

FOREST HEATH DISTRICT COUNCIL

LOCAL PLAN WORKING GROUP

THURSDAY 26 JULY 2012

4.00 PM - 4.50 PM

Members Present

Mrs R E Burt (Chairman)
R J Millar (Vice-Chairman)
W Hirst

Mrs C F J Lynch
W E Sadler
T Simmons

Also in attendance

N Baker, Head of Planning
D Beighton, Principal Planner
M Magnusson, Planning Policy Officer
S Turner, Committee Administrator (Team Leader)
S Dwan, Committee Administrator (Temporary)

Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors R D S Hood, M J Jefferys and J E Waters

Substitutes

There were no substitutes at the meeting.

Local Non-Pecuniary Interests (LNPI)

Councillors Mrs R E Burt (Chairman) and W Hirst both declared Local Non-Pecuniary Interests (LNPI) as they had been in receipt of hospitality from the Save Historic Newmarket Action Group (SHNAG).

SCHEDULE OF RECOMMENDATIONS

	ITEMS OF BUSINESS	RECOMMENDATION
242	<u>SCHEDULE OF RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE MEETING HELD ON 8 MAY 2012</u> The schedule of recommendations from the meeting held on 8 May 2012 were received and noted.	NOTED

	ITEMS OF BUSINESS	RECOMMENDATION
243	<p data-bbox="276 210 1131 315"><u>JOINT DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT POLICIES- SUBMISSION VERSION – CONSULTATION (REPORT NO LOP12/001</u> (Forward Plan Reference JUL12(a)/03</p> <p data-bbox="276 353 1131 611">The Principal Planner presented this report, which set out the latest version of the Joint Development Management Policies ‘Submission Version’ seeking approval for public consultation prior to submission to the Secretary of State. These Policies, once adopted formally by Council, would form the basis for day-to-day decision making by Members and Officers in relation to planning applications.</p> <p data-bbox="276 649 1131 1048">The ‘Preferred Options Version’ of the report had been previously considered by Members in November 2011, followed by a public consultation from January to March 2012. The result of the consultation was attached at Working Paper 1 and a total of 343 comments and representations had been received. Working Paper 2 set out the proposed ‘Submission Version’ document’. Where it was proposed to remove text from the ‘Preferred Options Version’ it was shown in red and struck through and where additional text was proposed it was shown in blue and underlined.</p> <p data-bbox="276 1086 1131 1344">Since the last public consultation, the Government had also finalised and published the revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) in March 2012. As a result, the ‘Submission Version’ had been further amended to incorporate this framework. The significant changes which had been made to the document were set out in paragraphs 9 to 18 of the report.</p> <p data-bbox="276 1382 1131 1709">Since the publication of the Agenda, Members had been provided with an updated report which set out further amendments to Policy DM13 (Mitigation, Enhancement, Management and Monitoring of Biodiversity) in order to better enable the Authorities’ to secure funding, where justified, for contributions towards biodiversity improvements. Further amendments had also been made to Chapter 9 (Horseracing) to ensure that the term ‘Training Yards’ was consistent within the document.</p> <p data-bbox="276 1747 1131 2027">This document would need to be referred to the Joint Development Management Policies Committee on 23 August 2012. Thereafter, it would need to be considered by Cabinet (4 September 2012) and Council (26 September 2012) and at equivalent meetings at St Edmundsbury Borough Council. Consultation would then commence in September 2012 for an eight week period. The final document would need to be submitted to the Planning</p>	

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	<p>Inspectorate in Spring 2013 with an examination in Summer 2013 and final adoption in Autumn 2013.</p> <p>A Member sought confirmation that the Council's policies on horseracing remained robust and also asked for specific clarification on the objectives of Policy DM50 (Securing the Restoration of Horseracing Related Historic Assets). The Head of Planning confirmed that Chapter 9 was a comprehensive suite of policies designed to ensure the continuing protection of horseracing assets in Newmarket.</p> <p>Policy DM50 specifically applied to the releasing of land for 'enabling' development to secure the restoration and return to racing use of a historic yard. The Policy would allow the Council the flexibility to consider potential 'enabling' development, the profits of which would be used to support the restoration of listed historic assets. The Policy would not be considered in isolation and any potential development which would have an adverse effect on horseracing would not be permitted. The number of premises which this Policy would apply to was very limited.</p> <p>That the Joint Development Management Committee be recommended to approve this document for public consultation as the Council's 'Submission Version' Joint Development Management Policies Development Plan Document (as amended).</p>	RECOMMENDED
244	<p><u>STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT (SCI) – PROPOSED CONSULTATION (REPORT NO LOP12/002)</u></p> <p>The Planning Policy Officer presented this report, which set out the proposed consultation draft of the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI). This document explained how the Council would seek to actively engage the community in planning matters. The document was split into two sections; Part One related to the strategy for involving the community in the preparation of documents which fed into and underpinned the Local Plan; Part Two dealt with community involvement with the planning application process, including planning appeals.</p> <p>A 'Preferred Option' version of the SCI had been prepared and consulted upon in June 2005. A final version of this document had not been produced and as a consequence, the Council did not currently have an adopted version, although this was a requirement under Part 18 of the Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. The consultation draft was set out at Working Paper 1. The latest regulations were not so prescriptive in terms of how</p>	

