyster beds, and the local sprat fishery. The town retains its ancient designation as a 'Cinque Port' with its connection as a 'limb' of Sandwich; and is the only such town north of the Thames Estuary. Currently fishing has dwindled to just a few boats, but the leisure side is very buoyant. Brightlingsea Sailing Club and the Colne Yacht Club are based on the waterfront, and are very active; as is the Colne Smack Preservation Society. There is a small wharf, behind which there is some light industry, including some small craft boatbuilding. The Harbour is managed and regulated by the Brightlingsea Harbour Commissioners, who also look after the Hard and the Jetty on behalf of the Town. The Town has one of the only five remaining municipal open air swimming pools in the country.

The main and only road into and out of the town is the B1029 / 1027 from Thorrington and Colchester. This makes the road very busy; particularly during morning and evening 'rush hours'. This restricted access is seen by some residents as an advantage, enabling Brightlingsea to retain its somewhat secluded and unspoilt atmosphere; but by others as a hindrance to normal development and a more modern lifestyle. Commuter traffic on the road undoubtedly causes some 'risk areas' on the road at busy times.

Most of the centre of Brightlingsea, the old town, is listed as a Conservation Area; and the coastline is subject to the Coastal Protection Belt.

The town has three schools; the Brightlingsea Infant School, the Brightlingsea Junior School, and the Colne Community School and College, which cater for the educational needs of all children up to the age of eighteen; all of which draw pupils both from Brightlingsea and the surrounding areas. The junior schools provide 'out of school' childcare on a daily basis (not weekends); and all-day cover during school holidays.

The recent trend for some shops in the High Street and Victoria Place to close has been reversed; and at the present time there are no empty retail premises in the centre of town.

There is one GP practice in the town which operates from a modern medical facility in the town centre.

Communication with the nearby towns is by bus or private transport. The Bus Services have recently come in for significant criticism.

The Town supports a remarkable number of active societies and charitable organisations. In sport, Football, Rugby and Cricket are all well supported; and a very high standard of junior dinghy sailing has recently been achieved, with half the British team at the recent Mirror World Championships in Australia coming from Brightlingsea; and with a Gold medal being won.



## Brightlingsea - A Brief History

Brightlingsea is virtually an island surrounded by the Colne Estuary, Brightlingsea Creek & salt marsh. Its geology consists of a gravel cap resting on an ellipse of London clay, with springs around the gravel edge. 'The Hard', is a very useful outcrop of water-borne gravel, on the southern part of Brightlingsea overlooking Point Clear and allows for launching of boats regardless of tides.

There is evidence of a Bronze Age settlement at Moverons Farm and history records show that there had been trading from the Port of Brightlingsea since the late 1200's. Remains of Roman villas, implements and pottery have been found in the parish and some Roman tiles are imbedded in the walls of All Saints Church

All Saints Church which is located on a hill about a mile inland from the town came into existence long before the town of Brightlingsea – the site is associated with the Roman encampment and the Manor of Moverons. The present chancel and two thirds of the nave, with two small chapels were built c 1250. The impressive 97 feet high church tower was built in the 15<sup>th</sup> century though not finished until the second half of the 16<sup>th</sup> century. At its base it is 10' thick, the bell chamber has two bells remaining, one of early 15<sup>th</sup> century origin. Lights from the bell tower have been often used in bad weather to guide sailors home, visible from 17 miles out to sea. Following the drowning of 19 Brightlingsea men off the Dutch coast in 1872 a memorial ceramic wall tile was made for each parishioner 'lost at sea'. These tiles now encircle the nave

Brightlingsea has the distinction of being the only Cinque Port outside Kent and Sussex having been a limb of Sandwich since 1360. In 1347 five ships and 51 men were sent to the siege of Calais. 'William of Brightlingsea' was in Sir Francis Drake's fleet which vanquished the Spanish Armada. The rights given to the Town as a Cinque Port gave prosperity to the Town. Amongst the privileges given were the rights to wrecks within their limits and the concession of a right to hold their own courts and give justice to their own inhabitants, who were thus freed from jury service and from pleading in the ordinary Shire Courts.

The Cinque Port Wreck House was built around 1780; all goods were stored here from wrecks until they were sold or disposed of at a later date. The store was transferred to the Old Custom House in Sydney Street which displays the legend 'Cinque Port Board of Trade Wreck House' and as late as 1848, the Cinque Port Agent was active in the Colne.

Between 1470 – 1610 Brightlingsea enjoyed one of its greatest periods of prosperity and became a royal manor – its most illustrious "Squire" being Queen Elizabeth I during this time it became one of the 11 fastest growing towns in England. Several large houses were built during this period, 'Beasts', 'Whippatts', and 'Jacobe's Hall'; the latter, built by the Beriffe family, wealthy merchants of this time, their wealth helping to complete the All Saints Steeple, the Lady Chapel and the Vestry.

Much of its economic prosperity was based on maritime activity with fishing, shipbuilding and seamanship being of major importance. Men of Brightlingsea and Wivenhoe were recognised the world over for their seamanship – the Kaiser's captain on his yacht was a man from Brightlingsea.

The Swan Public House can be traced back to the early Elizabethan times. It was the nearest thing to a Posting House in the town, and the town horse pond lay opposite. In the late 1900's it was a rendezvous for yacht owners and skippers, and at each fitting-out time groups of young sailors could be seen 'cruising the Swan Deeps' in the hopes of getting a berth for the season.

During the 18<sup>th</sup> century there was the gradual growth of the oyster industry and large houses were built.

In 1870 there are records of 250 fishing smacks operating from the creek. Fishing was essentially a winter occupation – in the summer months fishermen would go 'on the rates' (working and sailing on the visiting yachts of professional owners) which created prosperity amongst the working class. 1938 saw the demise of this occupation, that year being the last great professional yachting season.

During the Edwardian period there were three shipyards with their mud berths; and two yachtsmen's hotels, the Anchor and the Royal Hotel. The yearly laying-up (overwintering) in Brightlingsea waters of the many yachts ensured a good livelihood for many local craftsmen.

The Wivenhoe and Brightlingsea railway opened in 1866 and was a branch line that operated rail services from the nearby town of Wivenhoe into the town centre of Brightlingsea. The service unfortunately fell victim to the Beeching cuts in the 1960s, and was eventually axed in 1964.

The visible relics of the railway's presence today are the Railway public house and micro-brewery, and the old embankment which is now a footpath. It is possible to walk along virtually the whole length of the former route from very near the site of the old station in Brightlingsea along the old embankment to the site of the former swing bridge. This makes for a pleasant, scenic walk alongside the River Colne with its the ecologically interesting salt marsh environment.

Benefactor of the town John Bateman gave the largest opal in the world to the town – carved to represent a seascape, the official insignia of the Deputy of the Cinque Ports. The badge and substantial chain of solid silver, with alternate links of silver oyster shells and crossed sprats, is still the regalia of the Deputy.

At the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> century there were 27 pubs in Brightlingsea serving a population of 4,500 residents. During the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, Customs Officers searched vessels along the coast for undocumented consignments destined for local hostleries. The first Anchor sited in Queen Street was a veritable haven for the local free trading fraternity. Now a private residence named Anchor Cottage, concealed cupboards, passages and chambers remain to bear testimony to the Anchor's dubious past.

The 1960's saw the end of the railway, coasting, fishing, oyster trade, yachting and shipbuilding. Shops closed as custom declined; at the end of World War II there had been 73 shops around the town.

Bateman's Tower was built in 1883 by John Bateman as a folly for his daughter, and as a refuge where his daughter could recuperate from consumption. The Tower is sited on Westmarsh point at the entrance to Brightlingsea Creek on the River Colne, and is often mistaken for a Martello Tower. During The Second World War the original roof of the folly was removed so that the tower could be used as an observation post by the Royal Observer Corps. In 2005, a restoration project funded by The Heritage Lottery Fund took place to restore the Tower to its original condition, including the fitting of a replica of the original roof, refurbishing the interior of the Tower and also painting the outside.

Brightlingsea open air swimming pool was built in 1933 and is one of the few remaining lidos (open air swimming pools built mainly in the art-deco period) still in use in the UK. Brightlingsea Lido was originally a salt water pool, but is now a two-level non-heated freshwater facility.

