

# PLANNING POLICY COMMITTEE

**Date:** 10 December 2012

**Venue:** East Northamptonshire House, Cedar Drive, Thrapston

**Time:** 7.30pm

**Present:** Councillors: David Brackenbury (Chairman)

Peter Baden

Tony Boto

Michael Finch

Glenn Harwood MBE

Marian Hollomon

David Jenney

Gill Mercer

Pam Whiting

## **304. MINUTES.**

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 November 2012 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

## **305. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Councillors Sylvia Hobbs, Sylvia Hughes, Eloise Lucille, Bob Nightingale, Steven North and Rob Back (Head of Planning Services) sent their apologies.

## **306. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND QUESTIONS**

There were no declarations of interest and no questions.

## **307. RAUNDS: APPLICATION FOR DESIGNATION OF A NEIGHBOURHOOD AREA**

The Planning Policy and Conservation Manager reported that an application had been received from Raunds Town Council for the designation of a Neighbourhood Area. The application had been made under powers provided by the Localism Act 2011 and submitted to East Northamptonshire Council in accordance with the procedures contained in the Neighbourhood Plan (General) Regulations 2012. The Regulations also required such an application to be consulted upon for a minimum period of six weeks.

Details of the area to which the application related and the reasons why the Town Council considered the area to be appropriate for designation as a Neighbourhood Area were also reported. It was intended that any town-wide planning issues would be addressed through the emerging Four Towns Plan.

It was noted that the Department for Communities and Local Government was currently providing some funding to local planning authorities in recognition of the duty placed upon them in advising and supporting Town and Parish Councils in the neighbourhood planning process. There was no funding currently available for Town or Parish Councils.

## **RESOLVED**

That support be given for consultation to commence on the proposed Raunds Neighbourhood Area

*(Reason – to enable work to commence on their Neighbourhood Plan)*

### **308. PLANNING POLICY UPDATE**

The Committee considered a report of the Planning Policy and Conservation Manager providing updates on the North Northamptonshire Core Spatial Strategy and Four Towns Plan, community progress on Neighbourhood Plans, Masterplans and Community Plans and an update on the Five Year Housing Land Supply.

The Settlement Hierarchy within the Spatial Strategy would be considered by the Planning Policy Working Party (PPWP) at its January 2013 meeting. The Retail frontage/town centre boundary assessment was now anticipated to be submitted to the February 2013 meeting of the PPWP. Consultants were expected to complete work on the North Northants/JPU transport modelling in January 2013 and it was hoped that this would then be available in February 2013.

The Oundle and Higham Ferrers Neighbourhood Area consultations were scheduled to be considered by the Committee in January 2013. Members also highlighted progress with the High Court/Lyvenden case, which was due to be re-listed for the new year (as the judge who had been considering the case had stepped down, due to his membership of the National Trust which was material to the case). Members enquired about whether the wind farm SPD might be completed in time for the revised High Court Hearing date for the Lyvenden case, as this might be helpful to the Council's case. An update about the Lyvenden case would be provided at the next Committee meeting. The Planning and Conservation Manager reminded Members that it was intended to appoint consultants in January 2013 to carry out a Landscape Capacity Assessment in relation to wind energy development and that once that was completed, Members had agreed to then form a view as to whether to take that work forward to prepare an SPD on wind energy. Work and legal challenges being carried out/involving other local authorities relating to this issue was also being monitored.

Officers were meeting the following day to consider the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) further and a meeting of the CIL Member Working Party was expected to be convened early in the new year.

## **RESOLVED:**

That current progress be noted.

*(Reason – to provide an update on progress for Members' information)*

**Chairman**