

ST EDMUNDSBURY BOROUGH COUNCIL

RURAL AREA WORKING PARTY

**Minutes of a meeting held on Thursday 17 June 2010 at 5.00 pm
in Room GFR14, West Suffolk House, Western Way, Bury St Edmunds**

PRESENT: Councillor J Thorndyke (Chairman)
Councillors Mrs Bone, Mrs Broughton, Chappell, Clifton-Brown
(substituting for Stevens), Ray, Redhead, Spicer and
Mrs D Whittaker.

1. Substitution

The following substitution was declared:-

Councillor Clifton-Brown for Councillor Stevens.

2. Election of Chairman

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED:-

That Councillor J Thorndyke be elected as Chairman of the
Working Party.

3. Appointment of Vice-Chairman

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED:-

That Councillor Mrs S Broughton be appointed as Vice-Chairman of
the Working Party.

4. Apology for Absence

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Stevens.

5. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 April 2010 were confirmed as a correct
record and signed by the Chairman.

6. Declarations of Interests

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

7. Ixworth Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan

The Working Party considered Report B53 (previously circulated) which sought
adoption of the Ixworth Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan as planning
guidance and the approval of revisions to the Conservation Area boundary.

The draft Ixworth Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan, which included proposed revisions to the Conservation Area boundary, had been approved for consultation by the Working Party on 12 November 2009. Consultation on the draft document had taken place between 15 February and 15 March 2010. A total of 9 responses had been received in respect of the Appraisal. A summary of these was attached as Appendix A to the Report. As a consequence of the comments received amendments were now proposed to the draft document. The key changes proposed were:-

- (i) in response to comments from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Unit and English Heritage, the archeological area to the south of the river, which contained the site of the Roman fort and associated settlement, was to be included within the Conservation Area;
- (ii) in response to a comment from Pakenham Parish Council, the area between the river and the A143 was to be included in the Conservation Area as the link between the village of Ixworth and Micklemere; and
- (iii) a map was to be included in the Appraisal to incorporate important features, buildings, views etc as referred to in the character area text.

Officers advised that the proposed extension of the Conservation Area Boundary to include the area of archaeological importance and been made to conform with recently published Government advice contained in Planning Policy Statement 5 – *Planning for the Historic Environment* issued in March of this year which had placed greater emphasis on preserving such sites as Heritage Assets. The owners of land within the proposed extensions of the Conservation Area had been informed in writing of the proposal and officers had addressed the concerns raised by one owner.

A copy of the revised text of the proposed Appraisal and Management Plan was attached as Appendix B. On page 13 of this document in the text underlined officers advised that the reference to 'land to the west of Bury Road which includes the poultry houses....' should refer to the land being to the east of Bury Road. A plan indicating the proposed new boundary of the Conservation Area was attached as Appendix C.



RECOMMENDED:- That

- (1) *the Ixworth Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan, attached as Appendix B to Report B53 be adopted as planning guidance;***
- (2) *the revised boundary of the Conservation Area, attached as Appendix C to Report B53 be adopted as the new boundary for the Ixworth Conservation Area; and***
- (3) *any minor typographical, factual and/or grammatical changes to the final document be agreed by the Head of Planning and Economic Development in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Transport and Planning.***

8. Parish Conference Planning

Officers gave a verbal report on work being carried out towards staging the next Parish Conference. The programme and information pack supplied to representatives attending the last conference held on 28 April 2010 was tabled. The views of the Working Party were sought on whether any changes to the format or content were desirable for the next conference.

Officers advised that from feedback obtained from Parish Councils it was often a lack of free time available to Parish Councillors, rather than the timing of the conference itself, which prevented some Parish Councils from being represented.

In relation to the next and subsequent conferences the following suggestions were supported by Members:-

- (i) the times of commencement of conferences be varied so that the Spring event starts at 7.00 pm and the Autumn event begins at 2.00 pm;
- (ii) the date of the Spring conference in 2011 be arranged having regard of the need to avoid dates leading up to and immediately after the Borough Council/Town and Parish Council elections in May of that year;
- (iii) invitations to attend future conferences be widened to include other parish/community organisations or groups and Ward Members to be asked to notify contacts for these; and
- (iv) consideration be given to the following as potential workshop sessions:-
 - (a) the Local Development Framework subject to further information being available following the Government's recent announcement to introduce legislation to replace regional strategies with a localised planning system;
 - (b) leadership, organisation and fund raising skills in setting up community groups, eg. Rural Youth Clubs; and
 - (c) raising the profile of work in St Edmundsbury to maximise the potential benefits of the 2012 Olympics, utilising the training camp link already formed with the Rwandan National Team.

Members having other suggestions were asked to pass these on to officers by 15 July 2010.

9. Waste and Street Scene Services: Cleansing Review

The Working Party received and noted Report B54 (previously circulated) which provided background to work being undertaken through the application of a new route optimisation software package to improve cleansing standards across St Edmundsbury. This computerised system would ensure that existing resources would be utilised more effectively and efficiently. The Report pointed out that rural communities might have to become more involved in cleansing services, temporarily on a self-help basis, as there could be delays whilst new route schedules were introduced (conversely the introduction of new schedules in some parishes might be over a shorter period than the current frequency).

The Working Party expressed appreciation to staff involved in litter picking operations.

It was requested that Members be supplied with copies of route maps and timetables for cleansing services in respect of their wards.

10. Work Programme 2010

The Working Party received and noted Report B55 (previously circulated) which contained its current Work Programme.

Members requested that a report be made to the meeting on 18 November 2010 on the Mobile Youth Service and in respect of the level of service for the current year's programme and on the proposed provision for 2011/2012. In relation to the Village of the Year Competition 2010, the Working Party noted that there had been entries from Barrow, Clare, Hundon, Pakenham and Troston.

11. Dates of Future Meetings

The Working Party confirmed the following dates for future meetings:-

2010:

30 September; and
18 November.

2011:

13 January; and
10 March.

All dates were Thursdays and meetings would commence at 5.00 pm.

The previously approved date of 12 May 2011 was deleted in view of the proximity of this date to Borough and Parish Council elections.

The meeting concluded at 6.38 pm.

**J THORNDYKE
CHAIRMAN**