

**ST EDMUNDSBURY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**HAVERHILL AREA WORKING PARTY**

**Minutes of a meeting held on Thursday 9 May 2013 at 4.15 pm  
in the Conference Room, Samuel Ward Academy, Haverhill**

PRESENT: Councillor Mrs K D Richardson (Chairman)  
Councillors Ms Byrne, Clifton-Brown (substituting for Marks), French, Mrs Gower, McManus, Redhead and A Whittaker

BY INVITATION: Councillor Pat Hanlon, Haverhill Town Council

**21. Substitutes**

The following substitution was declared:

Councillor Clifton-Brown substituting for Councillor Marks.

**22. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ager, Marks and Mrs Rushbrook.

**23. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 November 2012 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Under Minute 18, it was noted that the information requested at resolution (1) had not been circulated to Members. Officers undertook to follow this up with Suffolk County Council's Project Manager for the Haverhill High Street Improvement Scheme.

**24. Declaration of Interests**

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

**25. Haverhill Vision 2031 – Submission Version Consultation**

The Working Party considered Report D368 (previously circulated), which presented the latest version of the Haverhill Vision 2031 submission document, and supporting documents, for approval for consultation prior to submission to the Secretary of State. Consultation took place commencing March 2012 on the 'Haverhill Vision preferred options' and this submission version sought to comment upon, and respond to where appropriate, the representations received in response to the earlier consultation.

It was considered that the submission version was greatly improved as a result of both the earlier consultation, and as a result of an assessment against the content of the Government's, March 2012 published National Planning Policy Framework. As a result it was recommended that the Working Party recommend to Cabinet that the Haverhill Vision 2031 submission document be approved for public consultation to commence in June 2013, for a period of six weeks.

The following Appendices were attached to Report D368:

- Appendix 1: Representations received to Haverhill Vision Preferred Options consultation and officer responses (available online);
- Appendix 2: Submission version of the Haverhill Vision 2031 document;
- Appendix 3: Tracked changes version of the Haverhill Vision 2031 submission document (available online);
- Appendix 4: Haverhill Vision 2031 – Significant changes;
- Appendix 5: North East Haverhill Concept Statement (erroneously called Appendix 6 in the recommendations to Report D368);
- Appendix 6: Policies Map Book (erroneously called Appendix 5 in the recommendations to Report D368);
- Appendix 7: Sustainability Appraisal (available online);
- Appendix 8: Habitat Regulations (Screening) Assessment (available online); and
- Appendix 9: Infrastructure Delivery Plan (not mentioned in Report D368 but circulated at the meeting).

The Principal Planning Policy Officer took Members through some of the key changes to the Vision document since the first consultation, which were set out at Appendix 4. Significant changes had also been made to the Concept Statement at Appendix 5.

Officers gave a presentation to the Working Party which set out the context of the Vision Document and the consultation process. As part of the presentation, Members were shown both the original and the revised plan from the Concept Statement, which took account of concerns raised during the consultation.

The Planning Policy and Specialist Services Manager informed the Working Party of minor amendments to be made to Recommendations (1) and (2) to Report D368 as the Policies Map Book should have been referred to as Appendix 6, and the North East Haverhill Concept Plan as Appendix 5. Additionally, Appendix 9, the Draft Haverhill Infrastructure Delivery Plan, had been missed from Report D368, so was included as an additional recommendation and as part of the final recommendation. Appendix 9 was required as part of the background evidence to demonstrate deliverable plans, and would be consulted on in parallel with the Vision document.

Members considered the Appendices in detail, in particular Appendix 2, the Submission Version of the Haverhill Vision 2031 document, and sought clarification on a number of points, which officers provided at the meeting.

In response to Members' questions and officer responses, the following amendment was suggested to Appendix 2, the Submission Version of the Haverhill Vision 2031 document, as follows:

- (1) Page 67, 15.4b – replace 'Enhance the High Street' with 'Enhance the High Street, including the pedestrian environment'.

The following amendment was also proposed to Appendix 9:

- (2) Page 13, 6.3, line 9, insert 'not' between 'could' and 'be'.

