
THURROCK LOCAL PLAN: DRAFT STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT (SCI)

Report of Consultation

1.0 Purpose of the report

- 1.1 This report outlines the methods and activities used in the public consultation event for the draft Statement of Community Involvement (SCI). The Council received 14 responses. Table 1 and 2 at para 3.0, shows each response together with officers comments and actions.

2.0 Activities/publicity undertaken

- 2.1 The draft SCI was granted Cabinet approval on the 8th July 2015 for public and stakeholder consultation for a six week period commencing 27th July 2015 ended on Monday 7 September 2015. Copies of the consultation document with questionnaires were made available on the Council's website, and hard copies in Civic offices and in public libraries.
- 2.2 Over 1200 emails and 3500 letters were sent to consultees registered on the Thurrock Local Plan database. These were consultees who previously asked to be notified of consultations on Thurrock Council's planning policy documents or they had previously participated in planning consultations. All consultees were provided with a link to the Council's online public consultation portal where they could register and make representations on the document as appropriate. Copies of the emails and letters are attached at appendix A.
- 2.3 An advert was put in the Thurrock Enquirer on the 30th July 2015, informing readers of the dates, details and how to get involved in the consultation event. The advert is attached at appendix B.

3.0 Representations with officer comments and actions.

Table 1 summary of Received representations and officer responses.

Ref	Name and/ or Company	Summary of representations	Officer response to comment:	Officer Action:
SCI_1	Health and Safety Executive	The HSE acknowledges that early consultation can be an effective way of alleviating problems due to incompatible development at the later stages of the planning process, and we may be able to provide advice on development compatibility as your plan progresses. Therefore, we would like to be consulted further on local plan documents where detailed land allocations and use class proposals are made, e.g. site specific allocations of land in development planning documents.	Acknowledged.	Ensure HSE continues to be consulted on the emerging Local Plan.
SCI_2	Dr L.S. Grewal NHS Thurrock CCG	I believe more thought needs to be given before building new homes on the existing health resources available. The more young families that move into the area mean more GP resources are required, the hospital is stretched plus other infrastructure like schools. You need a well consulted quality impact study.	Acknowledged. However, it is not the place of the SCI to undertake this assessment. The emerging Local Plan will assess how much new infrastructure is required and where it should go. Through the use of	No action needed.

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			s106 agreements and CIL, new schools and GPs can be provided where they are most needed.	
SCI_3	Miss Janet McCheyne	I think you should consult with Brentwood Borough Council as it adjoins Thurrock, and also Havering Borough Council, when appropriate. I note that the list is subject to change, so hope this would happen anyway.	Agree. Adjoining local planning authorities and other authorities who need to work with on strategic issues should be appropriately consulted throughout the plan-making process under the Duty to Cooperate. It is therefore proposed to amend Appendix B of the SCI to include the London Borough of Havering, the London Borough of Barking & Dagenham and Brentwood Borough Council.	Brentwood Borough Council and Havering Council have been added to Appendix B Including Plan Making Duty to Cooperate Public Bodies.

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SCI_4	<p>Mr Scott Sullivan</p> <p>Thames Chase Trust</p>	<p>The London Borough of Havering, London Borough of Barking & Dagenham and Brentwood Borough Council should be added to the list. These authorities have been involved in strategic conversations relating to environment and heritage enhancements as part of Thames Chase Community Forest since 1990. The Thames Chase Trust continues to work with these authorities including Thurrock Council to support delivery of environment, in line with the Thames Chase Plan 2014. Including the above local authorities on the Duty to Cooperate list will ensure there remains a link between Thurrock plan-making and sub-regional work on the environment that has been in place for 25 years.</p>	<p>Agree. Adjoining local planning authorities and other authorities who need to work with on strategic issues should be appropriately consulted throughout the plan-making process under the Duty to Cooperate. It is therefore proposed to amend Appendix B of the SCI to include the London Borough of Havering, the London Borough of Barking & Dagenham and Brentwood Borough Council.</p>	<p>Adjoining Local Planning Authorities will be automatically consulted on all stages of the Local Plan. The London Borough of Havering, London Borough of Barking & Dagenham and Brentwood Borough Council are all added to the list of consultees in Appendix B.</p>
SCI_5	Mr Barrie Stone	<p>Well thought out document. No changes required.</p>	<p>Support acknowledged.</p>	<p>No action needed</p>