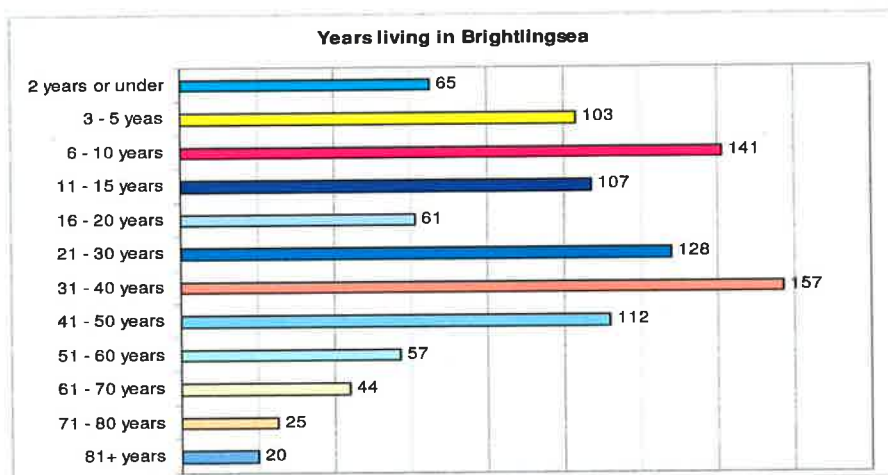


## BRIGHTLINGSEA TOWN PLAN

### 1.0 Living in Brightlingsea

#### 1.1 Length of time in Brightlingsea

Brightlingsea has a significantly stable population; with many people and households having lived in the Town for more than thirty years, 30%, and a further 30% having lived in the town for between ten and thirty years. This helps to explain the strong identity which the Town possesses, and the large number of active and well supported clubs and societies which exist.



#### 1.2 Home ownership

87 percent people own their own homes; about 8% are privately rented, and the balance are either rented from a Housing Association or directly from the Local Authority.

#### 1.3 Place of work

Most people work either in Brightlingsea (36%) or Colchester (30%); with a further 8% travelling to Clacton, 5% to London, and the balance to a wide variety of other locations.

#### 1.4 Unemployment

The level of unemployment is historically lower than elsewhere in England; and is probably around 5%.

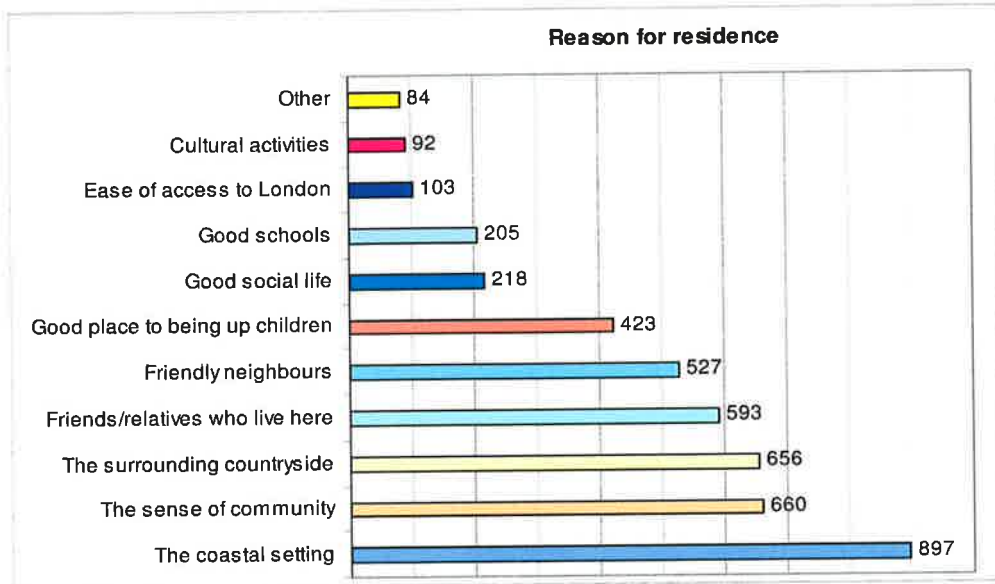
*Note: Figures in this Plan are drawn from the Brightlingsea Questionnaire distributed to all households by the Steering Group and modified or augmented by 2001 census data updated with the latest available adjustments.*

## BRIGHTLINGSEA TOWN PLAN

### 1.0 Living in Brightlingsea

#### 1.5 Living in Brightlingsea

The Survey asked residents what they liked about living in Brightlingsea. The response was almost wholly positive. Out of 4500 reasons given, including written comments, only two were specifically negative.



#### 1.6 Attractions of living in the Town

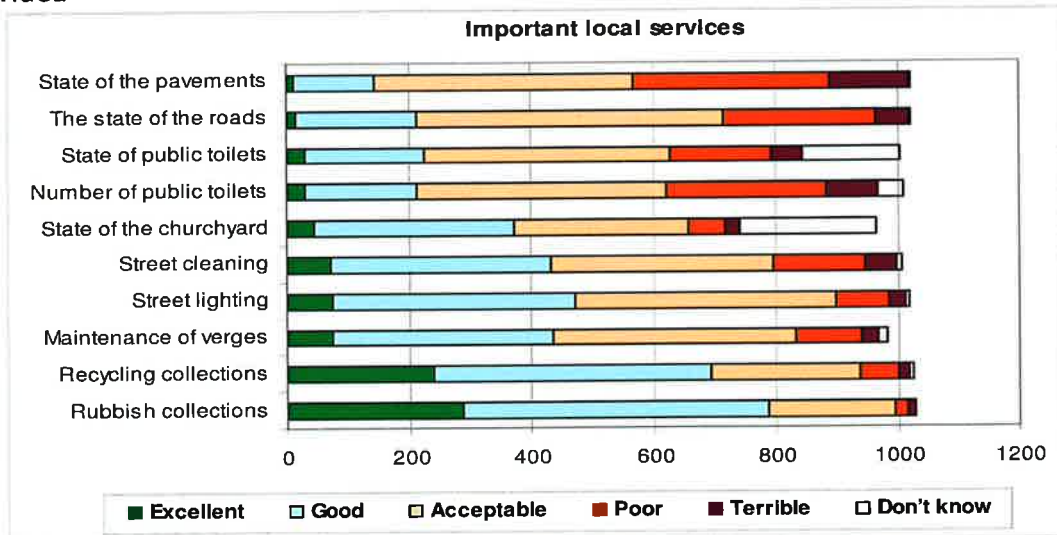
85% of respondents liked the location - the coastal setting and the surrounding countryside. The Town is felt to have a good sense of community, with friendly neighbours; and as a good place to bring up children. Comments noted the attraction of being able to walk to the shops; and that it was a relatively safe environment in which to live (*but see under 'policing' later*).



1.0 Living in Brightlingsea

**1.7 Local Services**

There was general agreement that most local services were well or at least acceptably provided



**1.8 Waste Collection: Street Lighting**

Perhaps surprisingly Rubbish and Re-cycling collections achieved a more than 85% 'acceptable or better' rating; and Street Cleaning and Street Lighting were similar. Within the written comments there was attention drawn to some local street areas which are not on a 'cleaning route', where litter is a problem; and some streets with less than adequate lighting; Maltings Road was highlighted. It was noted however, that some people would like less 'light pollution'.

**1.9 Garden Waste**

A significant number of people mentioned the need for a garden waste collection; and noted that this service was provided elsewhere.

**1.10 Fortnightly Waste collection**

The question about the acceptability of fortnightly waste collections, instead of weekly, received an almost wholly negative response; and the adoption of such a system would be extremely unpopular.

**1.11 Roads and pavements**

The condition of roads; and particularly pavements was considered to be 'poor or terrible' by nearly half of respondents, and in need of considerable improvement.

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## BRIGHTLINGSEA TOWN PLAN

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### 1.0 Living in Brightlingsea

#### **1.12 Public Toilets**

Because of summer visitors the number of public toilets around the Town is felt to be inadequate by about a third of those replying to the Questionnaire. There are public toilets in the centre of Town in Station Road, at the Hard in the new Marina Facility, and on the Western Promenade at the Car Park; however the toilets external to the swimming pool have been closed for a number of years, and the toilets within the swimming pool complex are only open when the swimming pool is open. The facilities at the Western Promenade are considered to be inadequate when many visitors are in Brightlingsea.

