**BOROUGH OF KETTERING**

**PLANNING POLICY COMMITTEE**

**Meeting held: 2nd September 2015**

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

Councillors Duncan Bain, Lloyd Bunday, Terry Freer, Ruth Groome, Jim Hakewill, Alan Mills, Jan Smith and Mark Rowley.

**Also Present** Councillor Lesley Thurland.

**15.PP.06 APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Moreton. It was noted that Councillor Smith was acting as a substitute.

**15.PP.07 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 23rd June 2015 be approved and signed as a correct record.

**15.PP.08 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Hakewill declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in Items 7 and 8 on the agenda in respect of an area of land in Braybrooke. Councillor Hakewill indicated that he would leave the meeting room during any discussion on land in Braybrooke.

**15.PP.09 SITE SPECIFIC PROPOSALS LOCAL DEVELOPMENT DOCUMENT – PROGRESS AND PROGRAMME**

 A report was submitted which reminded members of the progress being made in preparing the Site Specific Proposals Local Development Document (SSP LDD), and which sought agreement to a projected programme for taking the document forward to adoption, projected to be April 2017. The timetable to progress the key stages of the SSP LDD was outlined, which took into account that the document should not be progressed without an understanding over its conformity with the policies of the Joint Core Strategy.

Members noted that the Joint Core Strategy would now be referred to as the Pt 1 Local Plan, and the SSP LDD would be referred to as the Pt 2 Local Plan. Additional Planning Policy Committee dates would be likely to be required.

**RESOLVED** that the content of the report be noted and the projected programme be agreed.

*(Councillor Hakewill declared a disclosable pecuniary interest*

*In the following item as a landowner in Braybrooke and left the meeting room during discussion thereon)*

*(Councillor Ruth Groome declared a personal interest as Chair of the Burton Latimer Pocket Park Committee)*

*(Councillor Jan Smith also declared a personal interest in the Burton Latimer Pocket Park)*

**15.PP.10 SITE SPECIFIC PROPOSALS LOCAL DEVELOPMENT DOCUMENT – SETTLEMENT BOUNDARY (UPDATE) BACKGROUND PAPER**

 A report was submitted which informed Members of the Background Paper SSP LDD: Settlement Boundaries (Update) September 2015 which updated the existing settlement boundaries within the borough. Approval of the Background Paper was sought, together with endorsement to progress public consultation, following inclusion of housing and employment site allocations.

 A presentation was given which summarised the policy background, the purpose of settlement boundaries and the defined principles.

 Having declared a disclosable pecuniary interest and indicated his intention to leave the room during debate on this issue, Councillor Hakewill addressed the Committee in respect of the history of land in Braybrooke, indicating that he believed this land was a unique case.

 In response, the Chair indicated that the Committee would not make a decision on individual settlement boundaries at this meeting, and any comments should be submitted as part of the public consultation. Councillor Hakewill then left the room for the remainder of the debate.

 It was noted that a set of criteria had been adopted to enable a consistent approach across the Borough and an update in the form of an Addendum to the background paper was circulated at the meeting. The Addendum outlined the changes to be incorporated in the final version of the Settlement Boundaries document dated September 2015 prior to public consultation.

 During debate, members were advised that large gardens and areas of public open space had been excluded from settlement boundaries in order to protect them from future development, with boundaries drawn to demonstrate consistency across the Borough. However, it was acknowledged that a degree of subjectivity existed in individual settlements or cases.

 It was noted that the background paper would be updated to include identified housing and employment allocations and would then be brought back to Committee before being published for public consultation for six weeks, alongside the Draft Plan for Consultation . The responses to the consultation will be presented to the Committee for consideration before a further consultation is undertaken on the Pre-Submission Plan, in line with the timetable set out in Item 6 on the agenda.

**RESOLVED** that the contents of the updated SSP LDD Settlement Boundary Background Paper (September 2015) be agreed and the documentation endorsed for public consultation, following an update at a future meeting of housing and employment allocations as set out in Paragraph 4 of the report.

*(Councillor Hakewill declared a disclosable pecuniary interest*

*in the following item as a landowner in Braybrooke)*

**15.PP.11 SITE SPECIFIC PROPOSALS LOCAL DEVELOPMENT DOCUMENT – HISTORICALLY AND VISUALLY IMPORTANT OPEN SPACE BACKGROUND PAPER**

A report was submitted which informed members of the updated Historically and Visually Important Open Space Background Paper and sought endorsement for consultation. The report also sought agreement to a draft policy for consultation alongside the Background Paper.

It was noted that the draft list of HVI sites and corresponding HVI policy would be published for public consultation for six weeks. Landowners (where known) and town and parish councils would specifically be consulted.

Councillor Hakewill addressed the Committee in respect of HV1083 and HV1006 (land in Braybrooke), and indicated he would leave the room during any debate.

**RESOLVED** that the contents of the updated Historically and Visually Important Open Space Background Paper (September 2015) and accompanying draft policy be noted and the documents endorsed for public consultation.

**15.PP.12 KETTERING TOWN CENTRE REGENERATION PROJECTS – UPDATE**

 A report was submitted which provided an update on a number of regeneration schemes within Kettering Town Centre, connected to the town centre’s Area Action Plan.

 It was noted that finalised designs for the Northampton Road/Sheep Street junction were expected to be available in October with works commencing on site early in 2016. Designs would be made available to members. The success of the double roundabout at the junction of Northampton Road and Northfield Avenue was highlighted, and further schemes to improve connectivity across Kettering town centre were welcomed.

*(Councillor Freer left the meeting at 8.25 pm)*

Members queried as to when further public realm works planned for the High Street/Gold Street area would commence, and it was noted that consultation on designs had taken place 18 months ago. However, the funding mechanisms were tied into Section 106 Agreements in respect of the East of Kettering development and were linked to further development and growth before funds could be released. This meant that money allocated to Kettering Town Centre improvements was likely to come through in the latter stages of the development, as essential infrastructure, such as the school and junction improvements, were required to be completed early in the development.

**RESOLVED** that the successful implementation of regeneration projects within the town centre of Kettering be recognised and the continued improvements that growth has enabled the Council to bring to existing communities be noted.

*(The meeting started at 7.00 pm and ended at 8.35 pm)*

*Signed ……………………………………………….*

*Chair*

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