

HAVERHILL

Area Working Party



St Edmundsbury
BOROUGH COUNCIL



Haverhill Area Working Party

Enquiries regarding this Agenda:
Claire Skoyles (01284) 757176

DATE: Thursday 11 March 2010

TIME: 4.15 pm

VENUE: Conference Room, Samuel Ward Arts and Technology College, Chalkstone Way, Haverhill

**** PLEASE NOTE THE VENUE AND START TIME ****

CONSTITUTION: Chairman: *Councillor A Whittaker*
Vice-Chairman: *Councillor Mrs K D Richardson*

Conservative Members (8)

Ager
Aitkens
Cox
Mrs Gower
McManus
Mrs Richardson
Mrs Rushbrook
A Whittaker

Labour Member (1)

Vacancy

LLINK (1)

Redhead

SUBSTITUTES: Conservative Members (3)

Anderson
Marks
Price

Labour Member (1)

Vacancy

LLINK (1)

Vacancy

QUORUM: Four Members

BY INVITATION: Ms T Hanks (Haverhill Town Centre Management)
Mr G Mussett (Clerk to Haverhill Town Council)
Councillor Mrs E McManus (Haverhill Town Council)

• Please switch off mobile communication devices during the meeting, unless exceptional circumstances require otherwise.

Agenda

This Panel is not covered by the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 or the Access to Information Rules in the Council's Constitution. Therefore, there is no automatic right of access for the press or public to its meetings.

1. Substitutes

Any Member who is substituting for another Member should so indicate together with the name of the relevant absent Member.

2. Apologies for Absence

3. Minutes

To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 14 January 2010 (copy attached).

4. Declaration of Interests

Members are reminded of their responsibility to declare any personal or prejudicial interest which they have in any item of business on the Agenda *no later than when that item is reached* and, when appropriate, to leave the meeting prior to discussion and voting on the item.

5. Proposals for Replacement Bus Shelters

The Working Party will receive a presentation from Simon Barnett, Passenger Transport Senior Infrastructure Officer, Suffolk County Council in respect of the proposed replacement shelters for Haverhill Bus Station. Information to support the presentation is attached **Paper A555**.

Members are requested to **CONSIDER** the proposals.

6. Local Development Framework: North East Haverhill Transport Impact Assessment

The Working Party will receive a presentation from representatives of AECOM, consultants appointed to undertake the North East Haverhill Transport Impact Assessment.

On 9 February 2010 the Sustainable Development Panel considered a narrative item on the North East Haverhill Transport Impact Assessment. It was resolved to defer consideration of the matter to the meeting of the Panel on 9 March 2010 and it was also considered appropriate to present the item to the Haverhill Area Working Party.

The Local Development Framework Submission Core Strategy identifies a strategic direction of growth in north-east Haverhill. In order to ensure that the growth proposed in this location will not have any insurmountable impacts on the transport infrastructure of the town, Suffolk County Council (as highway authority) and the Borough Council has employed consultants to assess the potential impact of this proposal on the local highway network.

The consultants' final report has now been published and will form important background evidence in demonstrating that the Core Strategy is sound when examined by the Planning Inspector. A copy of the Assessment has previously been circulated to the Sustainable Development Panel, is available to view on the Council's website and can be inspected in the Planning Policy Section at West Suffolk House. Since the Assessment was originally circulated, officers have become aware of an error in the map that forms Appendix A3 of the Assessment. The original map indicated a route for a relief road and a suggested development area. However, these were defined by the consultant but have not been defined through the planning process. The officers have, therefore, requested that the map be amended to remove the road and to define the potential development area to conform to that shown in the St Edmundsbury Infrastructure and Environmental Capacity Study 2009. The amended Assessment, including the revised map, is attached as **Paper A546**.

The Assessment concludes that:-

- (a) the strategic direction of growth at north-east Haverhill is feasible in transport terms, with relatively modest transport infrastructure and facilities requirements;
- (b) the A11/A1307 junction in Cambridgeshire is likely to need some minor changes to respond to the additional flows;
- (c) the proposed development can be managed in a sustainable way, with manageable impacts on the town and the trunk road. The town as a whole needs to be involved in the shift to lower car use; and
- (d) the north east relief road will be provided as part of the development, linking the A143 Wrattling Road to Coupals Road running round the north of the golf course. Safety and environmental improvements are considered feasible, and will be needed on the existing roads linking to the A1017 Sturmer Road / Rowley Hill. This local route will provide some limited diversion from the town centre. A more detailed traffic impact study will be required to design the required improvements at the eastern connection between the north east relief road and the local road network.