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SCI_6	Cllr T Aker	<p>The ultimate principle should be that the people have a right to approve or reject any planning application through referendum. Petitioners should have a 3 month window to gain the signatures of 20% of the ward population (eligible on the electoral roll) to initiate a binding local referendum on any development. Spurious challenges won't gather an organisation or persuade enough people to sign the petition. Major changes, such as the proposed Biomass Plant for West Thurrock or the destruction of Davall, Greenwood and Butler House, will get the organisation and signatures. It is not enough to just 'consult'. You have to place the final approval in the hands of the people if a consultation is going to mean anything. If you ask the people for input you have to give them the right to accept or reject the plans.</p> <p>Amended to read: "The ways in which in which we engage with you and how you can have your say will vary depending on the issue. Residents have the right to initiate a binding local referendum on any planning application on the condition of collecting signatures from 20% of eligible voters in the ward of the planning application. Different techniques may also be used at different stages in the preparation of a planning policy document, or in the assessment of a planning application."</p>	<p>Disagree. Planning applications can only be determined on material considerations. The current Government does not consider the holding of local referenda to be a material consideration in the determination of planning applications for development. Advice received from the Councils Planning and Regeneration Solicitor is that while the Council could introduce referenda for planning applications their result would not constitute valid grounds for granting or refusal of planning permission. Furthermore the holding of referenda would add significant costs and</p>	<p>No action required.</p>
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			slow the planning system, to a point, where the Council would not be able to comply with the statutory timescales for dealing with planning applications.	
SCI_7	Natural England	Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development. We are supportive of the principle of meaningful and early engagement of the general community, community organisations and statutory bodies in local planning matters, both in terms of shaping policy and participating in the process of determining planning applications. However, we have no specific comments to make on this consultation.	Support Acknowledged	No action required
SCI_8	Mrs Linda Mulley	I agree that developers must contact the local community direct, but I do feel that when a considerable development is being put forward, expert advice from the council would be helpful to assist residents even at this juncture. Large consortiums selling their "plan" and the tactics and legalities they can	Acknowledged, unfortunately due to a lack of resources it may not be possible for Council Officers to attend meetings to clarify what	No action needed.

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		<p>quote and employ can be very daunting.</p> <p>Suggestion that a council Planning official be invited along to those meetings to clarify in layman terms what residents are being told.</p>	<p>developers are proposing. However, the case officer is available to answer questions should the need arise and a request to attend a meeting can be made. Further advice and assistance can be obtained by the local community from Planning Aid who are an organisation which provides free and independent advice on planning matters.</p>	
SCI_9	Mrs Anne Sandu	<p>The reliance on electronic means of communication can exclude people who either do not understand how to use it, do not possess devices at home and/or are unable to access local facilities at a library - if indeed there is one.</p> <p>Engaging with local communities within the community, with for example a 'road show' near local shops, workplaces, commuter areas. A travelling presentation that explains what is happening and how to comment, presented by people that know their subject and how to explain it would</p>	<p>Agree, consultations need to be tailored to the issue being considered and the audience. Figure 1 sets out a selection of consultation methods we can use in preparing the emerging Local Plan including but not limited to these. They are extensive and will seek to</p>	No action needed.

		<p>give real democratic access to planning policy. I think that people want to engage but if it's difficult or obscure then they are excluded.</p>	<p>engage the majority of local residence in Thurrock. The process will involve capacity building for local communities. Here officers from the Council will travel to local community hubs, libraries and Council offices before and during consultation events to explain, discuss and encourage community involvement. In addition the Council will continue to make hard copies of consultation documents and comments forms available at the Civic Offices in Grays and in all libraries in the borough.</p>	
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SCI_10	Mrs Anne Sandu	I agree with T Aker about the consultation process. (SCI_6)	Disagree. Planning applications can only be determined on material considerations. The current Government does not consider the holding of local referenda to be a material consideration in the determination of planning applications for development. Advice received from the Councils Planning and Regeneration Solicitor is that while the Council could introduce referenda for planning applications their result would not constitute valid grounds for granting or refusal of planning permission. Furthermore the holding of referenda would add significant costs and	No action required.
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			slow the planning system, to a point, where the Council would not be able to comply with the statutory timescales for dealing with planning applications.	
SCI_11	Mr Joseph Ramon Greenwise Nurseries	We are in agreement with the aims of the draft statement of community involvement. Unfortunately with Thurrock constantly in a perpetual Election cycle, the vocal minority dominate the politics and no bold visionary decisions are ever addressed with a timely sustainable integrated strategy, that said the Council Officers should be commended for their work and efforts with The London Gateway Port and Logistic Park which is and will be a tremendous asset and benefit to the Borough. Please keep me informed of any further consultations or developments on the Local plan documents.	Support acknowledged	Ensure that Greenwise Nurseries continue to be consulted on the emerging Local Plan.
SCI_12	Mrs Anne Sandu	Engaging with residents via electronic methods excludes those who do not know how to use it, those who do not possess such equipment and/or cannot access a library, if there is one. Looking at the number of responses to this Draft Statement shows the disconnect between the residents of Thurrock and those making decisions on their behalf. How can electronic means be democratically	Agree. consultations need to be tailored to the issue being considered and the audience. Figure 1 sets out a selection of consultation methods we can use in preparing the emerging Local Plan	No action needed.

