

PLANNING POLICY COMMITTEE

Date: 17 June 2013

Venue: East Northamptonshire House, Cedar Drive, Thrapston

Time: 7.30pm

Present: Councillors: Tony Boto (Vice-Chairman in the chair)

Glenn Harwood MBE	Eloise Lucille
Marian Hollomon	Gill Mercer
Sylvia Hobbs	Bob Nightingale
Sylvia Hughes	Steven North
David Jenney	Jake Vowles

49. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 April 2013 were approved and signed by the Vice-Chairman.

50. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor David Brackenbury.

51. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND QUESTIONS

There were no declarations of interest and no questions.

52. ISLIP CONSERVATION AREA REVIEW

It was reported that following research being carried out into the potential for a conservation area within the village of Islip, a proposed conservation area boundary plan along with a supporting conservation area appraisal and management plan had been prepared for public consultation. The proposal would then be subject to a ten week consultation period, after which a further report would be submitted to the Committee and consultation responses would be considered.

Members raised the following issues and questions:

- The methodology for identifying “positive buildings” in the Character Appraisal report (Appendix 2) and whether the public could propose other “positive buildings”
- The reasoning for the inclusion of large areas of undeveloped land within the proposed boundary
- The need to seek Parish Council views about the proposed designation
- The impact of proposals on existing features such as satellite dishes

In response to questions from Members, for example, regarding the intrusive impact of some modern features within conservation areas, the Planning Policy and Conservation Manager undertook to circulate advice to the Planning Policy Committee Members relating to the impact that designating a conservation area would have for existing properties.

RESOLVED:

That public consultation on the Islip Conservation Area proposals be approved

(Reason - To accord with legislation)

53. DRAFT INTERIM HOUSING POLICY STATEMENT ON HOUSING REQUIREMENTS IN THE NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE HOUSING MARKET AREA

Andrew Longley of the North Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit (JPU) attended the meeting for consideration of this item.

It was reported that delays to the timetable for the preparation of an updated Local Plan for North Northamptonshire had resulted in the JPU and constituent local planning authorities (including East Northamptonshire Council) considering possible approaches for the shorter term. It was proposed to prepare an Interim Housing Policy Statement (IHPS), tied to the adopted (2008) North Northamptonshire Core Spatial Strategy (CSS). The role of the interim statement would be to:

1. Update Policy 7/Table 3 of the existing CSS
2. Identify the current “objectively assessed need” for housing, as required by the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).
3. Identify the 5-year housing land supply against the latest “objectively assessed” housing needs data.

On 14 March 2013, the Joint Planning Committee had expressed its support for the preparation of a North Northamptonshire IHPS as the preferred short-term option. It was confirmed that the JPU had now agreed the IHPS for consultation and each constituent Council was being asked to consider it.

The latest (2011) Department of Communities and Local Government (CLG) interim housing projections 2011-2021 were summarised to the Committee. The Committee welcomed the reduction in the number of dwellings allocated to the District to more realistic targets, moving away from the former Milton Keynes and South Midlands Sub-Regional growth agenda. The emerging Rushden East urban extension proposal was also cited as a means of highlighting local aspirations for growth in appropriate locations.

The relationship between employment (job creation targets) and housing need was emphasised and whilst East Northamptonshire had fared better than the three other Authorities within the North Northamptonshire area in employment provision over recent years, it was noted that employment provision in East Northamptonshire over the past 20-30 years had been reduced significantly, particularly as a result of the decline in the shoe manufacturing industry.

RESOLVED:

- i) That the latest (2011) CLG household projections and draft IHPS for East Northamptonshire be noted and the approach of the North Northamptonshire IHPS be endorsed and it is confirmed that no further strategic allocations are required in the plan period up to 2021.
- ii) That the Council's commitment as part of the Joint Core Strategy (JCS) review to support the designation of Rushden East as a strategic location for growth in the

emerging JCS review and to work with Rushden Town Council on the preparation of a master plan for the area be reaffirmed.

(Reason – to identify the most preferable way forward for the Local Plan in response to the delays to this process arising from the Secretary of State’s “call in” of the Rushden Lakes application)

54. HIGHAM FERRERS AND OUNDLE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANS: NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN AREA BOUNDARIES

It was reported that the statutory consultation for the Higham Ferrers and Oundle Neighbourhood Plan boundaries had taken place over a six week period from 18 February to 1 April 2013 in accordance with Regulation 6 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. The consultation had invited comments as to whether there was any reason why the District Council should not make designations in respect of Higham Ferrers and Oundle and a summary of the responses received was considered.

RESOLVED:

That the (whole parish) Neighbourhood Plan area boundaries for Higham Ferrers and Oundle, put forward in the two formal notices of application for the designation of these Neighbourhood Areas (Minute 402-13 February 2013 refers) be endorsed

(Reason – to enable Higham Ferrers and Oundle Town Councils to progress with the preparation of their respective Neighbourhood Plans)

55. PLANNING POLICY AND CONSERVATION UPDATE

The Committee considered a report of the Planning Policy and Conservation Manager providing updates on the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy review, the Four Towns Plan, community progress on Neighbourhood Plans and other key areas of planning policy and conservation work.

The Planning Policy and Conservation Manager reported that a detailed project plan for the submission of reports to the Committee’s Working Parties was currently being drafted and further information was expected to be reported to the next meeting. It was also noted that Chelveston cum Caldecott Parish Council had now confirmed their intention to progress with a Neighbourhood Plan.

RESOLVED:

That current progress be noted.

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

Chairman