MINUTES of a meeting of the Environment Committee held on Wednesday 6 September 2006 at Swanspool House, Wellingborough commencing at 7 p.m. and concluded at 9.15 p.m.

Present: Councillor Payne (Chairman), Councillor L Lawman (Vice Chairman), Councillors Allebone, Bell, Crofts, G Lawman, Mann, Saxby, Sherwood, Ward and Warwick

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

RESOLVED to note that in accordance with the Local Government Act 2000, the Code of Local Government Conduct and the Council’s Constitution, the under-mentioned Councillors declared an interest in the following items:-

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Councillor</th>
<th>Minute No</th>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Description of Interest</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bell</td>
<td>4, 13</td>
<td>Urban Footpaths/Cycleways</td>
<td>Personal and prejudicial – lives near to one of the cycleways.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allebone</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Road Naming</td>
<td>Personal - One of the proposed ex Councillors is a personal friend</td>
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<tr>
<td>L Lawman</td>
<td>7, 8</td>
<td>Waste Collection from charities</td>
<td>Personal – Husband on Committee of Victoria Centre</td>
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</table>
|            |           | Road Naming                                               | Personal and prejudicial – Friend of one of the proposed ex Councillors.
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<tr>
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<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Relationship</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Proposed Conservation Area for Easton Maudit</td>
<td>Personal and prejudicial – personal friend of Cllr Allebone.</td>
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<tr>
<td>G Lawman</td>
<td>Waste Collection from charities</td>
<td>Personal – On Committee of Victoria Centre.</td>
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<td>Payne</td>
<td>Waste Collection from charities</td>
<td>Personal – On Committee of Service Six</td>
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<td>Crofts</td>
<td>Waste Collection from charities</td>
<td>Personal – Member of Victoria Centre</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sherwood</td>
<td>Waste Collection from charities</td>
<td>Personal – involved with a number of charities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mann</td>
<td>Proposed Conservation Area for Easton Maudit</td>
<td>Personal - Relative living in Easton Maudit</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Warwick</td>
<td>Road Naming</td>
<td>Personal and prejudicial – Friend of one of the proposed ex Councillors</td>
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3. **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 22 March 2006 be confirmed and signed.

4. **URBAN FOOTPATHS/CYCLEWAYS**

Councillor Bell declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this item and withdrew from the meeting during its consideration.

The committee received a report from the Corporate Manager, Sustainable Development to give an update on the progress of the Urban footpath/cycleway system and to enable a decision to be made on the completion of the works.

Planning permission for the lighting on the Stanwell footpath/cycleway had been granted by the Regulatory Committee on 10 November. The footpath/cycleway through the Stanwell Way Open Space had been completed last year and at the Economic & Environment Committee on 8 June 2005 the decision had been taken to proceed with the route through Bassetts Close.
It was proposed to extend the existing footpath/cycleway through the land recently acquired from Sainsbury’s to Northampton Road which would connect to the existing route from Moreton Avenue and the Croyland cycleway.

The estimated cost of the scheme was £54,000

Works by the County Council had been completed in Brickhill Road to create a segregated footpath/cycleway between Ryeburn Way and Westfield Road to connect the existing footpath/cycleway network with the proposed Bassetts Close footpath/cycleway.

Works to create a cycle friendly route between Oxford Street and the Croyland cycleway were to be implemented later this year as part of the works funded by the Section 106 monies from the Morrisons’ supermarket development.

The estimated cost of the Bassetts Close scheme was £43,000

The initial phase of the Castle Fields footpath/cycleway to widen the existing footpath to create a footpath/cycleway had been deferred due to the work required to the trees. Now that this work had been completed it was considered the right time to implement the scheme.

The estimated cost of the scheme was £41,000.

The estimated total cost of implementing all schemes was £138,000 with an allocation remaining for footpath/cycleways for the current financial year of £61,000, therefore this would lead to a shortfall of £77,000. Accordingly for all three schemes to proceed additional funding would be required.