		<p>inclusive if a significant portion of residents haven't used it? If the technology excludes people, or people do not understand how to use it, is it a useful method? Yesterday I submitted responses but the system has not worked and I am re-submitting them today. If other people experience the same problems - will they bother?</p> <p>Nothing can replace person to person interaction and I would suggest that however convenient it is to computerise everything, for many people who are not computer confident their accessibility is limited. Not relying mainly on electronic means but including others would be useful - for example, Basildon Council had a 'roadshow' exhibition in the town centre inviting residents to a display to explain their plans.</p>	<p>including but not limited to these. They are extensive and will seek to engage the majority of local residence in Thurrock. The process will involve capacity building for local communities. Here officers from the Council will travel to local community hubs, libraries and Council offices before and during consultation events to explain, discuss and encourage community involvement. In addition the Council will continue to make hard copies of consultation documents and comments forms available at the Civic Offices in Grays and in all libraries in the borough.</p>	
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SCI_13	Carla Piper Historic England	Thank you for consulting on the Thurrock Statement of Community Involvement. Historic England has no comments on the consultation processes set out in the SCI, although with regards to planning application consultations, we would like to draw attention to our charter for advisory services which can be found online at www.historicengland.org.uk/services-skills/our-planning-services/charter/ and sets out when Historic England should be consulted.	Acknowledged.	No action required.
SCI_14	Trustees Of A Parish Deceased	Whilst we agree that the policies included in the Council's adopted "Core Strategy" have made a useful start to formulating economic growth in the borough, re-assessment of housing need and provision is required in the light of economic recovery and new pressure now placed on housing and employment opportunities:	Acknowledged. However, it is not the place of the SCI to undertake this assessment. The emerging Local Plan will undertake a comprehensive review of housing and employment needs during the plan period.	No action needed.

Table 2 SCI Modifications

Paragraph	Page	Original with highlighted changes.	Reason For Amendments	Amended version
1.6	page 4	The number of individuals/groups participating in consultations – including the number of ‘hard to engage ¹ ’ individuals or groups, where appropriate.	Helpful to define ‘hard to reach groups’ for purpose of planning. Internal comment from: Communities Development and Equalities Team. (CDET)	Insert foot note at para 1.6 with short definition for hard to engage individuals or groups.
2.11	Page 8	What will you be expected to do? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In order to ensure that your involvement is effective, you are expected to: • Provide comments in a clear and concise way. • Be aware that all comments will be made publically. 	Lose the first bullet point (and have other points as bullets underneath – minor detail but would look better) Internal comment from: Communities Development and Equalities Team. (CDET)	What will you be Expected to do? 2.12 In order to ensure that your involvement is effective, you are expected to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide comments in a clear and concise way. • Be aware that all comments will be made publically
2.18	Page 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide enough information and time so that you can understand and respond to consultations. 	2.18 – second bullet, be helpful to change to ‘Provide enough information and time so that you can....’ Internal comment from: Communities Development and Equalities Team. (CDET)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide enough information and time so that you can understand and respond to consultations.
4.4	Page 17	Some Proposals, such as those classed as ‘major’ applications (see Glossary) require the applicant to consult with the local Community before a planning application is submitted.	Internal comment from Development Management to remove this paragraph.	Remove para 4.4

