



# Leigh-on-Sea Town Council

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**Chairman:** Cllr Bernard Arscott | **Vice Chairman:** Cllr Sandra McCurdy

**Town Clerk:** Clare Milligan



Amanda Parrott  
Assistant Director Climate and Growth  
Place and Communities  
Castle Point Borough Council  
Kiln road  
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18<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Dear Amanda

I write on behalf of Leigh on Sea Town Council and its residents re Castle Points Local Plan and call for possible development sites.

The Council cannot express strongly enough at how appalled they are that the Salvation Army have proposed allocating some parcels of their land for development within the Castle Point Borough Council Local Plan. The areas in question are without doubt unsuitable for any kind of development and the impact this would have on the community of Leigh on Sea would be phenomenal.

It is incomprehensible that not only the Salvation Army feels giving up these green spaces is acceptable, but that Castle Point Borough Council would even consider it.

The land in question is not only a site of natural beauty, giving much pleasure to residents of the local areas, but includes Green Belt and acts as a natural boundary between Hadleigh and Leigh on Sea. Something that both communities would not want to see disappear.

Generations of families over the years have been able to enjoy this landscape which enhances their health and wellbeing. Removing the open spaces is detrimental to those present and those in the future.

The Council has deep concern of the effects on Leigh on Sea and the wider Southend area of any, but appropriate, Green Belt uses on the land along with the downgrading of the Green Belt function of the Salvation Army land, bearing in mind

the need to maintain the Green Belt's original aim of preventing coalescence of individual communities.

The concerns focus on the potential implications for traffic and the road hierarchy, lack of infrastructure, such as health and education provision, as well as utility services. The drainage system that is in place is already at straining point and adding further development of any kind would have a huge destructive impact.

The concern also focuses on the cohesion of the towns of Hadleigh and Leigh on Sea, and importantly the historic character of Hadleigh and Leigh on Sea as adjoining parishes with a deeply rooted and significant role in the nation's history and their context in the landscape of this part of Essex.

Leigh on Sea Town Council would appreciate close liaison with Castle Point Borough Council throughout the local plan process to ensure that its views and those of Leigh on Sea residents are taken fully into account should these sites, or any other site which would affect Leigh on Sea, come forward beyond this first stage of the local plan.

The Town Council advises that due to the importance of any potential allocation for major development which would have a detrimental effect on Leigh on Sea, at such time as any such allocation is proposed for consultation, the Town Council will make a suitable room available to the Borough Council, free of charge, in order for the proposals to be displayed and asks for Castle Point Borough Council Officers to be present to answer questions. The purpose of this is to allow Leigh residents to voice their opinions and to feed these into any response from Leigh on Sea Town Council.

The Town Council asks that the representations be copied to the Salvation Army with a request to be kept abreast of their proposals should they move forward.

I reiterate the Town Council is completely against any development on any of the Salvation Army's land other than acceptable Green Belt uses and would vehemently campaign against this.

Yours sincerely



Clare Milligan  
Town Clerk.