***Pavements in a bad state of repair are identified and reported; using the data and opinions revealed by the questionnaire bring additional pressure on the Highways Department to initiate an agreed programme of improvement.***

***Inform District Council of overwhelming opposition to fortnightly rubbish collections***

***Discuss with District Council the provision of Wheelie Bins for those who request them***

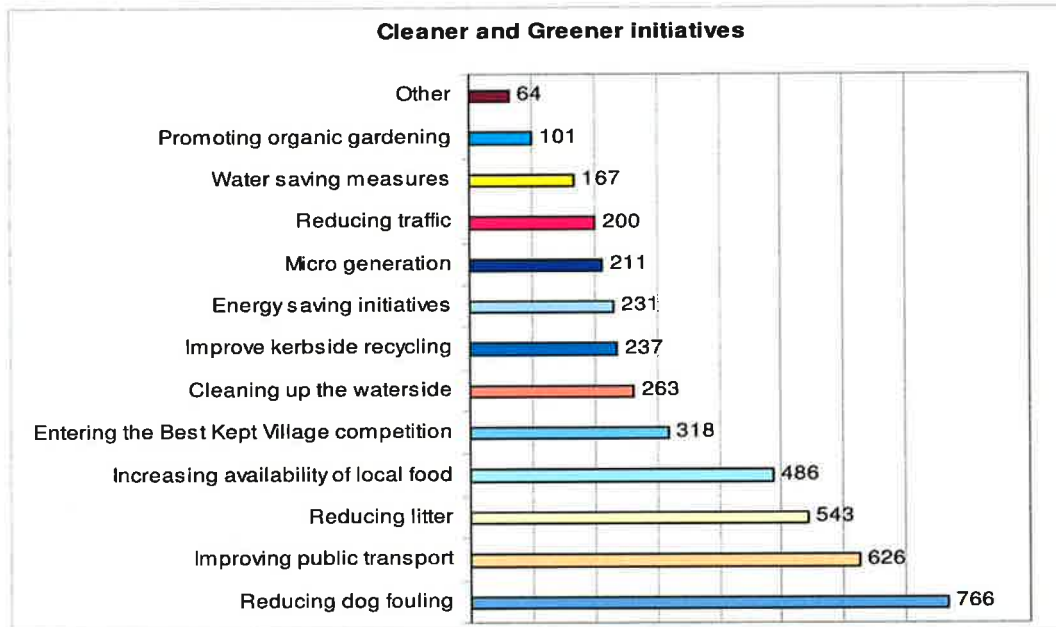
***Discuss with District Council a timetable for the introduction of Green Waste collection***

***Suggest to Town Council the use of contracted modern-style temporary toilet facilities on Western Prom to augment current arrangements during summer months.***

**1.0 Living in Brightlingsea**

**1.13 Green Initiatives**

In considering how Brightlingsea might be made 'cleaner and greener' most peoples' concerns and suggestions revolved around greater cleanliness in general and an improvement in public transport facilities.



**1.14 Dog fouling**

Reduction in dog fouling was seen by 74% of respondents to the question as of great importance. It was suggested that an improvement would be achieved with some more dog bins, and the introduction of on-the-spot fines.

**1.15 Litter and Cleanliness**

Although the standard of street cleaning was considered at least acceptable by more than 75% of people there remain areas of the Town which are subject to the casual dropping of litter, and no street cleaning. If local authority funds are not available to improve the situation this may be an area in which local teams of volunteers can often make a significant difference.

A lot of people would like to see the 'Waterside' 'cleaned up'; and this supports people's views throughout the Survey for Brightlingsea to capitalise on its shoreside location. One of the continuing complaints is the unfinished appearance of the new Marina which in its present state is felt to detract rather than enhance Brightlingsea's attractive waterside location.

## BRIGHTLINGSEA TOWN PLAN

### 1.0 Living in Brightlingsea

#### *1.16 Best kept Village*

About a third of respondents to the survey would like Brightlingsea to enter into the *Best Kept Village* Competition both as a communal activity for the Town, and also because it would be seen as a spur to tidying up areas highlighted.

#### *1.17 Public Transport*

People see an improvement in public transport as most important. This will need further investigation. In the terms of this part of the survey it refers to the old and filthy buses used by one bus operator, and the impression that they badly pollute the atmosphere. As noted later, current arrangements as to routes and timing are felt by many people to be at least acceptable. Improvements, particularly in the current financial climate, will be very much based on costs and anticipated usage; and this is usually difficult to justify with evidence to bus undertakings.

***Agree with Town Council to promote entry into the Best Kept Village Competition; and arrange meeting to form Committee – 2011 or 2012***

***Organise a twice yearly 'Litter Pick' to cleanse Target Areas.  
Contact schools for local pupil support***

***Ask dog owners to make use of the dog bins that are provided. Publicise the power of Council employees to issue on the spot fines***



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## BRIGHTLINGSEA TOWN PLAN

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### 1.0 Living in Brightlingsea

#### **1.18 Events in Brightlingsea**

Within Brightlingsea there are a large number of Clubs and Societies, and a continual calendar of events. There appears to be a significant percentage of residents who are unaware of forthcoming events, or only find out about them after they have passed. The Questionnaire asked how people do find out about events. From a virtually 100% response to the question (*1048 replies*) the following were the percentages using each medium.

#### **1.19 Sources of information**

	%
Brightlingsea and Wivenhoe Chronicle	73.5
Notices in Shops, Post Office, etc	70.0
Look Magazine	58.6
Personal Contact	53.6
Essex County Standard	21.0
Local radio	13.3
Daily Gazette	12.8
Council Notice Board	9.8
Pub Notice Board	7.5
Other	6.6
Brightlingsea Website	3.8

Traditional methods of finding information are still the most popular; newspapers, magazines, notices and of course word of mouth. It was commented that the Brightlingsea website did not hold current information about upcoming events and in consequence is little used for that purpose. It should however become increasingly used if its coverage and topicality can be improved; although within the elderly members of the population it is unlikely to become a preferred source.

#### **1.20 Additional sources of information**

People feel that sources of information in addition to those mentioned above would be a significant improvement. It is suggested that not only should the information be more widely distributed but also that improvements can be made in the way in which information is presented. Some of these suggestions are

- Design and produce a month by month Events Diary, taken from the
  - existing record maintained by the Town Council Office; that is updated as
  - necessary and publicly displayed for two months at a time
- at e.g. Newsagents, the Post Office, in Pubs and Shops.

## BRIGHTLINGSEA TOWN PLAN

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### 1.0 Living in Brightlingsea

- To ensure the Events Diary is reproduced on the Town website.  
*However the website can only be as good as the information that is received to be put on it.*
- The Schedule of Annual Town Events which appears in the Town Guide also to be displayed on the proposed new Notice Boards.
- To provide additional Notice Boards in prominent places for the display of event information. Suggested locations would be The Hard; Victoria Place; and Promenade Way.

#### **1.21 Finger Posts and Plaques**

Information which will be useful for visitors to the Town, and if well designed will enhance the overall streetscape are:

Finger Posts: to indicate the direction of various features

Wall Plaques: to describe the history of various prominent buildings

***Request the Town Council to erect additional Notice Boards of good and traditional design for the wider presentation of Town and Brightlingsea Societies event information.***

***Discuss with the Town website master the provision of a monthly or fortnightly updated schedule of events to take place in the Town over the forthcoming 8/12 weeks***

***Discuss with the Brightlingsea Society and the Town Council and Building owners the proposal to affix wall plaques to buildings of note in the Town; perhaps six.***

***Discuss with the Brightlingsea Society, The Liberty, and the Town Council the installation of 'Finger Post' direction indicators to Town features and important facilities for visitors***



## BRIGHTLINGSEA TOWN PLAN

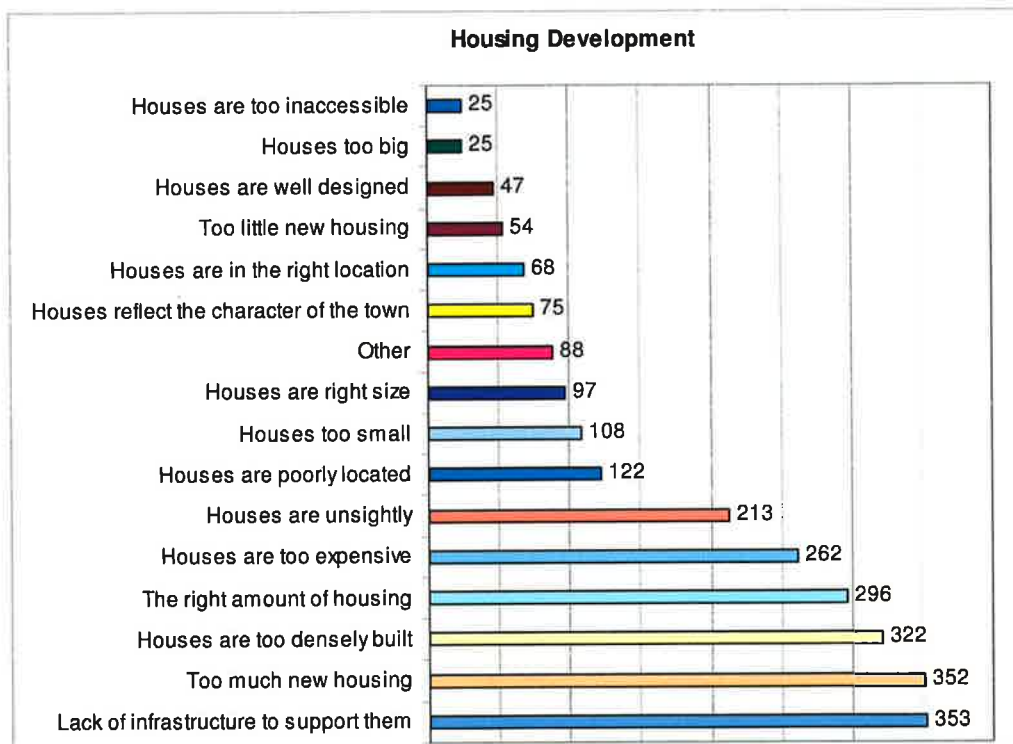
### 2.0 Housing, Planning and Development

#### 2.1 Twentieth century development

Modern Brightlingsea was developed rapidly in Victorian and Edwardian times between the High Street and Victoria Place to the north and the Waterside to the south, with small terraced houses and with comparatively narrow streets. These houses mainly accommodated families that worked on or in connection with the boats and fishing. Development has been steady since the 1920's and became rapid in the 1960's and 1970's, when the Town expanded dramatically with the development of the Manor Estate and the Maltings. Further development of the Town took place on the northern boundary where there is some light industry. Some piecemeal development has continued on an annual basis with the redevelopment of existing buildings or the development of vacant infill sites. A new upmarket housing and marina development, awaiting completion, has been built on the waterfront on an old shipyard site. It has attracted very mixed views from residents.

