

Dear Langham,

You did us proud last night!

Over 70 of us attended the Parish Council meeting.

And we all agreed to kick-start the "Langham900" campaign.

900 represents the number of new homes that Colchester City Council wants to build here as part of their new Local Plan.

As it happens, 900 also represents approximately the entire current population of Langham with access to, and the ability to use, email.

We urgently need to explain to Colchester City Council why their plans for Langham are misguided.

900 individual emails from 900 individual Langham residents would send an extremely powerful message. Every member of your household should send their own individual objection email, which also needs to confirm your name and address within Langham. Every one of your friends and neighbours who lives in Langham should also send their own emails. How close to 900 can we get? Then we'd really become the "Langham900"!

Here are some snappy key bullet points you could use as a starting point (but feel free to add any extra ones you can think of):

- Overflowing sewers
- Overloaded sewage treatment works
- No GP surgery
- No secondary school
- Inadequate access roads
- Inadequate pedestrian & cycle access to Colchester
- Inadequate bus service
- NO INFRASTRUCTURE
- NO MONEY TO FIX IT

If you've time to write a slightly longer email, here are some more detailed points you could use and develop further:

- The disappearance of a rural community which will impact the lives of all residents.
- Lack of local facilities that would mean sole reliance on motor vehicles.
- Recognised ageing and ineffective sewerage network
- Current unreasonable traffic levels during rush hour periods even without trebling the number of vehicles. Releasing a lot of this new traffic into the rural lanes will also cause serious issues for surrounding villages.
- Zero health and prescription services. Around 80% of Langham residents use Ardleigh surgery that currently provides services for approximately 8,000 patients. Unless Ardleigh can increase capacity by 35% residents will be travelling unreasonable distances for healthcare.
- Major road upgrade schemes would be required for the A12.
- Local Employment Zone(s) that use HGVs would not be able to function safely and efficiently with the massive increase in road traffic and housing.
- There are limited educational facilities in Langham and an increase in the local population of this size would again mean increased use of motor vehicles.
- There is a minimal public bus service that is not fit for purpose. One bus that makes the journey between Dedham & Colchester via Langham.
- The northern borders of Langham abut the Dedham Vale National Landscape (DVNL). Massive increased activity in this area from vehicles and visitors will negatively impact the tranquillity and enjoyment of the DVNL.

Please send your objection emails to:

clerk@langhamparishcouncil.co.uk

Please use the subject title "Langham900" so that we can file the messages and keep track of numbers received.

If everyone who attended the meeting last night could do this BEFORE next Monday that would be a great start. We will then email the Local Plan Committee Chairman on Monday to confirm how many residents' emails have already been received.

After Monday, we can then work on spreading the word further around the whole village and striving to reach our ultimate 900 email goal.

Good luck Langham! We're already a great little community and this challenge will bring us together even more!

More news to follow soon as we look to build a campaign structure. This could be a long campaign, and we will need help and volunteers to scale it up and make it effective. Please let us know if you are keen to help, especially if you have particular skills and background experience that you think could be useful. Offers and enquiries about assistance should be emailed separately, please, to:

p.freeman@langhamparishcouncil.co.uk