



Council 28 February 2012

CABINET MEMBER REPORT TO FULL COUNCIL

Report by Cllr Terry Clements, Planning and Transport Portfolio

Portfolio includes:

- Planning Policy, including Conservation and the Built Environment;
- Building Control;
- Property Gazetteer and Land Charges;
- Transportation Policy, Public Transport, Bus Station and Car Parking; and
- Engineering.

1. *Vision 2031*

- 1.1 I am pleased to announce that the first drafts of the Vision 2031 documents are being launched for consultation in the days following Full Council. There has already been considerable input into formulating the content of these drafts and we have put in place a wide ranging consultation and engagement programme to enable people to submit comments by 30 April 2012. Members are encouraged to get people in their local communities engaged in this consultation programme.
- 1.2 The preparation of these documents represents a move away from the traditional planning focused strategies to a more holistic approach to shaping the places of the future. Without these plans in place there is a very real possibility that developers will seek to force inappropriate and unplanned sites to come forward over the 20 year period. Once this consultation period is over the comments received will be considered carefully and final draft documents will be brought through the appropriate Area Working Parties.

2. *Local Development Framework*

- 2.1 Consultation on the draft Development Management Policies document, prepared jointly with Forest Heath District Council, commenced on 8 January and ends on 8 March 2012. The document is the first example across Suffolk of two local planning authorities preparing a joint Local Development Framework document. A further round of consultation on an amended document will take place later this year, prior to the document undergoing examination by a Planning Inspector.

3. National Changes to Legislation and Policy

- 3.1 It is likely that the new National Planning Policy Framework will be published by the Government in the next few weeks. This, coupled with the emerging regulations on neighbourhood plans, is creating significant change in the planning system. It is also anticipated that the final regulations for the preparation of neighbourhood plans will be published in the near future. Officers will organise information sessions for Members and Parish Councils once these have been published.

4. Car Parking

- 4.1 Christmas parking events in both towns saw sustained growth against the previous year, including paid parking events during the Christmas Fayre weekend.
- 4.2 The parking team was very active in successful traffic management over the peak periods, a service which is unique to Bury St Edmunds regionally.
- 4.3 The RingGo cashless parking service went live in January 2012. This offers customers the ability to pay for their parking stay by using a mobile phone as well as the added benefit of being sent a reminder text of when their paid stay is ending and the means to 'top up' their stay without returning to the pay machine. Early indications are very positive with over 500 transactions recorded in the first month.
- 4.4 During this peak period improvements were still made to the car parks in Bury St Edmunds:-
- (a) at St Andrews long stay car park the surface was patched and improved, and new white lining laid. These improvements will complement the total resurfacing of the short stay area previously reported;
 - (b) the entrance to Ram Meadow was resurfaced and re-lined; and
 - (c) work progresses on the enhancement of the main pedestrian walkway linking Parkway to the Cattle Market arc car park.
- 4.5 A completely new and re-branded uniform for the parking team was issued. This uniform is very professional and to a standard found in major city operations. It offers greater comfort and weather protection to the front line parking team.