**BOROUGH OF KETTERING**

**PLANNING POLICY COMMITTEE**

**Meeting held: 3rd March 2015**

**Present:** Councillor Mike Tebbutt (Chair)

Councillors Freer, Dearing, Manns, Mills, Moreton and Smith.

**14.PP.28 APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Ruth Groome.

**14.PP.29 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Jan Smith declared a personal interest in item 6 as a member of Burton Latimer Town Council.

**14.PP.30 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 28th January 2015 be approved and signed as a correct record.

**14.PP.31 MANAGING RENEWABLE ENERGY FACILITIES IN KETTERING BOROUGH**

A report was submitted which provided advice to Members on the current position with regards to renewable energy provision in Kettering Borough, and which sought agreement of a Statement of Intent in considering proposals for wind turbines.

A letter from Burton Latimer Town Council was circulated for information, it being noted that the Town Council had requested that the item be deferred to enable consultation to take place on the matter.

Councillor Stephen Pickard, the Chair of Cranford Parish Council, repeated the comments made by Burton Latimer Town Council; adding there’s an impact on the village from shadow flicker, a contract on Community Fund payments has not been signed yet, one community should not be expected to provide energy production for the Borough. Both Councils requested that any decision on the matter be delayed as residents were concerned about the effects of the proposals on communities.

In debating the report, members raised the following points:-

* The Council needed to have a strong energy policy
* Burton Latimer Town Council and Cranford Parish Council needed to have the opportunity to consider the report
* It is a statutory requirement that the community is consulted on proposals for wind turbines
* The Statement of Intent did not constitute a policy and was intended signpost the risk of a proliferation of wind turbines throughout the Borough
* Consultation was always undertaken as part of policy development
* There was little to be gained through advancing towards development of a Supplementary Planning Document
* The Council should protect the community and ensure there was no concentration of wind farms in one area of the Borough
* There was a 21-day consultation period on new applications for wind turbines
* As an authority, Kettering Borough Council had always supported renewable energy, which was an important part of managed growth
* Pre-application consultation is reliant upon the goodwill of a developer and was not enforceable

Additional debate was held on design coding for homes, and it was noted that the design code for East Kettering was Level 4. However, there was a need to consider economic viability too, and there would be a vigorous test of issues of viability when applications came before the Planning Committee. The Council had a duty to consider reduced requirements, particularly at a time when the government had announced plans to boost the supply of affordable homes nationally.

**RESOLVED** that Members note the contents of the report and agree that there is no point at this time in trying to develop a local policy.

**14.PP.32 NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE JOINT CORE STRATEGY PRE-SUBMISSION CONSULTATION JANUARY 2015**

A report was submitted which provided Members with an overview of the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy Pre-Submission Plan and which sought agreement to the Council’s response to the Plan.

It was noted that the current Core Spatial Strategy was adopted in June 2008, and covered the period 2001-2021. The review would extend the period of the Plan to cover the period 2011-2031. The consultation period would end on 9th March 2015.

Discussion was held on the meaning of “convenience and service role” in relation to Burton Latimer, Desborough and Rothwell, and the need to ensure better connectivity of public transport in villages.

Members commented that the list of key strategic infrastructure requirements did not include the Weekley/Warkton Avenue. The Committee felt that it was important that this road was included in the list.

**RESOLVED** that the comments indicated in the report be submitted as the Council’s response to the consultation on the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy Pre-Submission Plan January 2015, subject to the inclusion of the Weekley/Warkton Avenue in the list of key strategic infrastructure requirements.

**14.PP.33 BIODIVERSITY SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT FOR NORTHAMPTONSHIRE – CONSULTATION**

A report was submitted which informed Members of the consultation on the draft Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) for Northamptonshire, and which sought endorsement of comments set out in Section 2 of the report to be sent to the Natural Development Officer as a response to the consultation.

A revised SPD was circulated at the meeting.

**RESOLVED** that the comments be endorsed as set out in Section 2 of the report and be sent to Northamptonshire County Council as the response to the consultation.

*(The meeting started at 7.00 pm and ended at 8.45 pm)*

*Signed ……………………………………………….*

*Chair*

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