



Dear resident,

You may have read in the local press about a project to redevelop the Nethermayne college site and build a new town centre college campus in Basildon town centre.

We wanted to write to you to let you know some of the background behind the proposed development and how the process will work as we move forward with any plans. All joint land owners; the Council, The Homes and Communities Agency (HCA), and the South Essex College, are committed to working with local residents throughout the process.

We believe that our young people deserve the best possible education and that education is one of the best ways for young people to improve their life chances. Education and skills and improving achievement levels are key challenges for the Borough. Therefore, the Council has identified the need for a new and improved Further Education College as one of our top priorities, and experience elsewhere has shown that the best location for this would be Basildon Town Centre.

The proposal is supported by a number of other public bodies, including the HCA, South Essex College, Seevic College and Prospects Learning Foundation. Basildon and Thurrock University hospital and other key stakeholder organisations will also be involved as the project progresses.

A town centre college campus will provide better access to education for our young people, and provide a modern and vibrant learning space. There would also be a major benefit to the regeneration of the town centre from a large number of students and staff, encouraging investment and creating jobs and businesses for local people in the town.

It is expected that a new campus would provide 2500 high-quality places for 16-19 year olds, an increase of over 1000 students studying in the borough. This is a very large number and has the potential to be transformational for the lives of many of our young people.

The 'Nethermayne' site as we are proposing to take it forward includes land owned by the HCA, The Council and South Essex College. The site is currently listed in planning policy as a Site of Special Reserve, which means it is reserved for long term housing need. It is not Green Belt land.

An announcement was made last week relating to a national initiative to make better use of publicly owned land and to bring forward sites for housing development.

As part of this initiative and as part of their wider land development and disposal strategy, the HCA have successfully bid for funding from central government to begin initial plans to develop the site. This process starts with the creation of a master plan, which defines exactly what is going to be built and is progressed in full consultation with the local community. Development on the Nethermayne site will in turn fund the development of a town centre college.

We would like to make it clear that this project is at the very start and it is a partnership approach between all the interested partners. You may recall a previous proposal by English Partnerships to develop the Dry Street part of this site that was subsequently withdrawn. These plans were for a

very large development and they appeared without involvement of the Council or any meaningful public consultation in the Council's view.

This project is very different from the outset. It is absolutely critical that any proposals brought forward are for the benefit of the community and that the community is fully involved their development. We are determined that any development will be well-designed, be sensitive to existing natural features and be of high-quality. We are also committed to the fact that not all of the land will be developed

The Council is well aware of the local sensitivities around developing this land given the previous attempt to develop some of it, and this will be a prime consideration through the master planning process.

As the process moves forward, we will be communicating ways to get involved in the project and advertising any public consultation through the local press and on the Council website.

Any plans will be subject to the normal planning process for approval.

Yours faithfully,

Homes and Communities Agency

South Essex College

Basildon Borough Council