#### 2.2 Opinions on recent building

The Questionnaire asked people's opinions of the houses which have been built in Brightlingsea in recent years; and this attracted a very high response (92%).



## BRIGHTLINGSEA TOWN PLAN

### 2.0 Housing, Planning and Development

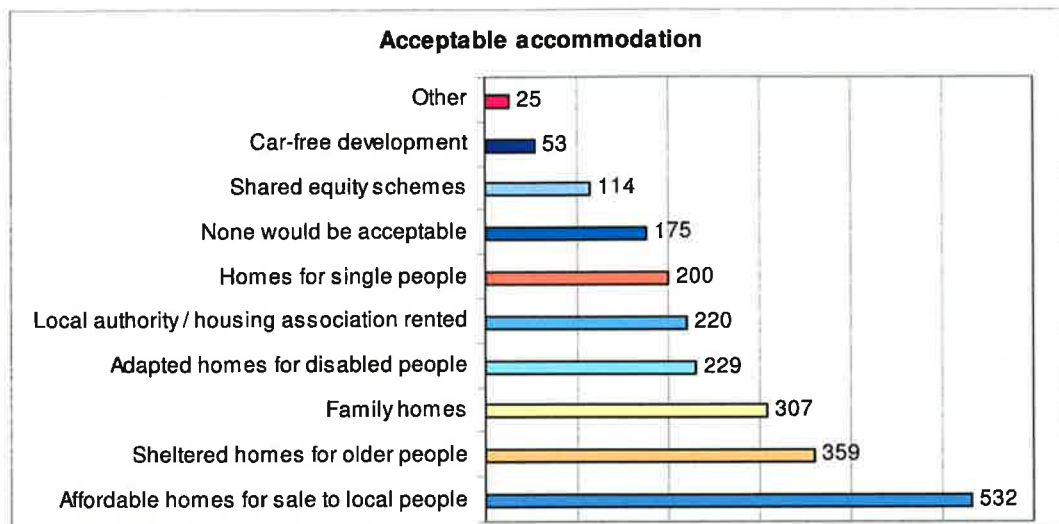
More than a third of people thought there had been too much new housing; and an equal number considered there was a lack of infrastructure to support that which had been built.

On the other hand, about a third thought the town had the right amount of housing. Many thought the house building had been to too high a density; and the houses were too expensive. When Manor Estate and the Maltings were laid out significantly more space per dwelling was allowed. More recent Government guidance required land to be used as efficiently as possible which often resulted in higher densities of houses per hectare than previously. This guidance has now been revised which means that lower densities are now acceptable

### 2.3 Further development

Most people now feel that Brightlingsea cannot accommodate more new housing. Those that do emphasize that only small developments should be allowed; and point to the need to improve the basic infrastructure. Most written comments however stress the particular character of the Town at its present size, which would be adversely affected by further major development.

If further housing were to be planned 57% of the respondents would be in favour of Affordable homes for sale to local people; 39% would favour Sheltered homes for elderly residents; and 33% Family homes.



## BRIGHTLINGSEA TOWN PLAN

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### 2.0 Housing, Planning and Development

It is understood that the revised local development framework will include for a further 150 units to be built in Brightlingsea. 90 of these units already have planning permission, but have yet to be built. A further 60 units are proposed as an extension to the current Town Envelope, utilising green field land currently forming part of the Coastal Protection Belt.

There is a clear feeling in the Town, and evidenced by the Survey taken for this Plan, that there should in general no further significant housing development; and particularly no move into the Coastal Protection Belt. However some allowance to be made for 'affordable housing' for local people; and for some special needs.

***Discuss with Town and District Councils the potentially detrimental effect which further significant development would have on the Town.***

***Emphasize to the District Council the impact of extending development outside the existing town envelope and into the Coastal Protection belt.***

***Discuss with the District Council the necessity to apply S.106 funds arising from current developments to the Town; and discuss also the application of the new Community Infrastructure Levy to projects in the Town.***

### **2.4 Conservation Area**

A significant part of the 'old town' of Brightlingsea is designated a 'Conservation Area'. Most people think this should be retained, or retained and extended. The area covers the centre of the Town to include Station Road, Victoria Place, Queen Street and High Street; extends eastwards to cover Hurst Green; and then down to the Waterside to include Duke Street, Nelson Street, New Street, and Tower Street.

Unfortunately, some of the area has suffered from unsympathetic development, and probably because of lack of support from the District Council, little positive action seems to have been taken to preserve and enhance the area from an architectural and townscape point of view. The area remains vulnerable to further adverse change if not properly managed.

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## BRIGHTLINGSEA TOWN PLAN

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### 2.0 Housing, Planning and Development

Comment from a resident is relevant:

*My house is in a Conservation Area in New Street. I have never received any advice or information about what I can or cannot do. I just wish doors, windows, and frontages could have been preserved. Backs don't matter. New Street is a mess. My terrace of five remains one of the few areas that are reasonably intact; and through individual owners alone, without outside advice or information.*

The District Council has put in place a number of Conservation Area Management Plans for neighbouring towns and villages, and has in the past allocated funds to provide grants for the extra costs of making traditional repairs to buildings in a Conservation Area; and for the reinstatement of lost architectural features. Funds are at present exhausted but the District Council intend to continue with such allocations in the future.

### **2.5 Listed Buildings National**

Brightlingsea contains a considerable number of Listed Buildings (39), which add to the overall historic interest of the Town and surrounding countryside. These include a number of properties in the High Street, and Victoria Place, as well as the older properties next to the Hard and Waterside. Knowledge of the properties is not widespread. The Church of All Saints is listed Grade 1, as is Jacobe's Hall.

### **2.6 Listed Buildings Local**

Tendring District Council have recently decided to compile a Local List of Buildings, which although not qualifying for national status, are nevertheless considered to be of sufficient local importance to their surroundings to qualify for some protection. It is thought that the Town would benefit if some further buildings in the Conservation Area were put forward for inclusion in the Local List.

### **2.7 Conservation Area Management Plan**

This Plan sees the future of the Conservation Area as an important part of Brightlingsea's future, and will encourage the Town Council to prepare, jointly with the District Council a Conservation Area Management Plan for the Town. The District Council has produced leaflets on how best to preserve architectural features.

## BRIGHTLINGSEA TOWN PLAN

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### 2.0 Housing, Planning and Development

#### **2.8 Article 4.2 Direction**

Because the Town Council sees the future of the Conservation Area as an important part of Brightlingsea's future, the Town will continue to press for an Article 4 (2) direction on certain parts of the Conservation Area to protect such properties, and to prevent damage to the collective value by unsympathetic 'improvements'.

#### **2.9 Town Design Statement**

The Town has yet to produce a Design Statement to identify and describe the features and style which make Brightlingsea such an interesting and individual a place to live in and to visit; but the work for this is now being planned.

***Continue to press the District Council for Action to enhance and protect the current Conservation Area Prepare Management Plan***

***Ensure Brightlingsea is 'first in the queue' when funds become available to support conservation work***

***Encourage local estate agents to hand out leaflets to potential purchasers of properties in the Conservation Area explaining the issues involved.***

***Research and produce a Town Design Statement***



## BRIGHTLINGSEA TOWN PLAN

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### 2.0 Housing, Planning and Development

#### **2.10 Planning**

The survey asked residents about the Planning process in general, and how well the Town Council collects and reflects local views. There may be some misunderstanding about the power which the local council has in relation to the ultimate decision. The Town Council is not responsible for the Planning decision, which is the responsibility of the District Council; the local council can only put forward their considered opinion on an application.

On the questions of:

- Informing residents at an early stage about prospective developments
- Letting residents know how to make their views known
- Consulting residents and collecting their views
- Taking residents opinions and objections on board

About 60% of respondents felt the Town Council could and should do better. Particularly residents want to be informed as early as possible; and for their views to be taken into account more than they feel they are now.

