

PLANNING POLICY COMMITTEE

Date: 23 June 2014

Venue: East Northamptonshire House, Cedar Drive, Thrapston

Time: 7.30pm

Present: Councillors: David Brackenbury (Chairman)
Tony Boto (Vice-Chairman)

Peter Baden
Wendy Brackenbury
Glenvil Greenwood-Smith
Glenn Harwood MBE
Sylvia Hughes

David Jenney
Bob Nightingale
Jeremy Taylor
Jake Vowles
Pam Whiting

49. WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

The Chairman welcomed the Councillors who had recently been appointed to the Committee and thanked the Councillors they had replaced for their contribution to the work of the Committee.

50. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 March 2014 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

51. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Marian Hollomon, Steven North and Sarah Peacock.

52. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

53. QUESTIONS UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 10.3

There were no questions submitted under Procedure Rule 10.3.

54. IRTHLINGBOROUGH AND STANWICK: APPLICATIONS FOR DESIGNATION OF NEIGHBOURHOOD AREAS

The Senior Planning Policy Officer reported that applications to designate Neighbourhood Areas had been received from Irthlingborough Town Council and Stanwick Parish Council, details of which were considered.

Higham Ferrers Town Council had indicated that it hoped to submit the Higham Ferrers Neighbourhood Plan for independent examination around December 2014. The Committee noted the imminent revision to the Parish boundary arising from the Community Governance Review and considered it appropriate to consult upon a revised Neighbourhood Area boundary which aligned with the revised Higham Ferrers Parish boundary

RESOLVED:

That consultation commence on the designation of the following Neighbourhood Areas:

- i) Higham Ferrers – Revised Neighbourhood Area boundary, to take account of the Parish boundary revisions due to take effect from 15 October 2014 (Appendix 6 to the report);
- ii) Irthlingborough – New Neighbourhood Area, in accordance with the application by Irthlingborough Town Council (dated 8 April 2014; received 11 April 2014) for the designation of a Neighbourhood Area (Appendix 3 to the report);
- iii) Stanwick – New Neighbourhood Area, in accordance with the application by Stanwick Parish Council (dated 23 May 2014; received 30 May 2014), but with the exclusion of 0.6ha land at Stanwick Lakes, due to transfer from Stanwick Parish to Irthlingborough (Appendix 7 to the report).

(Reason – to enable work to commence on the Irthlingborough and Stanwick Neighbourhood Plans, and to align the emerging Higham Ferrers Neighbourhood Plan area with the revised Parish boundary, due to come into effect from 15 October 2014)

55. RUSHDEN TRANSPORT STUDY

The Planning Policy and Conservation Manager presented a report on the study examining Rushden transport issues which had recently been finalised by consultants. The report would be used as a background study for emerging policy work and would not constitute a policy document in itself.

It was confirmed that the study had taken into account transport issues arising in Rushden from the recently approved Rushden Lakes development and development in Rushden East. However, more detailed modelling would be required should any of the transport schemes be pursued.

The consultants would be asked to provide the data gathered in respect of the number of journeys saved to supplement the time savings (Table 5) which had been included in the report.

It had previously been identified that the area of land required for junction widening should not be included in the sale by the Council of the Household Waste and Recycling Centre. Officers undertook to confirm that this had been reflected in the sale.

RESOLVED:

That the Rushden Transport Study be noted.

(Reason – as a background paper to inform policy making).

56. PLANNING POLICY AND CONSERVATION UPDATE

The Planning Policy and Conservation Manager provided the Committee with an update on work currently being undertaken by the Planning Policy and Conservation team.

The Committee noted that approval of the Rushden Lakes planning application would enable progress to be made on some areas of planning policy work, although it was also noted that the period for applying for Judicial Review of the decision ran until 24 July 2014. The Head of Planning Services outlined measures being taken to strengthen the Planning Policy team

Whilst the minutes of the Joint Planning Committee meetings were public and the Joint Planning Unit issued briefings from time to time on significant issues, some Members expressed the view that the interaction between these bodies and the Planning Policy Committee could be improved to increase the awareness of planning policy matters across the membership of the Council as a whole.

RESOLVED:

That the programme of work be noted.

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

Chairman