With the vote being unanimous, it was



**RECOMMENDED:- That**

- (1) *the Haverhill Vision 2031 submission document (Appendix 2), Policies Map Book (Appendix 6), Sustainability Appraisal (Appendix 7), and the Habitat Regulations (Screening) Assessment (Appendix 8) be approved for public consultation subject to the following amendment being included in Appendix 2:*
  - (i) *Page 67, 15.4b – replace 'Enhance the High Street' with 'Enhance the High Street, including the pedestrian environment';*
- (2) *in accordance with the Council's concept statement protocol, the North East Haverhill Concept Plan (Appendix 5) be adopted;*
- (3) *the Draft Haverhill Infrastructure Delivery Plan (Appendix 9) be approved for consultation, subject to the following amendment being included:*
  - (i) *Page 13, 6.3, line 9, insert 'not' between 'could' and 'be'; and*
- (4) *delegated authority be given to the Head of Planning and Regulatory Services, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transport to make any necessary minor typographical, grammatical or similar textual changes to the draft Haverhill Vision and the Draft Infrastructure Delivery Plan prior to publication for consultation purposes.*

## **26. Haverhill High Street Improvement Scheme: Progress Update**

The Working Party received and noted a narrative progress update on the above Scheme.

Members were advised that at a meeting of the Haverhill Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) in March 2013 the issue of pedestrianisation of the High Street had been discussed. The Suffolk County Council Portfolio Holder for Roads and Transport, Councillor Guy McGregor, had attended the meeting. He had also offered to hold a facilitated stakeholder event to look at the transport needs of Haverhill after the May 2013 County Council

elections. A similar event had previously been held in Sudbury, and had been found to be a productive way of airing issues, gathering the views of a wide cross-section of local groups and building some consensus on local transport priorities.

Details of the event would be shared with Members of the Working Party once the date had been set. The Haverhill High Street improvement works would then need to be considered in the light of the outcomes of that event.

Members noted the present position on the issue, and asked that Suffolk County Council be requested to open up the stakeholder event to all with an interest in the town, and not simply selected invitees. Finally, Members asked for the date of the event to be emailed to them as soon as it was known.

## **27. Public Art in the Town Centre of Haverhill (PATCH): Update**

The Working Party received and noted an oral update on the work of the PATCH Task and Finish Group, delivered on behalf of Councillor Mrs Rushbrook.

The sculpture would be situated on the Market Square, on the raised area. This decision was taken after consulting the police, Haverhill Town Council and Working Party Members. The land was owned by St Edmundsbury Borough Council (SEBC), and there were electricians close by (electricity would be needed to power the monitors, which formed the two eyes of the head).

Neil Williams, the art teacher leading on the project at Samuel Ward Academy, had been working closely with the pupils to design the art work. Roy from Metcraft had been supplying materials, advice and labour to the project. Another artist, Graeme Jenkins, had been assisting Neil with the work and had given all his expertise for free.

The Group was currently working on the plinth which would secure the art work and fix it to the paving. Costs for materials etc were being looked at. The Group did not expect planning permission to be required since the art work was within the guidelines. Once Neil had provided officers at SEBC with the final dimensions, this would be confirmed with the SEBC planning department.

Officers were currently liaising with Finance and Health and Safety officers at SEBC to ensure that health and safety and insurance aspects were covered sufficiently. Discussions were also currently underway in terms of the management of the media that would be shown through the monitors. Some form of agreement would be produced to ensure equitable coverage across organisations. The hope was for the media coverage to eventually be self-sustaining, ie organisations/businesses would pay for coverage which would pay for the electricity.

PATCH aimed to deliver the sculpture in early September 2013. A formal launch would take place, with school children from Samuel Ward Academy having a prominent role. Before the launch a letter would be written to all the businesses that surrounded the Market Square to let them know about the history of the project, the launch date etc.

Members asked a number of questions around the project, which the Chairman duly answered.

**28. Dates of Future Meetings**

The Working Party confirmed the following dates for future meetings:

Thursday 29 August 2013; and  
Thursday 21 November 2013.

Meetings to commence at 4.15 pm, venues to be confirmed.

The meeting concluded at 5.32 pm

**MRS K D RICHARDSON  
CHAIRMAN**