***Request the Town Council to make provision for written opinions to be received and considered; and for a period of public access at Town Planning Meetings***

***Request the Town Council to more widely publicise Planning Applications as soon as they are received.***

***Ensure those interested in a Planning Application are aware of their right To make a statement at the District Council Planning Committee.***



## BRIGHTLINGSEA TOWN PLAN

### 3.0 Crime, Policing, and other Emergency Services

#### 3.1 General opinions on service

Crime and Policing always seem to be emotive subjects; and the written comments to this part of the survey were most numerous, if somewhat repetitive. The Survey asked for people's opinion on the Police and Emergency Services. It is unlikely that many residents of the Town have been involved directly, so that their opinions are generally second hand or hearsay (and may be biased) and must be treated with care. It is probably fair to say that it is the Police and PCSO's will be seen around town on a regular basis; and thus provide more opportunities for dissatisfaction.

The percentage of replies finding a service from 'Excellent' to at least 'Acceptable' was:

	%
Fire	99
Emergency Ambulance	90
Hospital Transport Ambulance	81
Community Police officer	66
Police (in general)	55
Police Emergency	50

The balancing percentage in each case was rated as 'Poor' and 'Terrible'.

Police strength for Brightlingsea is 1 Sergeant; 1 Constable; 3 PCSO's. The bespoke Police Station is currently being sold, and the Police are relocating to the Fire Station. The Police Office is not continuously manned even during the daytime.









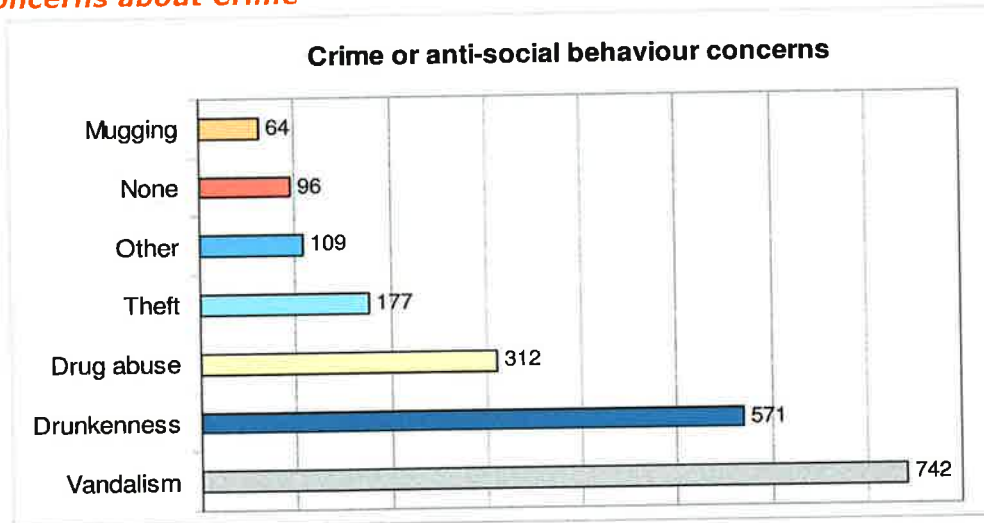
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## BRIGHTLINGSEA TOWN PLAN

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### 3.0 Crime, Policing, and other Emergency Services

#### 3.2 Concerns about Crime



#### 3.3 Vandalism and drunkenness

Over 73% of residents indicated that they have concerns about vandalism; and a slightly smaller percentage having concerns about drunkenness; and also drug taking and dealing.

#### 3.4 Policing

Brightlingsea is not a high crime area but the majority of residents are critical of the Police because of the incidence of petty vandalism, and a certain amount of anti-social behaviour, in the centre of Town, and on the Western Promenade out to Bateman's Tower.

#### 3.5 Threatening behaviour

Many residents – and not all elderly – feel threatened by collections of rowdy, and often drunken, youths, particularly on Friday and Saturday evenings. Time and again in comments the words 'groups and gangs' are used. In policing terms this may not seem a serious problem; however to residents of an otherwise quiet and peaceful town it degrades their surroundings and lifestyle.

About 25% of survey respondents – 286 households – say they feel 'unsafe' in Brightlingsea; but this is qualified by stating this is felt to be 'after dark' and in the Town Centre. Nevertheless for this to be stated by such a significant percentage confirms there is a problem which requires dealing with.

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## BRIGHTLINGSEA TOWN PLAN

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### 3.0 Crime, Policing, and other Emergency Services

#### 3.6 Campaign for improvement

The amount of documented comment, and the widespread opinion, indicates that an approach to the Police – with documentation – requesting a formal policy for improvement would be worthwhile.

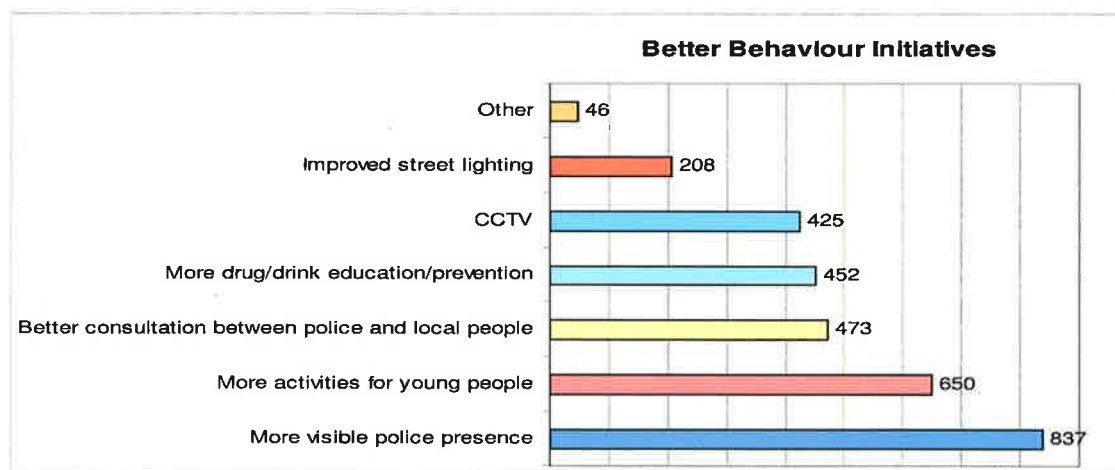
#### 3.7 PCSO's

Comments about the PCSO's are mixed. Some are extremely complimentary; others suggest that officers may be high-handed, and somewhat rude and arrogant. It is also suggested that 'favouritism' may be shown to friends and acquaintances; which diminishes the respect in which the PCSO's are held by the general public.

#### 3.8 Neighbourhood Watch

About 60% of survey respondents would support the re-introduction of a Town Neighbourhood Watch Scheme; and a further 28% were undecided. If interest remains strong the UK Neighbourhood Watch Trust (UKNWT) will be approached to provide advice and a possible start-up grant

#### 3.9 Initiatives to support better behaviour



Most people would wish to see Police and PCSO's taking a higher profile in the Town; particularly during evenings when groups of young people tend to gather; and appear threatening to older residents.

It is suggested that CCTV be installed where petty vandalism is most often occurring; and perhaps along the Western Promenade.

## BRIGHTLINGSEA TOWN PLAN

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### 3.0 Crime, Policing, and other Emergency Services

***Request a meeting with Police to discuss issues raised by the Survey***

***Suggest to the Police a campaign to reduce significantly the amount of vandalism and intimidation at present experienced.  
Request additional resources to be deployed over a six  
Week period in upcoming summer months.  
Publicise this Campaign.***

***Discuss with Police if additional CCTV would act as an effective deterrent in certain areas; and if so request Town Council to consider whether installation would be beneficial to the image of the Town***

***Ask for volunteers to restart Neighbourhood Watch  
Contact UK Neighbourhood Watch Trust for advice/funds***



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## BRIGHTLINGSEA TOWN PLAN

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### 4.0 Shops and Services

#### **4.1 Current situation**

Over the past few years Brightlingsea lost several shops and services.

In many cases this appeared to be down to lack of demand for their products and being unable to compete with larger outlets in Colchester and Clacton.

Fortunately over the last year what had seemed to be deterioration in our High Street has been reversed and new outlets have occupied all the empty retail premises available in the centre of Town.

We are lucky to still have a variety of shops providing everyday basic essentials, including butchers, bakers, fresh fish, and newspapers. We also have three small supermarkets in the Town centre, and a medium sized supermarket on the outskirts of the Town.

Other shops and services include three Banks, a Building Society, a Chemist, the Post Office, and the Library; also several hairdressers, barbers, stationers, picture framers, and florists.

A monthly Farmers' Market, which has been a popular success, concerned some traders at first, who believed this might take business away from them, but because it brings people into Town and creates a 'busy time' it appears to have increased business all round.

Overall the survey showed a very high level of support for the Town to retain, and improve, its existing shopping facilities.

#### **4.2 Empty Shops**

The survey had asked respondents if they would like to see more shops in Brightlingsea. 84.3% replied positively, and the question generated the most number of written comments of the survey. Most people wanted the shops to be in the centre of Town, and for empty shops to be filled first. Many people mentioned the types of shop they felt were needed of which shoes and clothes would be the most popular.