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4.11	Page 18	<p>Once the Council receives a planning application and validates it, it should make a decision on the proposal as quickly as possible. The time limits are usually 13 weeks for a 'major' development and 8 weeks for all other types of development (unless the application is subject to an Environmental Impact Assessment, in which case a 16 week time limit applies). In some cases, the statutory deadline can be extended via a mutual agreement (either through Article 29 agreements or normally through a Planning Performance Agreements); this enables both parties the opportunity to resolve certain problems, avoiding the unnecessary refusing of a development proposal that could otherwise be acceptable.</p>	<p>Article 29 is now an out of date reference. Replace with <i>'...agreement (normally through a Planning Performance Agreement)'</i></p> <p>(Internal comment from: Development Management).</p>	<p>Once the Council receives a planning application and validates it, it should make a decision on the proposal as quickly as possible. The time limits are usually 13 weeks for a 'major' development and 8 weeks for all other types of development (unless the application is subject to an Environmental Impact Assessment, in which case a 16 week time limit applies). In some cases, the statutory deadline can be extended via a mutual agreement (normally through a Planning Performance Agreements); this enables both parties the opportunity to resolve certain problems, avoiding the unnecessary refusing of a development proposal that could otherwise be acceptable.</p>
5.9	Page 22		<p>Be good to add a hyperlink to regs where stated: http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2012/637/made</p> <p>Internal comment from: Communities Development and Equalities Team. (CDET)</p>	<p>The Neighbourhood Planning (general) Regulations 2012 http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2012/637/made</p>
5.15	Page 23		<p>An m missing from 'likely to impact on the too'</p> <p>Internal comment from: Communities Development and Equalities Team. (CDET)</p>	<p>'likely to impact on them too'</p>
Appendix B	Page 27	Other Public Bodies and Local Authorities	I think you should consult with	Other Public Bodies and Local Authorities

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		<p>(these are subject to change):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basildon Borough Council • Brentwood Council • Havering Council • Castle Point Borough Council • Essex County Council • Rochford District Council • Southend-on-Sea Council • Greater London Authority • Thames Gateway Local Nature Partnership Authorities - Dartford Borough Council - Gravesham Borough Council - London Borough of Bexley - London Borough of Havering - Medway Council - Swale Borough Council 	<p>Brentwood Borough Council as it adjoins Thurrock, and also Havering Borough Council, when appropriate.</p> <p>Changes made in response to Ref SCI_3 (see table 1)</p>	<p>(these are subject to change):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basildon Borough Council • Brentwood Council • Havering Council • Castle Point Borough Council • Essex County Council • Rochford District Council • Southend-on-Sea Council • Greater London Authority • Thames Gateway Local Nature Partnership Authorities - Dartford Borough Council - Gravesham Borough Council - London Borough of Bexley - London Borough of Havering - Medway Council - Swale Borough Council
Appendix B	Page 27	<p>Other Public Bodies and Local Authorities (these are subject to change):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basildon Borough Council • Barking & Dagenham Council • Brentwood Council • Havering Council • Castle Point Borough Council • Essex County Council • Rochford District Council • Southend-on-Sea Council • Greater London Authority • Thames Gateway Local Nature Partnership Authorities 	<p>The London Borough of Havering, London Borough of Barking & Dagenham and Brentwood Borough Council should be added to the list.</p> <p>Changes made in response to Ref SCI_4 (see table 1)</p>	<p>Other Public Bodies and Local Authorities (these are subject to change):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basildon Borough Council • Barking & Dagenham Council • Brentwood Council • Havering Council • Castle Point Borough Council • Essex County Council • Rochford District Council • Southend-on-Sea Council • Greater London Authority • Thames Gateway Local Nature Partnership Authorities

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dartford Borough Council - Gravesham Borough Council - London Borough of Bexley - London Borough of Havering - Medway Council - Swale Borough Council 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dartford Borough Council - Gravesham Borough Council - London Borough of Bexley - London Borough of Havering - Medway Council - Swale Borough Council
Appendix H	Page 49		<p>Additional resources – Appendix H</p> <p>A new and complex area for communities, some additional resources for NP/NDO that would be useful to add to Appendix H - e.g. Locality via http://mycommunity.org.uk/programme/neighbourhood-planning/</p> <p>CLG via: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/neighbourhood-planning Planning Aid have a NP forum to support communities on using rights: http://www.ourneighbourhoodplanning.org.uk/</p> <p>Internal comment from: Communities Development and Equalities Team. (CDET)</p>	<p>(Added to) Appendix H</p> <p>A new and complex area for communities, some additional resources for NP/NDO that would be useful to add to Appendix H - e.g. Locality via http://mycommunity.org.uk/programme/neighbourhood-planning/</p> <p>CLG via: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/neighbourhood-planning Planning Aid have a NP forum to support communities on using rights: http://www.ourneighbourhoodplanning.org.uk/</p>

Appendix A

Consultation Letter and email

Address...

