

## **Railfuture London & South East regional branch response to Medway Council consultation on Community Infrastructure Framework for Hoo Peninsula**

**Are you happy to take part in the Hoo Peninsula Community Infrastructure Framework Survey? Yes**

Members of the Hoo Peninsula Community Panel have developed the following vision for community infrastructure on the Hoo Peninsula:

**To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following parts of the vision:**

- 1 - *Promote fun, happiness and wellbeing through a better network of community facilities on the peninsula* Strongly agree
- 2 - *Respecting nature and the environment, connect communities and places, improving access to jobs and opportunity* Strongly agree
- 3 - *Enable greater local involvement, giving people more of a say in the places that they love* Strongly agree

**For each part of the vision, explain why you have given your answer:**

All are very important

**To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the ways of working:**

- 1 - *Improve existing facilities and services first* Strongly agree
- 2 - *Don't wait for development to improve community facilities* Strongly agree
- 3 - *Better communication between the community, developers, and council* Strongly agree
- 4 - *Support the community to do more for themselves* Strongly agree
- 5 - *Make the most of investment which is already committed* Strongly agree
- 6 - *Ensure that development captures every opportunity to improve the lives of people on the Hoo Peninsula* Strongly agree
- 7 - *Encourage larger employers to support community provision where this works for all* Strongly agree
- 8 - *Contribute to climate resilience and to the Hoo Peninsula's natural capital* Strongly agree

**Are there any other ways of working we should consider?**

Engage pro-actively with Network Rail around delivery of Hoo Peninsula Railway, including links via new Higham Chord with Strood and beyond to destinations east and south.

**To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the target investments:**

- 1 - *Improved transport between villages and facilities as well as off the Hoo Peninsula* Strongly agree
- 2 - *Investing in improving existing facilities and bringing these up to modern standards* Agree
- 3 - *Prioritise facilities for young people, giving them a role in deciding what is delivered on the Hoo Peninsula* Agree
- 4 - *Develop a plan to improve health provision on the Hoo Peninsula* Agree
- 5 - *Protect and respect heritage and nature and do more to tell people why it is important* Agree
- 6 - *Create a hub for sport and leisure at Deangate, and better connect it to the places where people live* Agree
- 7 - *Test the potential of a bigger supermarket. If the big companies don't want to come here, make a plan to deliver a community run facility* Agree
- 8 - *Create a plan to link local people to jobs and opportunities* Agree.

**Are there any other target investments we should consider?**

Delivery of Hoo Peninsula Railway, including links via new Higham Chord with Strood and beyond to destinations east and south.

**To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the priority themes to collect evidence and create a more accurate picture of life on the Hoo Peninsula:**

- 1 - *Happiness and wellbeing* Agree
- 2 - *Local involvement* Agree
- 3 - *Nature and environment* Agree
- 4 - *Young people* Agree

**Are there any other priority themes we should consider?**

Community connectivity, within and beyond Hoo Peninsula

**Is there anything else we should consider about the Hoo Peninsula Community Infrastructure Framework?**

1 - Given the likely scale of long-term housing growth on the Hoo Peninsula, are Medway in general and Hoo Peninsula in particular prepared for the possibility that Hoo Peninsula be designated a New Town by the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, following the New Towns Taskforce call for evidence in November-December 2024 to explore opportunities for large developments, and the interim update in mid-February 2025 on the new towns programme “Building new towns for the future”?

2 - In line with the spirit of the second of the eight ways of working “Don’t wait for development to improve community facilities” pursue early pro-active engagement with Network Rail around delivery of Hoo Peninsula Railway, part-financed through Land Value Capture.

**Are you responding as:**

An organisation

**Please state the name of the organisation you are responding on behalf of:**

Railfuture Ltd – London & South East regional branch

**Is your organisation based on, or operates on, the Hoo Peninsula?**

No.

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Railfuture

Vice-Chair, London & South East regional branch

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