## BRIGHTLINGSEA TOWN PLAN

### 4.0 Shops and Services

#### **4.3 Post Office and Library**

Over 99% of people answering the survey replied to the questions, should Brightlingsea keep its Post Office and Library. As would be expected 99.1% said 'yes' to keeping the Post Office, and 97.9% said 'yes' to keeping the Library.

Written comments pointed out that a Post Office was essential to the life of a small town of about 8000 people. There was some concern that the existing Post Office at the back of a supermarket did not project itself in a meaningful way to the public.

Most people were complimentary about the Library; but there were some adverse comments about the lack of choice.

People would like to see the opening hours of the Library extended on weekdays; the Saturday opening is appreciated.

***In the event of reduced hours, discuss with the Librarian the possible use of Partnership Groups to maintain opening hours***

***Publicise to the Town the necessity of using the Post Office to secure its future.***



## BRIGHTLINGSEA TOWN PLAN

### 4.0 Shops and Services

#### 4.4 Factors to encourage use of shops

The survey asked which of a number of factors would make you more inclined to use shops in Brightlingsea



Most of the improvements suggested above are achievable within the current environment, and by the individual shops themselves. The exception is 'better parking' which is usually a problem for all retail outlets, unless they are situated in out of town locations, and which require a significant car journey to reach them.

#### 4.5 Shop Front Improvement

Some people commented that the centre of Brightlingsea looked a little 'tacky', and that some shops could benefit from a makeover. The centre of Town is part of the Brightlingsea Conservation Area. It would be sensible if a plan could be agreed to refurbish the Victoria Place and High Street shopping area as one project. Funds may become available as a result of future house building in Brightlingsea, s.106 money; and possibly under the new Community Infrastructure Levy at present planned; further the District Council has a small grants scheme for retail premises improvement.

#### 4.6 Parking

With the introduction of parking fees in public car parks in Brightlingsea it is said that street parking has become more difficult. It would be better if people whose place of work is on the High Street, and park there to the detriment of shoppers, were encouraged to park off street. Alternatively the introduction of a free period of parking in the car parks might remove the aggravation shoppers feel at present.

## BRIGHTLINGSEA TOWN PLAN

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### 4.0 Shops and Services

#### **4.7 Town Promotion**

The Brightlingsea Business Association takes a significant interest in promoting the Town from a commercial and business point of view. The 'Explore Brightlingsea for a Day', and 'Past and Present Days' were very successful in the past, and it is felt that they would be well worth reviving in the future, and developing into a 'Brightlingsea Festival Weekend'.

***Discuss with BBA and shop owners the Survey findings about shop improvements suggested to encourage use.***

***Suggest a working party of Town Council, BBA, and Retail Premises to formulate a plan for the refurbishment of the High Street frontages.***

***Continue discussions on the problems of parking and charges with District Council.***

***Discuss with Town and District Councils, and BBA, the introduction of the Brightlingsea Festival Weekend.***

It is clear that there is great support for retaining Brightlingsea's existing shops and services, and encouraging new ones. A number of written comments from our Survey said that the ability to shop locally in a compact and pleasant environment was one of the main reasons they lived in the Town. Local shops are valued partly for what they sell but also because they are an essential ingredient of a vibrant local community. Experience shows that local shops can thrive in a community the size of Brightlingsea. Local shops will never compete on price with large retail park outlets but they can for service and convenience

To make this happen it is crucial that local people support local shops and services.

***Emphasise to the Town Council the necessity to support local shops and services; and particularly to support initiatives to the District Council for the application of grant funding to the Town when available.***



## BRIGHTLINGSEA TOWN PLAN

### 5.0 Transport Traffic and Parking

#### 5.1 Public Transport

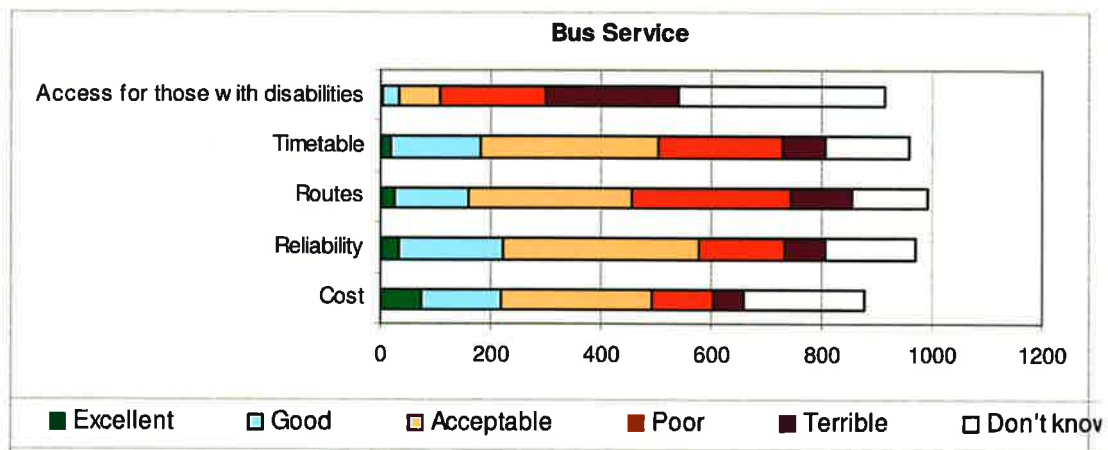
A significant percentage of residents in Brightlingsea are wholly dependent on public transport or some form of voluntary car driver scheme or car sharing.

#### 5.2 Bus service operation

Until very recently the bus service from Brightlingsea was restricted to one route from the centre of the Town to Colchester via Wivenhoe. The service is operated by two bus companies Cedric Coaches and Network Colchester. On weekdays there are 14 services on the route but few journeys during the middle of the day. Saturdays are slightly better served and there are 7 services on Sundays. The service times operated by Network Colchester are the early and late services which at present receive subsidy funding from the County Council. The sharing of the route between the two operators meant that the final stop for the service in Colchester at the General Hospital was discontinued. This has created difficulties for Brightlingsea passengers who were either attending the Hospital for a medical appointment or visiting. The Sunday service which is wholly operated by Network Colchester as a subsidised route does however continue to finish at the General Hospital.

#### 5.3 Opinions of bus services

The overall opinion of the existing bus service was that it is just about acceptable as far as reliability and the timetable were concerned.



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## BRIGHTLINGSEA TOWN PLAN

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### 5.0 Transport Traffic and Parking

#### **5.4 Service improvements**

However results from the questionnaire showed that 64% of people replying to a question about an increased usage of the bus service wanted different routes and a greater frequency. Recent negotiations have resulted in a new direct service starting between Brightlingsea and Clacton, which is run by a different operator.

In recent times there has been much criticism of the operating standards on the route to Colchester. The criticism is around the quality and cleanliness of the buses, and the 'rude behaviour' of some of the drivers.

#### **5.5 Information**

There is said to be a lack of easily found information about bus services. People would like up to date information at bus stops and in the centre of Town.

#### **5.6 Disabled Access**

A third of people feel better access to buses for those with disabilities is necessary.

#### **5.7 Taxis**

Taxis seem not to be widely used in Brightlingsea. Again people would like to have the information about Taxi firms; and their contact details more readily available. As would be expected what would make people use Taxis more frequently would be a lower cost (asked for by 70% of those replying).

***Continue to encourage the Bus Operators to provide a better quality of service, more courtesy from their staff, and a more responsible attitude to the Town environment.***

***Put the bus timetable information and routes on the Town web-site, the main notice boards and at bus stops.***

***Inform Taxi firms of the need for their contact information to be better publicised.***

## BRIGHTLINGSEA TOWN PLAN

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### 5.0 Transport Traffic and Parking

#### **5.8 Car ownership**

From the census statistics of 2001 just fewer than 20% of households in Brightlingsea reported then having no vehicles, the recent survey carried out showed that this figure has not changed to any great extent.

Brightlingsea has a population that is somewhat older than the national average, which may be one of the reasons why households have a lower than average vehicle ownership figure

#### **5.9 Parking**

Parking is seen to be a problem in Brightlingsea for people who live in the 'old town' where off street parking for residents is not available for many houses. The facility for parking around the centre of the Town near to the shops is also felt to be inadequate.

It is difficult to see how parking for town centre residents could be improved. The streets are narrow and 'resident permits' are felt not to be appropriate as they bring with them their own restrictions, which would result in a reduction in the overall parking spaces available.

The majority of people would wish to see more free Town centre parking being made available; but again it is not easy to see this being created without significant expenditure and disruption.



## BRIGHTLINGSEA TOWN PLAN

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### 5.0 Transport Traffic and Parking

#### *5.10 Traffic improvement measures*

The table below details the suggested options for improving traffic control and parking in Brightlingsea. The general support - over 25% - of residents replying would provide an impetus for 7 or 8 projects to be carried forward, as part of an overall improvement scheme to be included in any Town Plan.

