

ST EDMUNDSBURY BOROUGH COUNCIL

BURY ST EDMUNDS AREA WORKING PARTY

**Record of a meeting held on Tuesday 31 May 2011 at 5.00 pm
in Room GFR14, West Suffolk House, Western Way, Bury St Edmunds**

PRESENT: Councillor R D Everitt (Chairman)
Councillors Cockle, Farmer, Griffiths (substituting for
Mrs Mildmay-White), Horden, Nettleton, Oliver, Rout, Mrs Stamp
and Mrs P A Warby

BY INVITATION: Councillors Beckwith, Cox and F J Warby
Mr Richard Webster, Suffolk County Council (for minute 9 only)

1. Substitute

The following substitution was declared:-

Councillor Griffiths for Councillor Mrs Mildmay-White.

2. Election of Chairman

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED:-

That Councillor Everitt be elected Chairman of this Working Party.

3. Election of Vice-Chairman

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED:-

That Councillor Mrs Mildmay-White be elected Vice-Chairman of
this Working Party.

4. Apology for Absence

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Mrs Mildmay-White. An
apology for lateness was received from Councillor Horden.

5. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 February 2011 were confirmed as a
correct record and signed by the Chairman.

6. Declarations of Interests

Members' declarations of interest are recorded under the item to which the
declaration relates.

7. Petition: Home Farm Lane (South) and Hardwick Park Gardens – Designation as a Residential Area of Special Character

(Councillor Mrs Stamp declared a personal interest as she had met with representatives of the residents group as it related to a matter within her Ward and remained within the meeting for consideration of this item.)

A petition containing over 105 signatures and a supporting document (the latter-mentioned was tabled at the meeting) was presented on behalf of the Home Farm Lane (South) and Hardwick Park Gardens Residents' Group.

The petition sought the designation of the southern end of Home Farm Lane and Hardwick Park Gardens as a Residential Area of Special Character. This designation would ensure that the Council's new planning policies included sufficient restrictions on the design, scale, density, massing height and materials of new development compatible with the locality.

(At this point the Chairman, with the agreement of the Working Party, varied the order of the agenda to allow item 8 below to be considered in view of its relevance to the previous item.)

8. Bury St Edmunds Vision 2031: Issues Consultation Summary

The Working Party received and noted Report C8 (previously circulated) which informed Members of the outcomes of the Bury St Edmunds Vision 2031 issues consultation.

On 5 January 2011, the Working Party received and noted a narrative item on the process for preparing the Bury St Edmunds Vision 2031 document and suggestions for engaging local people in the process.

The initial public engagement events had taken place between 2 February and 30 April 2011. A wide variety of consultation methods were used that conformed to the Council's adopted Statement of Community Involvement for the preparation of the Local Development Framework (LDF).

The local community and stakeholders were invited to submit their views on the issues in Bury St Edmunds and their vision for the future of the town. In addition, potential developers of the five large strategic growth areas around the town had engaged the public and statutory undertakers on the issues for consideration in the future development of these areas.

A summary of the events which took place during the consultation period was attached to this report for information as Appendix A to the report. A summary of the comments received during the consultation period (except the developer's reports of consultation which would be available on the Council's Bury St Edmunds Vision 2031 website www.buryvision.org.uk/planning) was attached as Appendix B.

Officers gave a presentation outlining the process, timeline and next steps in the preparation of the Bury St Edmunds Vision 2031 document. They were currently working on a draft document for consideration by the Working Party with a view to a period of public consultation taking place in late Summer.

In receiving the petition referred to in minute 7 above, the Working Party asked officers to investigate the request for Home Farm Lane (South) and Hardwick Park Gardens to be designated a Residential Area of Special Character in connection with the formulation of the Bury St Edmunds Vision 2031 document.

9. Street Lighting

The Working Party received and noted a narrative as follows which outlined Suffolk County Council's proposals for reducing the level of street lighting and the consultation being undertaken.

Suffolk County Council (SCC) was shortly to embark on a project to make all street lighting controllable in respect of timing and light level output. SCC was to invest £2.5 million to install an intelligent lighting system to over 55,000 street lights. This would enable street lights to be dimmed and lighting hours to be controlled from a central location. Overall the investment would deliver annual savings on energy costs approaching £500k and carbon reductions of over 4,000 tonnes per annum. The proposals would as a rule see lighting turned off in residential areas, between midnight and 5.30am and dimmed in other areas. There were certain locations where close examination of lighting levels and operating times needed consideration such as town centres, major junctions, public car parks and indeed residential areas. SCC were proposing to draw up initial proposals and hold local meetings to allow all those interested (Police, Borough/District, Town and Parish Councils, residents, businesses and including Borough Councillors) to have input in order to draw on their local knowledge.

A presentation on the proposals was made by Richard Webster, Electrical Services Manager, Suffolk County Council. A map providing details of the proposals as they related to Bury St Edmunds was tabled and this was explained and Members' questions answered. Members having concerns relative to their wards were asked to discuss these with the Electrical Services Manager whose contact details would be circulated after this meeting.

10. Town Centre Lettings/Vacancies: Update

Officers reported on the latest position regarding the letting of the commercial elements of the town centre.

11. Review of Zone H Neighbourhood Parking Scheme

The Working Party considered Report C9 (previously circulated) which provided an update on progress with the review of Zone H Neighbourhood Parking Scheme and sought views on:-

- (i) a proposal to consult with existing permit holders regarding the extension of the zone to include the east area of King's Road; and
- (ii) the preparation of a leaflet explaining enforcement procedures to permit holders.

On 22 February 2011 the Working Party considered a request to extend the eligibility of the Zone H Neighbourhood Parking Scheme to include those residents on the east side of Parkway (Report B466 refers). It was resolved that the existing Zone H permit holders were to be canvassed for their opinion on the extension of the scheme to include other nearby properties, and that a further report be brought back. Following the termination of the Highway Agency Agreement, the responsibility for the introduction of neighbourhood parking schemes and reviews was now undertaken by Suffolk County Council (SCC) and accordingly the review of this Zone H scheme had been passed to SCC who were seeking funding of approximately £2,000 for the review from County Councillors Oliver and Ereira-Guyer's Quality of Life Budgets. The review was due to commence in June 2011.

Operating times for the various schemes varied and were based on consultation with residents who were part of the scheme. Once set, these times were not usually amended. However it was considered to be appropriate, as consultation was already proposed on the extension of this scheme, to consult with the Zone H participants on operating hours as well.

The Borough Council was responsible for enforcement of the use of bays and areas identified in the neighbourhood parking schemes traffic order but did not have powers to enforce elsewhere, i.e. double yellow lines, dropped kerbs etc. This caused some confusion with residents even though the terms and conditions of permits stated this constraint. To improve the situation it was suggested that the parameters of the scheme were communicated in an explanatory leaflet to all permit holders on renewal of their permits and that enforcement would be worked on in partnership with the Police

The prospect of converting to 'decriminalisation' enforcement, which encompassed all traffic enforcement, was a strategy which would be led by SCC across the County but at this time there was no indication this would happen in the near future.

Following discussion there was a consensus of opinion amongst the Working Party in favour of the following recommendations:-

That:-

- (1) representations be made to Suffolk County Council regarding consulting with Zone H permit holders to extend the existing zone to include the east area of King's Road; this consultation to include canvassing views on current operating hours; and
- (2) the Borough Council prepares a leaflet explaining enforcement for distribution to all scheme participants on renewal of permits.

The meeting concluded at 7.00 pm.

**R D EVERITT
CHAIRMAN**