

GREEN NEWS

Issue 13 – SPRING 2005

Delivered to Witham, Bradwell, Rivenhall, Silver End

and Tye Green, Cressing, Feering, Coggeshall Hamlet, Faulkbourne, Terling, Fairstead, White Notley, Black Notley



Green Party

Green News is delivered on a regular basis news on local issues not just at election time!

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Shock £220 million Major Road Proposals for A120 and A12 published by Highways Agency

- Greens launch campaign for sustainable alternative to relieve Bradwell of through traffic and minimise loss of countryside

The Highways Agency, acting on the policy of the Labour Government, has proposed a massive road building scheme that would cut a swathe through open countryside between Braintree and Marks Tey. The Agency had repeatedly promised to offer people a range of options. But now it is putting forward **just one proposed route**. The scheme would increase traffic through mid-Essex, including ever more HGVs and encouraging an even bigger Stansted Airport. Air pollution and noise levels will rise, as will CO2 emissions – contributing to climate change.

The Agency proposal is for a 4 lane road from the south of the Braintree bypass across to the edge of Tye Green, then passing just north of Cressing village before carving through the open countryside near Silver End. The road would then cut across Rivenhall Airfield and through farms north of Kelvedon. It would then be raised on a huge bridge over the River Blackwater, passing close to north Feering. The road would then join a new 6 lane section of the A12 at a multi-level junction in open countryside east of Feering. There would be no junctions on the A120 between the A12 and Tye Green, creating a racetrack across the countryside.

The Highways Agency road would not open until 2013 at the earliest, and fails to bypass Bradwell - traffic would still come through the village.

Green Councillors are working with other councillors, local people and countryside organisations to build support for an alternative scheme that would provide a bypass for Bradwell sooner. This alternative proposal would then use the line of the existing A120 as much as possible east of Bradwell to minimise

damage to the countryside. This could be completed earlier than the Agency proposal, giving Bradwell relief sooner. There could also be commuter bus services, protection for footpaths and better safety and environmental protection measures. The Greens are also calling for the Agency to undertake the following well supported local schemes which to date the Agency have FAILED to implement:

- ☐ A pedestrian crossing for Bradwell
- ☐ Direct access to Tiptree from the A12
- ☐ Making the A12 junctions at Rivenhall safer
- ☐ Stopping HGVs coming through Rivenhall End
- ☐ Making the A12 at Hatfield Peverel safer

Your views:

Please telephone 01376 584576 for copies of the A120/A12 consultation papers (deadline for representations to the Highways Agency is May 20th) and the petition supporting the Green's alternative scheme. Visit www.easterngreenparty.org.uk for news. Write to the Highways Agency at: Heron House, 49-53 Goldington Rd., Bedford. MK40 3LL. e-mail a120braintreetomarkstey@highways.gsi.gov.uk

A Major Waste Plant for Rivenhall Airfield ?

The Highways Agency major road route is conveniently close to the Major Waste Site on Rivenhall Airfield - as predicted by the Greens several years ago. More recently, it emerged that the Highways Agency had been in talks with Essex County Council regarding a route for the A120 that linked it to gravel extraction and a potential industrial scale major waste plant on the Airfield.

Industrial development could ruin the countryside around Rivenhall Airfield and add thousands of HGV trips per year onto local roads.



Here comes “The John Prescott Bulldozer” !
The Government is imposing **well over one hundred thousand more houses** to be built in Essex by 2021. With Labour support for a bigger A120 linked to an even larger Stansted Airport, this means millions of extra car journeys on the roads of Essex each year. The A120, the A12 and roads that link them such as the B1018 between Witham and Braintree and the A131 between Braintree and Chelmsford will carry ever more traffic. ***Under Labour, the countryside of mid-Essex is being lost. The environment is becoming noisier, the roads more congested and the air more polluted.***

School transport is under pressure from Conservative Essex County Council’s drive to cut budgets. Yet cutting the number of children entitled to school transport will increase financial burdens on parents. More parents will be forced to drive their children to school, adding to road congestion. Green District Cllr. James Abbott said ***“The Government and councils are caught in a vicious circle of public transport cuts and unsustainable development, creating more traffic. They can’t get out of it because they don’t have the policies to do anything else. It’s vital that sustainable policies are introduced. The Greens have those policies for a better future. At the elections expected in May, every voter in Braintree Constituency will have a Green choice on their ballot papers.”***

Local Green Councillors are working for:
- 20mph zones outside all schools
- Traffic relief and safer roads for local villages
- Better community halls
- Energy efficiency, using solar power in developments and modern low pollution streetlights to replace outdated orange streetlights
- Community hospitals for Witham and Braintree
- Increased support for school transport
- Upgrading the Witham - Braintree rail link
- No expansion of Stansted beyond 25 million passengers per annum
- Local housing for local needs – affordable housing on brownfield sites, near to services
- Better management of Witham’s River Walk and open spaces – to benefit people and wildlife

Green District Councillors James Abbott and Philip Hughes hold regular ward surgeries in Rivenhall, Silver End and Bradwell – dates are publicised on village noticeboards and in the local press. For further information, please telephone 01376 584576 or 583682. To contact Green Witham Town Councillors Steve Hicks and Dave Darney, telephone 07836 690 551

Opposing the War – Working for Peace
The Green Party has consistently opposed the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan which have directly caused an estimated 200,000 people to be seriously injured or killed – most of them civilians.
It is now clear that the reason put forward by Tony Blair for invading Iraq – that the regime had weapons of mass destruction – was untrue. Even Tony Blair’s “abhorrence” of Saddam Hussain is unreliable. He told Parliament just before the war that Saddam could remain in power if he gave up his WMD !

Green Councillors Update on Local Issues:

- ☐ The Witham-Rivenhall-Silver End-Braintree evening bus service has started, part funded by local parish and town councils. This is a project which Cllr. Phil Hughes has long supported and worked for.
- ☐ The Braintree District Council recycling scheme has been extended. Green Councillors strongly support recycling and want to see improvements to make it easier for everyone to recycle.
- ☐ Cllr. James Abbott helped ensure that the driveway and car park at the playing fields, Church Road, Rivenhall were resurfaced. This was done as part of the Safer Journeys scheme for Rivenhall School.
- ☐ The Silver End Scouts were saved from eviction from the Barn following an intervention by District Councillors, who are pressing for new community accomodation at the Silver Sreet. Pavilion site.
- ☐ Green District and Town Councillors have strongly supported the successful campaign to keep Spring Lodge Community Centre on its present site in Witham and for an upgrade, including solar energy.
- ☐ After many local requests for better safety on Rickstones Road, supported by Green Councillors, Essex County Council has agreed to a 30mph limit for all of the road from Rivenhall to Witham.
- ☐ The Highways Agency has rebuilt the A12 footway/cycleway between Witham and Rivenhall End to a higher standard than they originally intended after lobbying from local councillors. But Green Councillors are also calling for the Agency to build safety barriers which are needed to protect cyclists, pedestrians and residents.

Witham & Braintree Green Party – Local membership from just £2 per year. For further information, or to make a donation towards campaigns, please write to:
17 St. Nicholas Road, Witham CM8 2JF
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