



# Rural Area Working Party

## Record of a Meeting held on 23 January 2012 at 5.00 pm in Room GFR14, West Suffolk House, Western Way, Bury St Edmunds

**Present** *(please tick if present)*

Mrs Broughton	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Redhead	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Clifton Brown	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Stevens	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Hale	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Thorndyke (Chairman)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Pugh	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mrs Whittaker	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ray	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>

**Substitutes**

Houlder	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mrs Rushen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Nettleton	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>

**By Invitation**

Councillor Griffiths

**Officers in attendance**

Nicola Baker  
Dawn Hale  
Ann-Marie Howell  
Kirsty Pitwood  
Ian Poole  
Geoff Rivers  
Alex Wilson

**22. Substitution**

The following substitution was declared:-

Councillor Mrs Rushen substituting for Councillor Mrs Whittaker.

**23. Apology for Absence**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Mrs Whittaker.

**24. Record of Previous Meeting**

The record of the meeting held on 9 November 2011 was confirmed as a correct record.

## **25. Declarations of Interests**

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

Councillor Mrs Broughton stated that should references be made to 'Policy BV5: North East Bury St Edmunds Strategic Site' of the Draft Bury St Edmunds Vision 2031 document during the consideration of Report C292, 'Draft Rural Vision 2031 document', she would need to declare a prejudicial interest and leave the meeting during consideration of that particular matter.

## **26. Parish Conference Planning: Spring 2012**

The Working Party received and noted an oral report from Dawn Hale, Management Support Officer, in respect of arrangements for the next Parish Conference in spring 2012.

Mrs Hale informed the Working Party that the next Parish Conference was arranged for Monday 23 April 2012 at Great Barton Village Hall, commencing at 6.00 pm.

Members noted that the following presentations had been proposed for the Conference:-

- (a) Stephen Taylor of Suffolk County Council (SCC) regarding the provision of mobile and static library services in rural areas; and
- (b) Chris Bally of SCC and Andrea Mayley of the Borough Council regarding the 'Better Broadband for Suffolk' campaign.

A workshop would also be incorporated and currently a stand to promote the 'Our Place Scheme' would be provided by Sara Blake of SCC. Ideas for other stands were welcomed and Members were advised to contact Mrs Hale directly with their suggestions following the meeting, as appropriate.

## **27. St Edmundsbury Local Development Framework: Draft Rural Vision 2031: Consultation**

*(In respect of Minute (Note) 25 above, no references were made to 'Policy BV5: North East Bury St Edmunds Strategic Site' of the Draft Bury St Edmunds Vision 2031 document, therefore Councillor Mrs Broughton did not declare either a personal or prejudicial interest during the consideration of this item.)*

**RECOMMENDED:- That,**

- (1) the draft Rural Vision 2031 document, as contained in Appendix A to Report C292, be approved for public consultation; and**
- (2) delegated authority be given to the Director of Economy and Environment, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transport, to make any necessary minor typographical, grammatical or similar textual changes to the draft prior to publication for consultation purposes.**

The Working Party considered Report C292 (previously circulated) which sought approval for the draft Rural Vision 2031 document.

The Borough Council had made a commitment to prepare a holistic vision document for the Rural Area to cover the period to 2031. The vision will cover both planning and corporate priorities for the town and will form part of the Local Development Framework. Ultimately it will supersede the Replacement St Edmundsbury Borough Local Plan 2016 that was adopted in 2006.

A comprehensive update of the Issues and Options consultation responses, together with officer responses would be published as part of the consultation. In addition, sites which had been submitted to the Borough Council by landowners and developers for inclusion in the Vision 2031 document, including those in Bury St Edmunds and Haverhill, but had not been included in the draft consultation documents, were set out in one separate report that would be published alongside the consultation document (Cabinet Report C330 referred). A full Sustainability Appraisal of the draft had also been undertaken, as required by the regulations for the preparation of planning policy documents, and this would also be published at the time of consultation.

Consultation would commence on 1 March 2012 and last until 30 April 2012.

The Principal Planning Policy Officer undertook a presentation and highlighted key issues contained in the draft document. Members considered the draft in detail and commented on various minor typographical, grammatical and textual amendments; however, no substantive changes were suggested.

The Working Party noted that the document would be reconsidered by the Sustainable Development Working Party on 31 January 2012 prior to seeking approval by the Cabinet on 1 February 2012 for the draft document to be deposited for public consultation.

*(Councillor Griffiths left the meeting during the consideration of this item.)*

## **28. Rural Area Working Party Work Programme**

The Working Party received and noted Report C293 (previously circulated) which contained the proposed Work Programme for the Working Party.

Subject to the draft being approved by the Cabinet for public consultation, consideration of the Rural Vision 2031 document would be re-scheduled into the Work Programme for March 2012.

## **29. Dates of Future Meetings**

The Rural Area Working Party confirmed that its next meeting would be held on Wednesday 14 March 2012 at 5.00 pm.

The meeting concluded at 6.30 pm

This record has been completed by Kirsty Pitwood, Economic Development Officer - Rural