Dear,

Thurrock Council's New Local Plan

I am writing to let you know that a 6 week period of public consultation on the draft Statement of Community Involvement starts at 9 am Monday 27 July and ends at 5pm on Monday 7 September 2015.

You have received this notification because you have asked to be notified of consultations on Thurrock Council's planning policy documents or you have previously participated in consultations on Thurrock Council's Local Plan (formerly Local Development Framework).

Thurrock Local Plan (2015-2035)

In February 2014 Thurrock Council's Cabinet gave approval to prepare a new Local Plan for Thurrock. The new Local Plan will provide a planning and development strategy to guide future development in the borough. It will establish a vision for the borough up to 2035 and identify the overall level of different types of development (including housing, employment and retail) that is envisaged during that period. The plan will also allocate sites for new development, designate areas for protection and set out policies to manage development in the borough.

Work on the new Local Plan is already underway as we seek to update key pieces of our evidence base ahead of a formal public consultation early next year. For more information on the plan and the plan making process in Thurrock please see the enclosed first edition of the Thurrock Local Plan Update newsletter. This twice yearly newsletter will keep you informed about the latest progress on the Local Plan and will let you know how and when you can get involved.

Draft Statement of Community Involvement

The Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) is a key part of the Council's emerging Local Plan. It will set out how the local community, businesses and interest groups will be involved in the preparation of Local Plan documents and planning applications that may affect them.

The Statement of Community Involvement was first produced and adopted in 2007. Since then the Government has introduced substantial changes to the planning system. This draft Statement of Community Involvement seeks to take account of these changes and once adopted will replace the former document.

We need you to get involved and check that our chosen approach to consultation on planning matters is fit for purpose and inclusive so that anybody who wants to have their say will be able to.

Having your say on the Statement of Community Involvement

The easiest way to make comments on the consultation document is by using the Council's online consultation portal. The consultation portal allows you to:

- Search and view current and past consultations.
- Comment online on live consultations.
- Search for any comments we receive to a consultation.

As a member of our previous planning policy database your details have automatically transferred to the new system to ensure that you are kept informed of upcoming consultations. The consultation portal can be accessed at <http://consult.thurrock.gov.uk>, your username and password are as follows:

Username: ThurrockC837

Password: Thurrock1

If you wish to comment on the document but do not have access to the internet, you can still have your say by filling in a Local Plan Comments Form. Copies of the consultation document and Comments forms will be made available at the Civic Offices in Grays and at Libraries or community hubs across the Borough during the consultation period. If required a Local Plan Comments Form can be posted on request. Completed Local Plan Comments Forms should be returned to the Growth and Strategy Team.

For further information regarding this consultation or the emerging Local Plan please contact a member of the Growth and Strategy Team by emailing the Council at the following address growth&strategy@thurrock.gov.uk or calling 01375 652705.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sean Nethercott', written in a cursive style.

Sean Nethercott
Growth and Strategy Team Leader

Email / Address...

Date

Dear...

I am writing to acknowledge that we have received your representation to the Draft Statement of Community Involvement.

Once the consultation period on this document has ended, we will begin to review all of the representations that we have received and will amend the document, where necessary, before adopting it.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sean Nethercott', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Sean Nethercott
Growth and Strategy Team Leader

Newspaper Advert.

Planning in Thurrock affects everyone who lives here.

That's why we want your help on how we plan for the future.

We want your comments on our draft Statement of Community Involvement (SCI).

It sets out how and when people can be involved in the new Local Plan and planning applications. We want to know if we've got it right.

