

## Response to the Hoo St Werburgh and Chattenden Neighbourhood Plan

Hoo St Werburgh and Chattenden are both part of the civil parish of Hoo. However, the ecclesiastical parish boundaries are different.

This response is from the [REDACTED] (Vicar of the Parish of Frindsbury with Upnor and Chattenden) and [REDACTED] (Pioneer Minister for Strood, Frindsbury, Wainscott, Upnor and Chattenden).

### **Background**

The plan includes Hoo St Werburgh and Chattenden of which Chattenden is a relatively small area. Our concerns particularly relate to Chattenden, as Hoo St Werburgh has its own Priest-in-Charge who may make his own response.

### **Observations**

This plan has some positive elements to it:

- There are no additional site allocations being suggested to those already designated in previously published plans.
- We note that the issues of employment, residential and community needs have also been taken into consideration.

Chattenden has for many years lived with much uncertainty, regarding development of former MOD land. This has hindered investment in the community. This uncertainty also meant that this (ecclesiastical) parish could make no strong applications for grant funding to refurbish Bishop Gundulph Church which is now closed.

Such lack of investment has been of particular detriment of its less affluent residents. Chattenden has no shops, post office or leisure facilities other than a community centre. Transport is poor and therefore those without cars are disproportionately disadvantaged.

When former Prime Minister David Cameron came to visit the area he observed that if a substantial development wasn't put in place, sporadic housing would be built without adequate infrastructure. This has become a reality over the years and, as is highlighted in the report, has created separate communities with poor connectivity.

There is substantial attention paid to ecology and the environment especially mentioning the Peninsula being 'a Green Lung'. If the area is to fulfil this it would seem that the number of dwellings, traffic, industries etc needs controlling.

With an increase in housing, we think there is insufficient attention paid to the increase needed in school places nor the pressure that will be placed on the current schools. It is noted that Chattenden School is currently single form entry.

There is no health care provision in Chattenden and provision is over-subscribed in Hoo. Additional chemists, whilst welcomed, will not meet the needs of the new communities.