

ST EDMUNDSBURY BOROUGH COUNCIL

RURAL AREA WORKING PARTY

**Minutes of a meeting held on Tuesday 7 May 2013 at 5.00 pm
in Room F1R09, West Suffolk House, Western Way, Bury St Edmunds**

- PRESENT: Councillor J Thorndyke (Chairman)
Councillors Mrs Broughton, Clifton-Brown, Hale, Pugh,
Ray, Mrs Rushen and Redhead
- BY INVITATION: Councillor Griffiths, Leader of the Council
Councillor Clements, Portfolio Holder for Planning and
Transport
Councillor Houlder
Councillor Mrs Levack
Councillor Mrs Mildmay-White, Portfolio Holder for Culture
and Sport
Councillor Spicer
Councillor Mrs Whittaker

30. Substitution

No substitutions were declared.

31. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Stevens.

32. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 March 2013 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

33. Declarations of Interests

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

34. Rural Vision 2031 – Submission Version Consultation

The Working Party considered Report D367 (previously circulated), which presented the latest version of the Rural 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 'Rural 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 Rural Area Working Party recommend to Cabinet that the Rural 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 D367:

- Appendix 1: Representations received to Rural Vision Preferred Options consultation and officer responses (available online)
- Appendix 2: Submission version of the Rural Vision 2031 document
- Appendix 3: Tracked changes version of the Rural Vision 2031 submission document (available online)
- Appendix 4: Rural Vision 2031 – Significant changes
- Appendix 5: Policies Map Book (available online)
- Appendix 6: Infrastructure Delivery Plan (Circulated at the Meeting)
- Appendix 7: Rural Site Submissions
- Appendix 8: Sustainability Appraisal (available online from Monday 29 April 2013)
- Appendix 9: Habitat Regulations (Screening) Assessment (available online from Monday 29 April 2013)

Officers gave a presentation to the Working Party which set out the:

- (1) context of the Vision Document;
- (2) process;
- (3) pre-submission stage;
- (4) documents (appendices listed above); and
- (5) consultation process:
 - (a) seek approval to go out to consultation from 18 June–9 August 2013;
 - (b) review comments at the end of the consultation period;
 - (c) if no adverse comments, ask Council to submit Vision Document to Secretary of State for examination by Planning Inspector;
 - (d) would seek to do this in September/October 2013;
 - (e) examination early 2014; and
 - (f) adoption potentially Spring/Summer 2014.

The Planning Policy and Specialist Services Manager informed the Working Party of a minor amendment to be made to Recommendation (1) set out in Report D367 to also include Appendix 6 (Infrastructure Delivery Plan).

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

A question to which a response could not be provided at the meeting was promised a written response, as follows:

- (1) Gypsy and Traveller sites (9.36) – what constitutes one pitch for travelling showpeople.

In response to Members' questions and officer responses, the following amendments were suggested to the Submission Version of the Rural Vision 2031 as follows:

- (1) Factual/capacity data to be brought up to date as far as possible prior to the consultation process and where possible to include caveats in bold/italics.
- (2) Profile of rural area (3.1 Population) – helpful to include national statistics.
- (3) Historic and natural environment (3.11) – suggest that the Council's assets be described fully e.g. number of Grade I listed buildings and where possible, the value of assets to include a comparison with other Suffolk wards.
- (4) Page 35 - (9.38), suggest strengthening wording along the lines of "the LPA had a requirement to produce a five year land supply as an incentive".
- (5) Page 37 - Aspiration 4 (Villages have local jobs and facilities and are not simply dormitories) suggest reference to "agriculture has greatly declined" to be reworded, as agricultural employment had declined and not the importance of agriculture.
- (6) Page 119 – Amend wording to state that Hundon Parish Plan for the village had been completed.

The Planning Policy and Specialist Services Manager informed the Working Party that a meeting was being arranged for 23 May 2013 to invite two representatives from each Parish / Town Council to hear about the documents prior to the formal consultation process commencing.

The Working Party noted the rural site submissions (Appendix 7) and that site SS12.13 had been included in the revised Rural Vision 2031 document, but that SS12.12 and SS12.14 had not been included, and

With the vote being unanimous, it was



RECOMMENDED:- That

- (1) ***the Rural Vision 2031 submission document (Appendix 2), Policies Map Book (Appendix 5), Infrastructure Delivery Plan (Appendix 6), Sustainability Appraisal (Appendix 8), and the Habitat Regulations (Screening) Assessment (Appendix 9) be approved for public consultation subject to the following amendments being included:***

- (i) Capacity data to be updated, where possible and caveats included.*
 - (ii) Profile of rural areas to include national statistics*
 - (iii) Historic and natural environment – Council assets to be described in full and the value of assets to include a comparison with other Suffolk wards.*
 - (iv) Gypsy and traveller sites (par 9.38) to be reworded.*
 - (v) Aspiration 4 (par 10.4) – reference to agriculture to be reworded.*
 - (vi) Reference to Hundon Parish Plan to be amended to 'completed'*
- (2) 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 Rural Vision 2031 submission document prior to publication for consultation purposes.*

(Councillors Griffiths and Mrs Mildmay-White arrived during the consideration of this item).

35. Dates of Future Meetings

The following dates of future meetings were confirmed:

Monday 29 July 2013;
Wednesday 30 October 2013;
Monday 27 January 2014; and
Wednesday 26 March 2014.

All meetings to commence at 5.00 pm.

The meeting concluded at 6.20pm.

**J THORNDYKE
CHAIRMAN**