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	<p>SCI's should be prepared or adopted, but it was considered prudent to include a period of public consultation. It was the intention to carry out a public consultation exercise for a period of six weeks. Following completion of this exercise the document would be finalised in readiness for adoption by the Council.</p> <p>That the draft Statement of Community Involvement (SCI), as presented at Working Paper 1 to Report No LOP12/002, be approved for public consultation.</p>	RECOMMENDED
245	<p><u>LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK – JOINT AFFORDABLE HOUSING SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT (REPORT LOP12/003)</u> (Forward Plan Reference – May12/03)</p> <p>The Principal Planner presented this report which explained that a Supplementary Planning Document relating to Affordable Housing had been developed by St Edmundsbury and Forest Heath to assist all involved in the delivery of affordable housing. Members would recall that the Local Development Framework Working Group, at its meeting on 8 May 2012, approved a version for public consultation. This consultation never commenced and further work had been done to the document to introduce a 'Local Connection Criteria' to enable the allocation of housing to those in need. No other changes had been made to the previously agreed document, but it was considered necessary to receive the approval of the Working Group before consultation on the amended document took place. The revised draft Supplementary Planning Document was shown at Working Paper 2, with the additional paragraphs (5.30 and 5.31) included.</p> <p>The Principal Planner explained that prior to being adopted as a Supplementary Planning Document, the 'Local Connection Criteria' document needed to be the subject of public consultation. This was anticipated to commence, as soon as possible, following adoption of the document by the Council on 26 September 2012. The consultation period would be undertaken over a period of eight weeks. All responses to the consultation would be reported and, if necessary, a modified version of the document would be put forward for final adoption in February 2013.</p> <p>That the Joint Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document, as set out in Working Paper 2 to Report No LOP12/003, be approved for public consultation.</p>	RECOMMENDED

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246	<p data-bbox="277 210 1125 282"><u>PROGRESS OF THE SCORE STRATEGY SINGLE ISSUE REVIEW CONSULTATION (VERBAL)</u></p> <p data-bbox="277 322 1125 465">The Chairman provided an update on the work currently being undertaken on the Core Strategy Single Issue Review consultation, with the launch taking place at the Cabinet meeting on 31 July 2012.</p> <p data-bbox="277 506 1125 647">The Head of Planning explained that the purpose of the consultation was to engage as many people, as possible, in the debate around housing numbers, growth and location.</p> <p data-bbox="277 687 1125 759">Market stalls had been arranged in the following Market Towns:</p> <p data-bbox="277 799 831 904">Mildenhall Market - 10 August 2012 Newmarket Market - 14 August 2012 Brandon Market - 16 August 2012</p> <p data-bbox="277 945 1125 1126">The Chairman requested for the Ward Members to attend these sessions so that they were available to speak to their local residents. Members requested that they be provided with a briefing note for these sessions which could assist Members when answering questions from residents</p> <p data-bbox="277 1167 1125 1272">The Chairman also reported that there was to be a launch at the Council Offices on 13 August 2012 from 3pm to 7pm and all Members would be invited to attend.</p> <p data-bbox="277 1312 1125 1417">The Chairman explained that she was also intending to write to all Town and Parish Councils to offer to attend their meetings or to hold a drop in session if requested.</p> <p data-bbox="277 1458 1125 1675">In relation to the event being held in Newmarket, Members suggested that a better location for this stall would be inside The Guineas Centre itself. The Head of Planning confirmed that this suggestion would be further investigated to determine whether a suitable location inside The Guineas Centre could be achieved.</p>	RESOLVED