If no additional funding was available this financial year only one scheme could proceed. Officers believed that the Bassetts Close scheme should be implemented as it would provide better links to the existing footpath/cycleway network.

A survey indicating the usage of the cycleway/footpath network was attached to the report.

Councillor Crofts proposed an amendment to the recommendation to read as follows:-

The Committee are invited to:-

7.1 resolve to proceed with the **Stanwell Way** scheme

7.2 recommend to Resources Committee that additional funding is made available **this year** for the remaining schemes.

This was seconded by Councillor Sherwood and voted on and was lost.

The original recommendation was moved and seconded and carried.

R1 **RECOMMENDED** that:-

(i) the Bassetts Close scheme should proceed
(ii) a recommendation would be put to Resources Committee that additional funding be made available for the remaining schemes.

Councillor G Lawman recorded his vote against this recommendation.

Councillor Bell returned to the meeting.

5. LOCAL PARKING CONTROL

The committee received a report from the Corporate Manager, Business Support on the progress by the County Council towards establishing a Countywide scheme for Local Parking Control and to formulate a response to the County Council’s most recent consultation exercise.

The County Council wished to consult on the implementation of the proposals and had prepared a leaflet, a copy of which was appended to the report. The leaflet referred solely to proposed on-street parking controls.

The leaflet showed the areas within the central area of the town currently subject to parking controls, it also showed additional areas that may be considered if necessary, and these included the Midland Road corridor, the area around the station and the area in the vicinity of Abbots Way.

On-street parking charges were being considered within the central area, which is bounded by Havelock Street, Cannon Street/Victoria Road, Commercial Way, Sheep Street/Silver Street/High Street and also along Oxford Street between Silver Street and Sharman Road.

Northamptonshire County Council were preparing an application to the Secretary of State for Transport for the making of orders to permit Decriminalised Parking Enforcement (DPE) in Northamptonshire.

While the order would cover both on and off-street parking, the control of whether to charge for off-street parking and at what level would remain with the Borough Council. Including the Council’s off-street car parks within the order provided a mechanism for subsequent combined enforcement of parking controls if the Council should decide in the future to change its approach to the management of off-street parking. The County Council was therefore only taking income from on-street charges and enforcement in the Borough into account in its calculations.

The level of on-street parking charges would in future be recommended to the County Council Cabinet by the Countywide Parking Committee. Councillor L Payne had been nominated as the representative of this Authority on the Countywide Committee.

The application to the government indicated that average on-street charges of 50p/hour and residential parking permits at £40/annum together with penalty charge notices would cover the costs of providing enforcement. It was anticipated therefore that the charges set would not vary greatly from these figures.

The scheme was anticipated to be introduced on 1 April 2007.
Comments by Members were as follows:-

- Interested to see the public’s comments following the consultation
- Implementation date was unrealistic
- There was no “reply by” date on the leaflet
- Residents should be fully consulted on any specific residential parking proposals
- Ensure that enforcement would be carried out outside all schools in the Borough both urban and rural
- Costings for the scheme were still unclear
- Concern to ensure that this does not lead to off-street parking charges

All these concerns would be addressed in the response and by the Council’s representative Councillor Payne at the forthcoming meeting of the Countywide Parking Committee.

R2  RECOMMENDED that :-

(i) That Officers would agree the detailed wording of the response with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Committee

(ii) The response would be taken into account by the Council’s representative at the Countywide Parking Committee as outlined above.

6. PARKING – SWANPOOL GARDENS

The committee received a report from the Corporate Manager, Environmental Protection regarding the parking situation in Swanspool Gardens following public consultation.

For some years there had been a problem of parking with users of the gardens and pavilion especially during the bowls season between May and October.

A report had been presented to the Economic & Environment Committee on 12 May 2004 which recommended the conversion of the old tennis courts into a parking area. A public meeting had been held and 59 out of the 65 attendees of the meeting did not agree to use the old tennis courts in this way.