You can give us your views from
Monday 27 July 9am to
Monday 7 September 5pm 2015

Join the conversation by visiting
thurrock.gov.uk/planning-policy
 or emailing
growth&strategy@thurrock.gov.uk

Hard copies of the document and comments forms are available at the Civic Offices in Grays, public libraries and community hubs.

thurrock.gov.uk

6 Thurrock Gazette Thursday July 30, 2015

Big concerns raised over standard of local NHS services

Social care cut fears

TILBURY GP services have been slashed to critical point, according to senior health officials.

A report into the "crisis" has been published by the General Medical Council, the Care Quality Commission and NHS England, following a number of critical CQC reports on responses to the new and the suspension of one doctor.

Dr Pareshwar, Salford, has been suspended from duty after his surgery at the Health Centre in London Road, was found to be inadequate. The surgery operates open, but patients must see lower clinics.

Dr Paul Sheehak has been placed into special measures after his surgery at the Sheehak Medical Centre, in Quaker Road, was also found to be inadequate.

Dr Mustafa Raza, who operates out of Madia House, Ottawa Road, has also been told to improve his surgery.

A health and wellbeing overview and scrutiny committee meeting at Thurrock Council last week discussed the findings facing Tilbury's health needs.

Kate James, of Healthwatch Thurrock, a local health advocacy group, said: "We have got some very worried and frightened patients in a very bad place. They feel changed since that time when they reached those proportions through the half of three cuts."

Councillor Steve Liddford expressed concern over NHS England director Andrew Ples who attended the meeting.

Mr Liddford said: "Every week we get residents coming in to us and asking what's happening? When are you going to come up with a plan?"

Mr Ples said all of the Salford-allegation patients had been referred to the change and offered alternative GP provision and a full replacement was found.

Among the challenges discussed was both recruiting and keeping good quality doctors and nurses to work in Tilbury.

Councillor and deputy leader Barbara Kite criticised the lack of adequate health provision in Tilbury and said it is lower than national standards in the town health provision was needed.

She said: "It's completely unacceptable that we have our residents in Tilbury being made to see someone that is not of the country. Something has got to be done."

■ Editor's comment - page 24

Walk-in centre fury over 'lack' of consultation

COUNCILLORS slammed a lack of public consultation over the closure of the Grays walk-in health centre.

The High Street site will close next year following a consultation with patients.

The consultation, which received 251 written responses out of 1,800 given out, was criticised as a health and wellbeing scrutiny committee meeting at Thurrock Council by NHS England.

Dr Sue Nissen, from the NHS, said it had spoken to 185 residents at three face-to-face meetings around Thurrock and interviewed 138 residents about the plans.

Responses to the questionnaire showed 49 per cent of people preferred to keep the centre open, 23 per cent preferred a managed service and 14 per cent were in favour of closure and opening two new health hubs.

Councillor Yash Gupta said: "In their report enough data to come up with such a big decision is being a bit of a puzzle. I have been trying to get a Q&A appointment for three days, I haven't been able to get one and I have sent so many people with the same problem."

Mr Nissen responded: "256 is not an unreasonable number for a consultation. The point is more people had the opportunity to respond."

Tilbury GPs in 'crisis' with three surgeries struggling

THE winners of the Thurrock Council road safety competition have had a special surprise meeting for them at school.

Year 5h pupils Naveh Nadey, of St Thomas of Canterbury, and Kayla Arthur, of Warm Primary Primary School, Grays, and Kevita Adisa, of Warm Primary School, Chelmsford, were given a big bill of road safety guidelines by their headteachers.

The competition was part of the pedestrian training scheme undertaken in every primary school in the borough.

Gazette's FREE legal advice

DO you need free legal advice? We can help.

The Gazette has joined forces with Lloyd Grant Solicitors to offer our readers free, no-obligation legal advice. Call the helpline or if you've got straight through to a solicitor, whether your enquiry relates to an accident, medical error, employment issue, family dispute, wills and probate or conveyancing we can help.

In fact if you just need the services of a lawyer on any matter, except a criminal case and where other specialist matters, then simply call the helpline number below.

01275 285103 or visit www.thurrockgazette.co.uk/advice

£3k to help catch gang

A REWARD of up to £3,000 is on offer for information following the brutal assault of a man at a Perfect Industral retail.

Adam Nicholls was ambushed by four masked men on the Erving Industrial Estate, Madley Way, in Huddersfield, January 25, while he was carrying a van full of clothing worth £300,000.

He was treated and better, before being equipped of his car and threatened with death. He suffered a damaged eye socket and shattered ribs. If you can help call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.