

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Planning and New Communities Joint Portfolio Holders' Meeting held
on
Thursday, 1 October 2009 at 2.00 p.m.

Portfolio Holder: David Bard

Councillors in attendance:

Scrutiny and Overview Committee monitors: Val Barrett and Roger Hall

Opposition spokesmen: Trisha Bear, Jim Stewart and John Williams

Officers:

David Bevan	Conservation Manager
David Hamilton	Landscape Design Officer
Caroline Hunt	Principal Planning Policy Officer
Keith Miles	Planning Policy Manager
Jo Mills	Corporate Manager, New Communities
Ian Senior	Democratic Services Officer
Claire Spencer	Senior Planning Officer (Transport Policy)
Alison Talkington	Senior Planning Policy Officer

25. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

While noting that the meeting was, in effect, a special meeting of the New Communities Portfolio Holder only, Councillor David Bard requested that it be treated as a scheduled Planning and New Communities Portfolio Holders' meeting and that the minutes record an apology for absence from Councillor Nick Wright, Planning Portfolio Holder.

26. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

27. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The New Communities Portfolio Holder agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 1 September 2009 were a correct record, and signed them accordingly.

28. LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK - CONSULTATION ON SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENTS

The New Communities Portfolio Holder considered a report seeking his authority to submit the following Supplementary Planning Documents to public consultation, namely

- Affordable Housing
- District Design Guide: High Quality and Sustainable Development in South Cambridgeshire
- Landscape in New Developments

Affordable Housing

In response to a question from the Portfolio Holder, the Planning Policy Manager summarised the possible implications for the Affordable Housing SPD arising from the

awaited outcome of the ongoing appeal relating to Clay and Glebe Farm. The New Communities Portfolio Holder noted the reference to the Department for Communities and Local Government's Code for Sustainable Homes.

District Design Guide: High Quality and Sustainable Development in South Cambridgeshire

Subject to minor layout and textual amendments being made, the New Communities Portfolio Holder endorsed this SPD.

Landscape in New Developments

In response to a question from the New Communities Portfolio Holder, the Conservation Manager explained the different Landscape Character Areas classification used in this SPD and the District Design Guide SPD.

The New Communities Portfolio Holder **agreed** the following documents for public consultation:

- Draft Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document
- Draft District Design Guide: High Quality and Sustainable Development in South Cambridgeshire Supplementary Planning Document
- Draft Landscape in New Developments Supplementary Planning Document

authority being given to the Corporate Manager (Planning and Sustainable Communities) to make minor amendments, as required.

29. STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

The New Communities Portfolio Holder considered a report seeking his agreement for the draft Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) to be published for consultation.

The document effectively supported the type of public involvement already carried out by the Council. However, the Planning Policy Manager said that, within cost constraints, there was scope for further enhancement, one example being in consulting with 'hard to reach' groups throughout the district.

The New Communities Portfolio Holder **agreed**, for public consultation, the draft Statement of Community Involvement, authority being given to the Corporate Manager (Planning and Sustainable Communities) to make minor amendment, where necessary.

30. ST EDMUNDSBURY BOROUGH COUNCIL LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK: CORE STRATEGY DRAFT SUBMISSION DOCUMENT, DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PREFERRED OPTIONS, AND SITE ALLOCATIONS ISSUES AND OPTIONS

The New Communities Portfolio Holder considered a report seeking his agreement to the proposed response to St Edmundsbury Borough Council on their Local Development Framework documents.

He highlighted the implications for the A1307 of major development taking place in the Haverhill area, and supported the proposal for partnership working to secure appropriate infrastructure improvements, especially with regard to highway safety.

The New Communities Portfolio Holder **agreed** that South Cambridgeshire District Council should respond to St. Edmundsbury Borough Council's Core Strategy Draft Submission Document in the following terms:

1. Object to Policy CS6

East of England Plan Policy H3 Provision for Gypsies and Travellers requires the provision of a **minimum** of 20 additional pitches in St Edmundsbury between 2006 and 2011. The supporting text to Policy CS6 only refers to making provision for up to 20 pitches by 2011. The wording **up to** 20 pitches restricts provision to no more than 20 pitches. This is not consistent with Policy H3, which requires local authorities to provide **at least** 1,247 net additional residential pitches by 2011 to provide for the existing backlog. The text at paragraph 4.77 should therefore be amended to be consistent with the requirements in Policy H3.