Following the latest public meeting it was agreed to look at options for creating formal parking to the south east of the pavilion.

Options 1 and 2 (as appended to the report) showed possible car parking areas and were outlined in the report.

Option 1 would provide 11 parking spaces within the current boundary. The cost of this option including fences, surfacing, barrier, bollards etc would be in the region of £27,000.

Option 2 would include a double row of parking spaces totalling 17 and would enable complete management of parking in a set aside area of the gardens. The cost of this option including fencing, surfacing, barrier, bollards, acquisition of highway land and construction of a turning heard would be in the region of £38,000.

R3  RECOMMENDED that Option 2 be considered as the solution to car parking difficulties within Swanspool Gardens and a bid submitted to the Capital programme for 2007/08.
7. WASTE COLLECTION FROM CHARITIES

The committee received a report from the Corporate Manager, Environmental Protection to update the criteria for the free collection of waste and recycling from Charities.

At the Economic & Environment Committee of 6 April 2005 it had been decided that properties which were a registered charity and in receipt of 100% rate relief would be entitled to a free collection of waste and recycling under the three bin scheme.

Since the report of 6 April 2005 a possible twenty-eight additional charities had been awarded 100% rate relief and therefore are requesting a collection of their waste. In order to better manage the collection of waste from charitable premises it was suggested that those properties registered as charities, receiving 100% rate relief and falling under Schedule 1, paragraph 2 of the Controlled Waste Regulations 1992 as defined in para 2.1 be awarded a household and recycling collection on request, in line with current service provision under the three bin scheme.

The following premises/organisations would not be covered in that category:-

- Places of worship (receive a household collection under different arrangements)
- Village/Public Halls (receive a household collection if used wholly for public meetings).
- Schools or educational establishments
- Local Authority properties unless residential
- Waste from a premises occupied by a club or society in which activities are carried out for the benefit of members (This is classed as commercial waste)

RESOLVED that registered charities in receipt of 100% rate relief falling under Schedule 1 paragraph 2 of The Controlled Waste Regulations 1992 be provided with a waste and recycling service under the three bin scheme.

8. ROAD NAMING

Councillors L and G Lawman, Allebone, and Warwick declared a prejudicial interest in this item and withdrew from the meeting during its consideration. Councillor Allebone decided that he also had a prejudicial interest and withdrew from the meeting.

The committee received a report from the Corporate Manager, Environmental Protection to use the surnames of two retired Councillors to name new roads within the Wellingborough district.

The policy adopted by the Council in April 2005 for the naming of new roads required that any names of living persons proposed for use as road names be submitted to the Committee for consideration.

A request had been made to name roads after Mr Donald Loakes and Mr Maurice Brockman, both retired Borough Councillors. After consultation with the individuals it had been established that Mr Loakes would prefer that the road named after him should be in the Wollaston area.

RESOLVED that both the proposed names would be used when suitable locations were identified.
Councillors L and G Lawman, Allebone, and Warwick returned to the meeting.

9. NOTTINGHAM DECLARATION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

The committee received a report from the Executive Director (Stronger Communities) to advise Members of the progress towards a countywide Climate Change Strategy and to seek approval for the reaffirmation of the Council’s commitment to the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change.

All Councils were being encouraged to sign the Nottingham Declaration. Councils across Northamptonshire were seeking approval to sign the Declaration in order to become one of the first fully committed counties in the United Kingdom.

In June 2001 the Council signed up to the Nottingham Declaration and in June 2003 the Council had adopted a Climate Change Strategy for the Borough and required Officers to draw up an Action Plan in consultation with other Authorities in the county.

A County Climate Change Officers’ Group had been formed to deliver action on climate change across Northamptonshire. In order to drive this process a joint signing of the Nottingham Declaration was seen as an important first step.

R4 RECOMMENDED that the Leader and Chief Executive be authorised to sign the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change thereby reaffirming the Council’s commitment to take action to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

10. PROPOSED CONSERVATION AREA FOR EASTON MAUDIT

Councillors L and G Lawman declared a prejudicial interest in this item and withdrew from the meeting during its consideration. Councillor Mann also left the room.