The table below details the support for improving traffic control and parking in Brightlingsea. Highlighted are those measures with more than 25% support of respondents to the questionnaire.

Each one on its own would require significant input and enthusiasm for aims to be achieved. Before adopting, as part of a future program, each element would need to be scrutinized for in much greater detail for practicality, cost, overall public acceptance, and the agreement / co-operation of Local Authorities, who have direct responsibility for the areas proposed.

	<b>Num.</b>	<b>% Replies</b>
20 mph speed limit	453	43.6
Reduced speed elsewhere in Brightlingsea	306	29.5
Park and ride schemes	88	8.5
Car sharing schemes	68	6.5
Improvements to public transport	487	46.9
Encouraging people to use public transport	293	28.2
Other measures to reduce volume of traffic	78	7.5
More / better cycle paths	313	30.1
Brightlingsea doesn't need improvements	47	4.5
One-way traffic flow	178	17.1
Pedestrianisation	92	8.9
Improvements to the public footpaths	293	28.2
Parking spaces for disabled people	161	15.5
More residents only parking schemes	196	18.9
More public parking spaces	456	43.9
More traffic wardens	125	12.0
Wider pavements	158	15.2
Parking spaces reserved for clients of specific shops	99	9.5
Other	122	11.7

There was also support for tighter enforcement of both speed limits and the current parking restrictions. Some people called for more attention from traffic wardens.

## BRIGHTLINGSEA TOWN PLAN

### 5.0 Transport Traffic and Parking

#### 5.11 Danger spots

The great majority of respondents to the questionnaire believe there are areas of danger from traffic on the roads in Brightlingsea; and there were over a thousand written mentions of individual places. *(Which are detailed in the appendix).*

Places most mentioned were around All Saints Church; Ladysmith Avenue; Victoria Place, High Street and Station Road; and around the schools in general. At present there are no 'traffic calming' installations of a modern concept in the Town.

Ladysmith / Seaview / Spring	252	Lower Park / Station / Co-op	
Church Area	223	/ Colne / Well	130
New / Victoria / High	137	Hurst Green / Chapel	70

***Discuss with the District Council and the County Council the installation of 'traffic calming measure' in the Town centre, around Victoria Place.***

***Discuss with the District Council and the County Council the imposition of 20mph speed limit around the Junior and Infant School site during school hours.***



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## BRIGHTLINGSEA TOWN PLAN

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### 6.0 Health

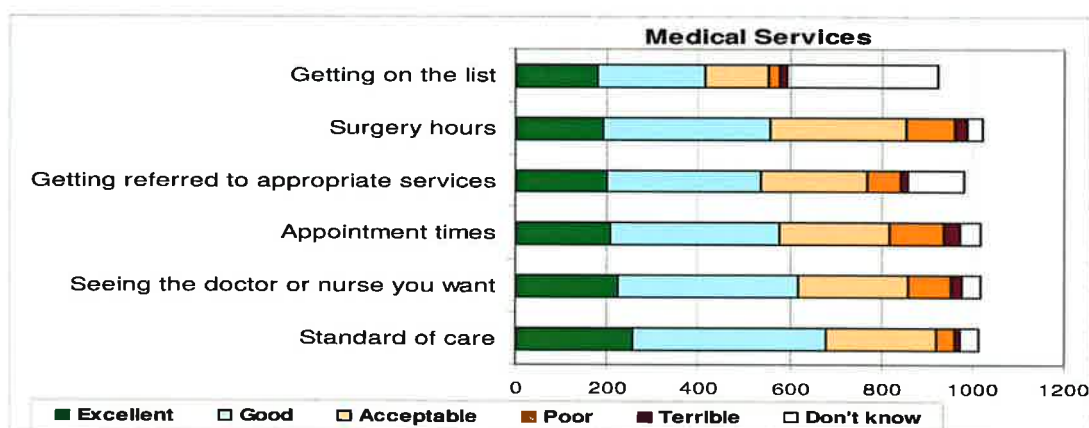
#### 6.1 Health

There is one GP Practice in Brightlingsea, situated in Station Road, in a comparatively modern facility, and staffed by six doctors. Most people living in the Town are registered at the Practice; although some people attend other surgeries close by; there are nine surgeries within five miles.

Hospital appointments are normally in Colchester. This can involve some travel problems as buses no longer, as they used to, have the hospital on their route. A change of bus is required for people with no car. (*about 20% of the households in Brightlingsea*)

#### 6.2 Patient assessment

People replying to the survey were asked to rate various aspects of the Practice operation



In general patients are reasonably satisfied with the operation of the Health Centre.

There are concerns over surgery hours; and a significant number of written comments request a Saturday morning surgery, and some evening surgeries, because of the clash weekday hours have with working commitments. The surgery operates an open appointment system in the mornings, with booked and timed appointments in the evenings.

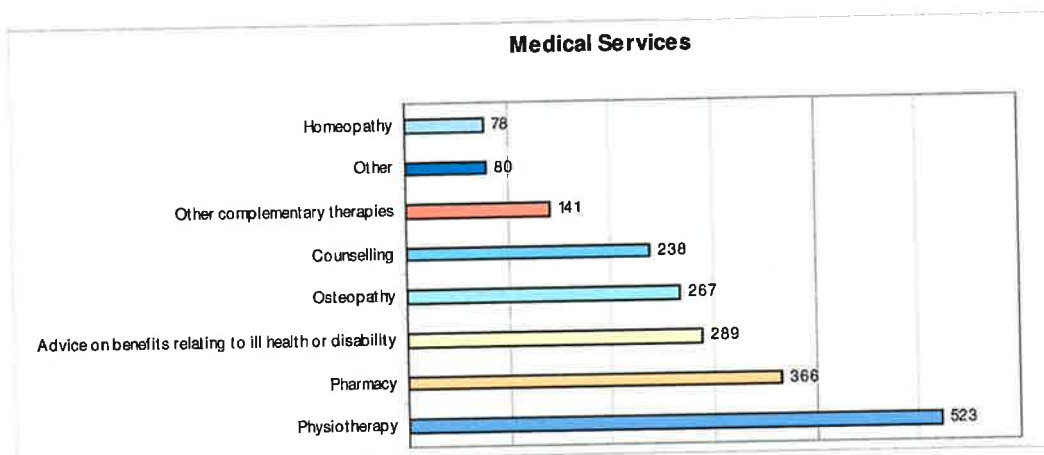
A number of female patients would like a female doctor to be on the staff.

## BRIGHTLINGSEA TOWN PLAN

### 6.0 Health

#### 6.3 Additional services

It is understood that routine blood sampling now takes place at the Medical Centre. This was the most asked for additional medical service in written comments from the survey. Patients were asked if they would be supportive of some suggested additional treatments. The results are shown below.



It is understood that there is limited additional space available in the Medical Centre. Physiotherapy is the most requested; and might fit with the medical nature of the Practice. There would probably not be room for other practitioners unless they were accommodated on an infrequent, say monthly, basis.

***Confirm with the Medical Centre that routine blood sampling is now available at the surgery to eliminate a journey out of Town.***

***Bring to the attention of the Medical Centre the desire of the community for additional services to be available at the surgery; particularly physiotherapy.***

***Bring to the attention of the Medical Centre the request by a number of female patients for a female doctor to be available; perhaps on one or two days per week.***

***Bring to the attention of the Medical Centre the need for a Saturday Morning Surgery; at least on a trial basis and a number of evening surgeries***

## BRIGHTLINGSEA TOWN PLAN

### 6.0 Health

#### 6.4 Dentistry

21% of dental patients reported that they were registered with a private dentist because they had not been able to find an NHS dentist to treat them. 16% of patients registered privately by choice; and 57% had been able to register with an NHS practitioner. (6.0% reported they never went to a dentist).

#### 6.5 Hospital transport

Travel to the hospital is now more difficult for bus passengers because the direct bus from Brightlingsea does not go to the main hospital (*the service on Sunday by a different operator does go to the hospital*). At the same time the service of the Volunteer Car Drivers organised by the Guiding Hands Volunteer Centre has fallen into disuse because of the expense and difficulty of parking at the hospital.

**Consider setting up a new local volunteer car driver scheme for hospital journeys.**





## BRIGHTLINGSEA TOWN PLAN

### 7.0 Local Government

#### 7.1 Local Councils

Respondents to the survey were asked to rate their view of how local councils perform according to particular criteria.

As would be expected the more local the council the better it does in the eyes of the local residents. Brightlingsea does better than Tendring, and Tendring is ranked better than Essex County; but not always.

The way in which the more remote councils are 'marked down, particularly in relation to local residents concerns and interests may not be wholly objective. Brightlingsea is fortunate in having both District and County councillors reporting to most Town Council meetings.