The Working Party is asked to:-

- (1) note the findings of the Study;
- (2) recommend to Cabinet that subject to (3) below, Paper A456 is published as part of the evidence base for preparing the Local Development Framework; and
- (3) that the Head of Planning and Economic Development in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Transport and Planning and Chairmen of the Sustainable Development Panel and Haverhill Area Working Party be authorised to make minor typographic, grammatical and/or factual changes.

7. Consultation on Building a New Care Home to Replace Place Court

Report **A556** attached.

8. Draft Development Brief: Chantry Mills, Former Gurteen's Factory Site, Haverhill: Update

Report **A557** attached.

9. Access for New Westfield Primary School, adjacent to Chalkstone Way, Haverhill

Report **A558** attached.

10. Conversion of Parking Area to Form Public Plaza

Report **A559** attached.

11. Haverhill Community Football Project: Update

The officers will provide an oral report at the meeting in respect of this item. In addition, an updated project status report is attached as Report **A560**.

The Working Party is asked to **NOTE** the current position as contained within Report A560.

12. Queen Street Enhancement Scheme: Close Out Report

The officers will provide an oral report at the meeting in respect of this item. In addition, the Project Close Out report is attached as Report **A561**.

The Working Party is asked to **NOTE** the current position as contained within Report A561.

13. Proposed High Street Enhancement Scheme

The Working Party may be aware that in 2008/2009, Cabinet agreed to allocate £250,000 capital funding for public realm improvements in Haverhill. This funding, together with approximately £125,000 capital remaining from the Queen Street Enhancement Scheme project is now available to be put towards a Scheme for the enhancement of the High Street.

Enhancement of the High Street will mean that all the main retail streets in the centre of Haverhill have had significant investment to improve their appearance and functionality. This is an important indicator of public investment and confidence in the town and helps to underpin the regeneration, economic development and town centre management activities that are being pursued for Haverhill.

In terms of the broad timetable to deliver this Scheme, work would start on designing the scheme and undertaking consultation on the draft design in autumn 2010, construction could commence in spring 2011 with completion in autumn 2011. The Scheme will, however, need Suffolk County Council to have completed their work on changes to the current pedestrianisation arrangements in High Street.

Possible areas for investigation in developing the Enhancement Scheme are:-

- (a) new street furniture, i.e. some of the benches and bins look tired and tatty and need to be replaced with the Haverhill Bespoke Street Furniture Range to give a consistent and high quality appearance to the town centre;
- (b) improving lighting;
- (c) opportunities for planting as with Queen Street and Jubilee Walk;
- (d) rationalisation of electricity supply equipment, for example, joint electrical feeder pillars are now available;
- (e) rationalising signs and other clutter;
- (f) improving surfaces and gullies;
- (g) improving the Town Hall Car Park link to High Street;
- (h) improving the link from the High Street past the Post Office/Stour Valley Medical Centre over towards Tesco Car Park;
- (i) improvements to Quakers Lane link to Car Park;
- (j) installation of the gate to manage access to the High Street; and
- (k) Introduction of public art.

The Working Party is asked to **NOTE** the contents of this narrative and provide officers with any feedback to the initial proposals at this stage.

14. Haverhill Retail Project

The Working Party will receive a presentation from Professor Andrew Fearne of the Centre for Value Chain Research in respect of proposals for undertaking a retail research programme in Haverhill, in partnership with other organisations.

Members are requested to **CONSIDER** the proposals.

15. Dates of Future Meetings

The Working Party has already determined that its next meeting will be held on Thursday 22 April 2010 at Castle Manor Business and Enterprise College, at 4.15 pm.

The Working Party is also requested to confirm the following dates and venues for meetings in 2010:-

- 10 June : Castle Manor Business and Enterprise College;
- 22 July : Samuel Ward Arts and Technology College;
- 9 September : Haverhill Arts Centre;
- 21 October : Samuel Ward Arts and Technology College; and
- 9 December : Castle Manor Business and Enterprise College.

All dates are Thursdays and the meetings will commence at 4.15 pm.

**EXEMPT INFORMATION – EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC
TERMS OF FORMAL RESOLUTION**

That under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12(A) of the Act.

Private

16. **Draft Development Brief: Chantry Mills, Former Gurteen's Factory Site, Haverhill: Update: Attendees to Public Exhibition and Public Consultation Responses**

Exempt Appendix 2 to Report A557 attached.