

PLANNING POLICY COMMITTEE

Date: 24 January 2011

Venue: East Northamptonshire House, Cedar Drive, Thrapston

Time: 7.30pm

Present: Councillors: - David Brackenbury (Chairman)
Roger Powell (Vice-Chairman)

David Bateman
Tony Boto
Albert Campbell
Lisa Costello
Michael Finch
Roger Glithero JP
Philip Hardcastle

Dudley Hughes JP
Eloise Lucille
Steven North
Ron Pinnock
Phillip Stearn
Pam Whiting

365. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 November 2010 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

366. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

(a) Prejudicial

Councillor Philip Hardcastle declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Agenda Item 6 (The Raunds Masterplan), because he had undertaken some work marketing the former RPC Containers' site in Raunds. He did not leave the meeting because this specific site was not discussed.

(b) Personal

Members declared personal interests in the items below as indicated. They remained in the meeting and took part in the discussion and voting when the respective item was considered.

Member	Item	Nature of Interest
David Brackenbury	All planning policy matters regarding Thrapston	Lives in Thrapston
Albert Campbell	All planning policy matters regarding Raunds	Lives in Raunds
Michael Finch	All planning policy matters regarding Stanwick	Lives in Stanwick
Dudley Hughes	All planning policy matters regarding Raunds	Lives in Raunds and his wife is also a District Councillor

Member	Item	Nature of Interest
Eloise Lucille	All planning policy matters regarding Raunds	Ward Member for Stanwick and owns property in Stanwick
Roger Powell	All planning policy matters regarding Rushden	Lives in Rushden
Pam Whiting	All planning policy matters regarding Higham Ferrers	Ward Member for Higham Ferrers and lives in Higham Ferrers

367. NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE LOCAL INVESTMENT PLAN

Further to Minute 285 (22 November 2010), the Committee considered the revised draft North Northamptonshire Local Investment Plan (LIP).

The revised draft had been reviewed by a small Member and Officer working group on 14 December to consider the document in more detail and make alterations as necessary for further consideration by the Committee at this meeting. Subject to Members' further comments, the revised document would then be submitted to the Policy and Resources Committee on 14 February for final approval.

After discussing some issues in the revised document, Members requested that the following additional amendments be made:

- Page 8 (Para 2.9) – it was important to clarify that the existing Sustainable Urban Extensions were Corby, Kettering and Wellingborough and it was agreed to add the words “where appropriate” after “Sustainable Urban Extensions (SUEs)” in the first line of the paragraph
- Page 13 (Para 3.18) – it was noted that the Council's existing 40% affordable housing target would be reviewed in relation to the other Councils' targets and it was agreed to delete the words in the middle of the paragraph and add “East Northamptonshire Council has announced that it will be reviewing its affordable housing strategy to inform the review of the Core Spatial strategy”
- Page 21 (Para 5.10) – it was noted that this Council had not granted planning permission for the Priors Hall site near Corby and it was agreed that this should be emphasised in this paragraph including the Council's future housing targets
- Page 26 (Para 5.44) – it was agreed that the provision of a pavement between Raunds and Ringstead should be added as a recommendation for Raunds
- Page 26 (Para 5.45) – it was agreed that mixed employment sites and retail uses for the High Street be added as recommendations for Irthlingborough
- Page 26 (Para 5.46) – it was agreed that the regeneration of the town centre be added as a recommendation for Oundle
- Page 27 (Para 5.49) – it was noted that there were over 426 empty properties in this district and that this matter was being dealt with as a priority by the Council.

Members noted that the Homes and Communities Agency funding would be primarily for housing or housing related projects.

The Chairman mentioned that further schemes were required for the district and that the document was not as comprehensive as it could be. In order to compete for future funding, it was suggested that the document should be reviewed within 12 months and that all Members of this Council, including local town and parish councils, should be consulted and propose schemes for inclusion in the document.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the North Northamptonshire Local Investment Plan be endorsed, subject to Councillors David Brackenbury, Eloise Lucille and Roger Powell approving the final draft and the document be reviewed within 12 months.
- (2) That any further comments made by Members be submitted to the Policy and Resources Committee on 14 February 2011 for discussion before the final draft document is considered for approval by that Committee.
(Reason - to ensure that the Plan can be in place by the end of March 2011.)

368. THE RAUNDS MASTERPLAN

Further to Minute 284 (22 November 2010), a report was submitted summarising the feedback received following the public consultation on the draft Raunds Masterplan document.

After considering the revised document, Members requested that the following additional amendments be made:

- Section 2.7 – because of concerns about the general nature of the viability work undertaken by the consultants on identified sites, it was agreed that all reference to 200 – 300 houses be removed from the whole document.
- Section 10.11 – it was important to mention under this Section that the Raunds Area Preferred Options document had not been adopted by the Council.

It was proposed that a working group be formed to consider the comments received to the consultation and that this group be given authority to approve the final version of the Masterplan document.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the proposed changes as submitted, including the additional comments made by Members, be approved for inclusion in the draft Raunds Masterplan.
- (2) That the final approval of the document be delegated to a small Members' Working Group to include Councillors David Brackenbury, Tony Boto, Albert Campbell and Lisa Costello.
(Reason – in response to feedback received from the public consultation and to make the document clearer).

369. SHOP FRONT DESIGN SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT

Members received a report summarising the feedback received following the public consultation on the draft Shop Front Design Supplementary Planning Document.

The Committee noted the comment made regarding the use of external shutters on shop fronts as a security and insurance issue and that these would be considered in certain areas of the district. It was agreed that drawing of a modern shop front design should be included under Section 3 of the document.

RESOLVED:

That, subject to the additional comments made by Members being added to the Shop Front Design SPD, the proposed changes to the draft as submitted be approved and the document be adopted.

(Reasons – (a) in response to feedback received from the public consultation and to make the document clearer. (b) to assist in improving the quality of shop front design throughout the district and therefore have a positive impact on the character and appearance of town and village centres, meeting key corporate objectives).

Chairman