	Town	District <i>Excel / Good</i>	County	Town	District <i>Acceptable</i>	County	Town	District <i>Poor /Terrible</i>	County
Accountability	36.1	10.7	6.6	44.8	41.2	36.5	19.0	48.1	56.9
Consultation	28.1	7.7	5.5	42.5	32.7	27.0	29.4	59.6	67.5
Influence on higher tiers	8.7	4.3	5.9	32.0	26.9	30.6	59.3	68.8	63.5
Spending decisions	19.3	5.7	3.8	48.7	33.3	36.0	32.0	61.0	60.2
Responsiveness to residents	29.1	5.0	3.3	38.5	27.7	25.2	32.4	67.3	71.5
Adequate representation	29.5	5.7	3.4	41.5	27.3	24.2	29.0	66.9	72.4

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## BRIGHTLINGSEA TOWN PLAN

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### 8.0 Sport, Social and Educational Activities

#### **8.1 Current facilities**

Brightlingsea is fortunate in having good sporting and social activities organised within the Town by enthusiastic volunteers. It is also fortunate in having two extensive areas within the Town, the Recreation Ground, and the Lower Recreation Ground, where team games and children's play areas can be accommodated. The waterside location, the Sailing Club, and the Colne Yacht Club, ensure sailing and boating in general are part of the Town atmosphere. The Brightlingsea Sports Centre provides a range of sporting activities, including general fitness classes, which are called for by many people under a 'would like to do' heading.

Social activities are well catered for with a wide breadth of different clubs and societies.

Because of lack of funding in recent years adult educational activities are less well catered for, although desired.

#### **8.2 Facilities for different age groups**

Looking at age groups in particular, there is said to be a lack of provision of activities for teenagers and young adults; which may be part of the reason they are seen to be a problem on the streets at certain times and in certain areas. This is of course not a difficulty faced by Brightlingsea alone; and the major difficulty is often getting such young people to participate in any organised group activity, rather than just 'hang-out' amongst themselves, however ....

*It would probably be worthwhile to involve young people in a Youth Survey to ask about their views on the Town, and what additional activities or facilities they would like to see.*

#### **8.3 4Youth**

4Youth is a meeting place offering drop-in facilities, coffee bar, computers, snooker, and table tennis; as well as fishing competitions and outdoor pursuits through the Essex Boys and Girls Clubs.

8.0 Sport, Social and Educational Activities

**8.4 Types of activity**

The questionnaire asked people to list which sports and fitness activities they undertook, both in Brightlingsea, and outside of Brightlingsea; they were also asked which activities they would like to take part in. The answers were many and varied. The 'top eight' in each category were:

	Within Brightlingsea	Outside Brightlingsea	Would like to
Num of responses	813	633	618
	<i>Walking</i>	<i>Swimming</i>	<i>Swimming</i>
	<i>Cycling</i>	<i>Walking</i>	<i>'Fitness'</i>
	<i>Swimming</i>	<i>Gym</i>	<i>Dancing</i>
	<i>Sailing</i>	<i>Golf</i>	<i>Gym</i>
	<i>Gym</i>	<i>Dancing</i>	<i>Running</i>
	<i>Dancing</i>	<i>Cycling</i>	<i>Cycling</i>
	<i>Football</i>	<i>Bowls</i>	<i>Bowls</i>
	<i>Badminton</i>	<i>Sailing</i>	<i>Badminton</i>

Because young people in general did not directly answer the questionnaire there is an absence of team sports and other activities for young people in the lists, but these team sports are well supported. Swimming, walking, and fitness activities in general are prominent in the above lists; and the fact that swimming appears at the top of the lists for 'outside Brightlingsea' and 'Would like to' emphasises that the current facility in Brightlingsea itself is not considered satisfactory. The 'Fitness' category in the 'would like to' column covers the various disciplines of Tai Chi, Yoga, Pilates, etc, etc.

**8.5 Swimming Pool**

The Open Air Swimming Pool is a popular destination for visitors at the time of good weather in the summer months. It is not open during the winter time. 5.2% of Brightlingsea residents say they use the pool 'frequently', 26.2% say they use the pool 'occasionally'; and 68.5% 'never'. A number of comments felt that the pool should be cleaned more frequently, and that the pool area had become tacky and run-down. The Pool is technically the responsibility of Tendring District Council; it is understood there are about 10,000 paid swim sessions a year.

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## BRIGHTLINGSEA TOWN PLAN

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### 8.0 Sport, Social and Educational Activities

#### **8.6 Promoting use of the Pool**

A significant number of people said that if the pool were heated, and probably covered in some way, they would use it much more frequently, or start to use it.

Some minor but very necessary refurbishment is currently planned to the showers, toilets, filters, and the Entrance area.

#### **8.7 Future of Swimming in Brightlingsea**

Swimming in Brightlingsea is popular. At present many people go outside the Town to other facilities because the existing Town facility is not adequate. Many people who do not currently swim would like to, but again feel that the Town facilities are not adequate. There are perhaps two options; to upgrade and modernise the existing facility; or to press in the longer term for a new modern facility. The debate and a decision are necessary.

**Confirm with Tendring DC that the current planned refurbishment to the Swimming Pool will be carried out in the very near future.**

**Form a Committee to discuss with Tendring DC the future of swimming in Brightlingsea**

**Re-visit the requirement for 'extra fitness' classes, and if found necessary promote further classes within the Town**

#### **8.8 Social and Cultural activities**

The questionnaire asked for people's involvement in forty different activities. All received significant support; and what activities they would like to see provided. The 'top eight' were:

<i>Currently involved</i>	<i>Would like</i>
Music related and Concerts	Cinema
Church attendance and related activities	Restaurants
Pubs	Music related and concerts
Community centre	Dancing
U3A	Swimming
Gardening/Open gardens	Plays/theatre/shows
Plays/theatres/shows	Art related topics
Brightlingsea Society	Adult Education classes

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## BRIGHTLINGSEA TOWN PLAN

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### 8.0 Sport, Social and Educational Activities

***Request the Town Council and other interested parties to organise monthly film shows from a 'Travelling Cinema'***

***Investigate the actual demand for Adult Education, and in what Subjects; and if significant organise additional classes with WEA and Essex University***

***Encourage the better promotion of music concerts; to reach a wider audience***

### **8.9 Sports facilities – Recreation Ground**

The Recreation Ground provides excellent facilities for sports; for Cricket and Football particularly. There are two football pitches, a junior football pitch, and a cricket square. New and safety conscious Cricket nets have recently been installed. Up to fourteen football teams of one sort or another use the pitches. However the Changing Room facilities are now very inadequate for the number of teams playing. The Brightlingsea Town Council owns and manages the Recreation Ground, and they receive much assistance and voluntary work from the active Users Committee.

### **8.10 Lower Recreation Ground**

The Lower Recreation Ground supports the Rugby Club and the Army Cadet Force and Scouts and Guides. This however can become waterlogged because of poor drainage.

### **8.11 Changing Rooms**

The level of sporting activity requires additional changing room facilities to be provided at the Recreation Ground in the foreseeable future; and plans for fund raising, and grant applications are being formulated.

***Support the Recreation Ground User Group in their Project to provide improved Changing Room facilities on the Recreation Ground***

***Undertake a Youth Survey to ascertain what further facilities, Young People in the Town would like.***

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

All the Members of the Steering Group for their hard work and enthusiasm.

Nick Haynes and Mary D'Albert from Warwick Network, without whose help with analysis and report preparation, the Town Plan would have been much more difficult to produce.

Jon Sturdy for Photographs and other assistance.

Claude Dove for the History of the Town.

Mr. Gordon Miles for permission to print his poem.

Sarah Sapsford and others from the Rural Community Council of Essex for their help and encouragement.

Eugene Kraft who was instrumental in the Wivenhoe Town Plan, for his initial help and advice.

Tendring District Council and various Officers, for their information and assistance.

Brightlingsea Town Council and Staff, for their administrative help and general assistance.

Brightlingsea Community Centre.

Osborn Printers.

## OUR TOWN

*We don't know we're born in our Town  
There is barely a frown in our Town  
We look after each other, your father, your  
mother, your sister, your brother,  
That's how it is in 'Our Town'.*

*We have the sea, which is blue, and the grass  
which is green. The most beautiful countryside  
you've ever seen. We have banks of flowers  
in the Town to enjoy, and a pond filled with  
goldfish, which would please any boy. We  
have no graffiti, and little crime, you can  
walk our streets, late, at any time.*

*You don't have to drive many miles to a shop  
We've got it all here, we've got the lot.  
We have a wet fish shop and fried fish with  
Chips that are great, with all shops so friendly  
you don't have to wait. A beautiful Lido  
where you can swim in the sun, a skate park, a  
bike park, you don't need your mum.*

*We have dances and shows at our Community Hall  
we don't miss a thing here, we all have a ball.  
Our harbour will welcome a visiting yacht,  
keeping them safe in a nice quiet spot. You don't  
have to fork out a massive fee, the name of our  
town is 'Brightlingsea'.*