East of England Plan Policy H3 also requires appropriate provision of pitches to continue beyond 2011, in order to accommodate household growth. This is addressed through the requirement for a 3% compound annual growth rate following regional pitch distribution. This creates an additional requirement for 17 pitches for the period 2011 to 2021. The supporting text to Policy CS6 makes no provision for pitches beyond 2011, and should therefore be amended to be consistent with the requirements in Policy H3.

Policy H3 requires local authorities to work together to establish a network of Transit pitches, requiring 160 pitches across the region by 2011; the location and size of sites should be defined following local studies. Suffolk is required to provide 20 additional pitches; provision should include the Ipswich / Felixstowe area. The supporting text to Policy CS6 makes no reference to Transit sites other than these will be identified through Area Action Plans and the Rural Site Allocations DPD. This does not conform to Policy H3, which requires local studies to determine the location and size of sites. The supporting text should therefore be amended to recognise this and demonstrate how the distribution of these sites will be addressed and delivered.

Policy H4 Provision for Travelling Showpeople requires 184 net additional plots for Travelling Showpeople by 2011, together with a compound increase of 1.5% between 2011 and 2021. Suffolk is required to provide 9 additional plots to 2011 in Suffolk Coastal and elsewhere, and 4 plots between 2011 and 2021. The Core Strategy makes no reference to the level of need that should be provided for, or how this need will be addressed across the county, and should be amended accordingly.

In the same way that the district's housing requirement is addressed in Policy CS1, provision for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople should be addressed within policy and not in the supporting text. Whilst it is recognised that the actual provision for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople will be addressed through the Area Action Plans and Rural Site Allocations DPD, there should be an overarching policy in the Core Strategy setting out the numbers to be provided during the plan period.

As drafted, the Core Strategy is not legally compliant, as it does not conform to the Regional Spatial Strategy.

The Core Strategy is not justified – it does not provide the most appropriate strategy when considered against all reasonable alternatives. It should make adequate provision for Gypsy and Traveller accommodation to ensure their needs, as identified through the Regional Spatial Strategy, can be met.

2. Support Vision for Haverhill

Support for the Vision for the regeneration of Haverhill and the aim for making it a more attractive centre and reducing the need for out-commuting. In particular, support the development of sustainable transport solutions to mitigate the difficulties of accessing the strategic road network along the A1307. This should address the existing capacity and safety issues along the A1307 between Haverhill and Cambridge.

3. Support Policy CS1 – St Edmundsbury Spatial Strategy

Support for the development strategy focussing development on the more sustainable, larger service centres where there is greater scope to provide a range of facilities and services to meet local needs, reduce the need to travel, and where possible maximise opportunities for travel by non-car modes. However, this needs to be balanced with opportunities for maximising the reuse of suitable brownfield land and known infrastructure issues. In particular, the Core Strategy will need to be able to demonstrate the deliverability of housing at Bury St Edmunds in the longer term, which may be constrained due to capacity constraints relating to the A14.

4. Support Policy CS8 – Strategic Transport Improvements

Support the intention to work with partners to secure the necessary infrastructure improvements, particularly to address the safety issues along the A1307 between Haverhill and Cambridge, and would urge partnership working with Cambridgeshire County Council, South Cambridgeshire District Council, and local Parish Councils.

31. FORWARD PLANS

The New Communities Portfolio Holder received the Forward Plan attached to the agenda. He noted that the special meeting likely to be required for the consideration of responses to consultation relating to the Gypsy and Traveller DPD was more likely to take place in January or March 2010 than in December 2009. He also noted that a special meeting would be needed in order to address issues arising out of proposals relating to the A14 Ellington to Fen Ditton improvement scheme.

32. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Those present noted that the next scheduled Planning and New Communities Portfolio Holders' meeting would be on Thursday 5 November 2009, starting at 10.00am.

The Meeting ended at 2.55 p.m.
