



Rural Area Working Party

Record of a Meeting held on 12 September 2011 at 5.00 pm in Room GFR14, West Suffolk House, Western Way, Bury St Edmunds

Present (please tick if present)

Mrs Broughton
Clifton Brown
Hale
Pugh
Ray

√
√
√
√
√

Redhead
Stevens
Thorndyke (Chairman)
Mrs Whittaker

√
√
√

Substitutes

Houlder
Nettleton

Mrs Rushen

√

By Invitation

Councillors Everitt, Griffiths and Mildmay-White.

Officers in attendance

Helen Lindfield, Cathy Manning, Kirsty Pitwood, Ian Poole and Alex Wilson.

1. Substitutes

The following substitutions were declared:-

Councillor Mrs Rushen for Councillor Mrs Whittaker.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mrs Whittaker.

3. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 June 2011 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4. Declarations of Interests

Councillor Mrs Broughton declared a personal interest in item 7 as her employer dealt with Bidwells and remained in the meeting for all the items. No other declarations were declared.

5. Membership Organisation for People Over 50

The Working Party received a presentation from the Chief Executive from Suffolk Circle, who outlined the benefits that Members receive, at cost of just £30.00 per annum or £2.50 per month. Activities include walks, tours and crafts. Members can also receive help from volunteers for day to day tasks.

6. Community Safety

The Working Party received and noted Report C119 (previously circulated) which updated on the current position regarding Community Safety within St Edmundsbury.

Suffolk benefits from low rates of crime and anti social behaviour by national standards and, St Edmundsbury in general. The rural area, in particular, is a safe place to live where statistically there is a low incidence of crime. St Edmundsbury's rural area borders Norfolk, Essex and Cambridgeshire, in addition to the towns in the Borough, which can result in some transference of crime, such as thefts from outbuildings, mainly related to the farming community and equestrian premises, metal/lead and heating oil thefts. Anti Social Behaviour (ASB) is also a feature in some of the larger villages but speeding, dog fouling and litter are the issues most frequently raised by members of the community.

There are two multi agency Safer Neighbourhood Teams (SNTs) in the rural area, one covering the northern area and one covering the southern area. Comparing the 12 month period ending July 2010, against the same period in 2011, total crime in the rural area is down by 296 offences (145 in rural north and 151 in rural south). Appendix A to Report C119 contained the crime statistics.

Section 2 of Report C119 outlined the types of activities currently undertaken to address areas of concern. Section 3 of Report C119 outlined proposed actions for the future to deal with community safety.

The Community Safety Officer updated the Working Party on the number of offences for the period ending July 2010, which were 212 offences, 99 in rural north and 113 in rural south.

7. Replacement St Edmundsbury Borough Local Plan 2016: Development Brief for Land East of the Granary, Clare

(Councillor Mrs Broughton declared a personal interest as her employer dealt with Bidwells and remained in the meeting for all the items).

RECOMMENDED:-

That, subject to full Council approval, the Development Brief for the development of land east of The Granary, Clare, attached as Appendix A to Report C108, be adopted as non-statutory planning guidance for the determination of future planning applications.

The adopted Replacement Borough Local Plan contains a requirement for a development brief or site-specific design guidance to be prepared for all major development sites before planning permission can be granted. Land east of The Granary, Clare is allocated in Policy RA2(d) of the Replacement Local Plan for residential development. Agents acting on behalf of the owners of the site have prepared a Development Brief for the site in accordance with the Council's protocol for the preparation of such documents. Following consultation with stakeholders and neighbouring residents, the Council's approval of the Development Brief is now sought.

A copy of the draft Development Brief was attached as Appendix A to Report C108. Report C108 was also considered by the Sustainable Development Working Party on 30 August 2011.

(Councillor Hale left the meeting during the consideration of the item. Councillor Everitt left the meeting at the conclusion of the item).

8. Rural Area Working Party Work Programme

The Working Party received and noted Report C120 (previously circulated) which contained the proposed work programme for the Working Party.

9. Dates of Future Meeting

The Rural Area Working Party noted the dates for future meetings as listed on the agenda.

10. Conclusion of Meeting

The meeting concluded at 6.08 pm.

This record has been completed by Kirsty Pitwood.

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