

PLANNING POLICY COMMITTEE

Date: 26 January 2015

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
Marian Hollomon

David Jenney
Bob Nightingale
Sarah Peacock
Pam Whiting

338. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 December 2014 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

339. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Glenn Harwood MBE, Sylvia Hughes, Steven North, Jeremy Taylor and Jake Vowles.

340. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

341. QUESTIONS UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 10.3

There were no questions submitted under Procedure Rule 10.3.

342. DEENETHORPE AIRFIELD WORKING PARTY

Further to Minute 102, the Planning Policy and Conservation Manager submitted a report seeking the committee's endorsement of the establishment of the Deenethorpe Airfield Working Party and associated terms of reference.

In accordance with the committee's recommendation in Minute 102 which had been approved by Full Council on 6 October 2014, members of the working party had been drawn from all members of the council and four members had been appointed by the Leader of the Council. The committee considered that it would be beneficial to also include the ENC ward councillors for the Fineshade and Prebendal Wards as members of the working party given the proximity of those wards to the site of the proposed development.

RESOLVED: That

- i) the establishment of the Deenethorpe Airfield Working Party and the Terms of Reference set out in Appendix 1 to the report be endorsed.
- ii) the Leader of the Council be asked to appoint the ENC Ward Councillors for Fineshade and Prebendal to the membership of the Working Party

(Reason: to enable progress to be made on masterplanning)

343. LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

The Planning Policy and Conservation Manager reported that a Local Development Scheme (LDS) was required under Section 15 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended by the Localism Act 2011). The LDS was the statutory project plan for the preparation of the Local Plan and needed to be made available to the public so that local communities and interested parties were able to keep track of the timeline and progress with plan-making.

RESOLVED:

That the Local Development Scheme attached at Appendix 1 to the report be endorsed.

(Reason: so that local communities and interested parties can keep track of the timeline and progress with plan-making)

344. DRAFT UPPER NENE VALLEY GRAVEL PITS SPECIAL PROTECTION AREA (SPA) SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT (SPD)

The Planning Policy and Conservation Manager reported that The Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits Special Protection Area (SPA)/ Ramsar site had been formally classified by the UK Government in 2011. The site covered 1358 hectares and spanned across four local authorities areas, namely East Northamptonshire, South Northamptonshire, Northampton and Wellingborough.

A Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) had been produced by Natural England and the RSPB in order to help Local Planning Authorities, developers and others to ensure that, in accordance with the Habitats Regulations, development had no significant effect on the SPA.

It was proposed to release the draft SPD for public consultation in February 2015 when the consultation on the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy and the Draft Northamptonshire Biodiversity SPD were taking place. This would allow consultees to evaluate the SPD within the context of the draft Core Strategy (Part 1 Local Plan) biodiversity policies and guidance.

RESOLVED:

That the 'Draft Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA SPD' be endorsed for the purposes of public consultation.

(Reason: To enable the SPD to be widely considered before adoption by the Council to ensure that the Special Protection Area (SPA) is appropriately considered as part of new development proposals)

345. 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.

It was noted that changes to the Neighbourhood Plan procedures were expected to be enacted on 9 February 2015 and this would revise the timescales for the council to respond to Neighbourhood Plan proposals. Accordingly, the current practice of submitting Boundary Area proposals to the committee for approval for public consultation, which was not a statutory requirement, would no longer be achievable within the revised timescales and proposals would in future be submitted to the committee after public consultation had taken place, and with any responses received, for the committee to approve Plan boundaries.

RESOLVED:

That progress to date and the revised procedure for the committee's consideration of Neighbourhood Plan proposals be noted.

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

Chairman