

Draft press release.

Housing scheme will bring community benefits

Plans for a new housing scheme will bring substantial benefits to local communities in Little Dunmow, Great Dunmow and Oakwood Park, according to a submission lodged on Friday, January 11 to Uttlesford District Council.

The Chelmer Mead scheme for 3,000 new homes would bring with it a new community centre with shops, health services and new units for small businesses.

There could be a substantial country park with leisure facilities and potentially an 18-hole golf course.

Land would be put aside for a new secondary school on the northern half of the scheme, according to the submission by Chater Homes in response to the District's consultation on housing development.

Ian Chater, Managing Director of Chater Homes, the company promoting Chelmer Mead said: "Uttlesford District Council has to provide for more than 4,000 homes and we believe that these should also bring with the correct community facilities. We are willing to help fund these."

Chelmer Mead would be carefully designed to blend in with and supplement the existing communities. Little Dunmow would be separated and screened from Chelmer Mead by a number of open spaces and the existing trees and more would be planted to protect the special character of the village.

The scheme would also link to Oakwood Park, which is currently too small to be a self-sustaining community. It would also be totally separate from Great Dunmow, although the town would be accessible with cycle and footpaths.

Ian Chater said: "I once lived in Little Dunmow and fully understand the issues facing the village and the surrounding area. My company would do all in its power to protect the special nature of the area." Chater Homes is an Essex company which has operated in the county since 1958.

Chelmer Mead would also have a network of safe cycle and pedestrian links both within the development to link the schools, village centre, and residential neighbourhoods, and beyond the development to link into Fritch way, Great Dunmow and the adjoining countryside.

A rapid bus service to link Chelmer Mead with employment locations and other major towns in the area. This would be supported by local bus services. A local by-pass to Station Road to divert traffic away from Little Dunmow.

Ian Chater added: "These are just our initial thoughts. Chater Homes is committed to consultation and we have held a number of exhibitions to explain its proposals. It is committed to further consultation and to taking on board the views of local people and their representatives."

Ends.

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