The committee received a report from the Corporate Manager, Sustainable Development to seek recommendation to proceed with formal consultations with interested parties upon the proposed designation of a conservation area as shown on the Appraisal Map attached to the report to the Draft Easton Maudit Conservation Area Character Appraisal comprised in Appendix 1 attached to the report, and upon the Draft Character Appraisal.

RESOLVED that consultation should now take place with interested parties upon the proposed designation of a conservation area as shown on the Appraisal Map attached to the Draft Easton Maudit Conservation Area Character Appraisal comprising Appendix 1 to the report, and upon the Draft Character Appraisal.

Councillors L and G Lawman and Mann returned to the meeting.

11. ENERGY AND PLANNING POLICY

The committee received a report from the Corporate Manager, Sustainable Development to inform the committee of the current planning policy situation in respect of energy efficiency and renewable energy.

Since the adoption of several policies within the current development plan there had been a greater understanding of the importance planning could have on influencing energy use. This was partly as a result of greater emphasis on the need to tackle
climate change and the recent energy reviews which have taken place at a national level including:

- Changes to increase the requirements of the Building Regulations;
- Consultation on the introduction of a Code for Sustainable Homes; and
- A forthcoming draft Planning Policy Statement (PPS) on climate change.

The Minister for Housing and Planning had recently announced a review of local plans to determine whether they fully incorporate the guidance of PPS 22 (Renewable Energy). A Ministerial statement had been issued which stated that the Government expects all planning authorities to include in their development plans policies which require a percentage of energy to come from on-site renewables.

Within Wellingborough the overall strategy and overarching policies would be set within the Core Spatial Strategy which was being prepared for the whole of North Northamptonshire by the Joint Planning Unit. It was intended that this document would deal with matters relating to energy use. In addition the Joint Planning Unit would prepare a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) relating to sustainable development.

The committee agreed the following additional recommendation:-

> That the Council request the Member of Parliament to lobby the relevant Minister regarding enhanced renewable energy requirements on all new major Developments and to enable Councils to approve micro renewable energy Installations through Permitted Development rights or Building Control Regulations.

R5 RECOMMENDED that:-

(i) the report be noted and the work being undertaken by the Joint Planning Unit in relation to energy efficiency and renewable energy be supported.

(ii) That the Council request the Member of Parliament to lobby the relevant Minister regarding enhanced renewable energy requirements on all new major Developments and to enable Councils to approve micro renewable energy Installations through Permitted Development rights or Building Control Regulations.

12. SERVICE PLANS – SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SERVICE CLUSTER 2007/08

The committee received a report from the Corporate Manager, Sustainable Development to summarise the performance of service units within the Sustainable Development service cluster during 2006/07 and the plans of these services for 2007/08.

The Sustainable Development service cluster had been created in April 2006 as part of the Council restructuring programme.

The report provided a high level summary of each operational plan in the Sustainable Development service cluster with particular attention to performance during 2005/06 and the principle targets proposed for 2007/08.
R7 **RECOMMENDED** that the operational service plans for Sustainable Development service units are developed on the basis of the proposals set out in the report.

13. **ACTION TAKEN UNDER URGENT DELEGATED POWERS – REVISED LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME**

The committee received a report on action taken under urgent delegated powers that the Revised Local Development Scheme be submitted to the Secretary of State as part of a Revised Development Scheme compilation document for North Northamptonshire and to agree that proposed supplementary planning documents relating to sustainable development and developer contributions should be prepared by the Joint Planning Unit and agreed by the Joint Committee.

**RESOLVED** to note the report.


The committee received a report on action taken under urgent delegated powers to enable the Statement of Licensing Policy for the Gambling Act 2005 to be published in draft form to enable its circulation for the purposes of consultation.

**RESOLVED** to note the report.

Chairman