

## **COUNCIL MEETING - 2 JULY 2013**

### **REPORT OF THE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

11 June 2013

Present: Councillors Allebone (Chairman), Waters (Vice-Chairman), Gough, Graves, Hawkes, Higgins, L Lawman, Warwick and Watts (9).

Also present: Mr S Wood, Head of Planning and Local Development, Mrs J Bell, Project Co-ordinator, Mrs N Mackenzie, Economic Regeneration Officer, Mr P Ridley, Design and Conservation Officer, Mrs V Phillipson, Principal Planning Policy and Regeneration Manager and Mrs C A Mundy, Democratic Services Officer.

(Councillor G Lawman also attended the meeting as an observer.)

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, the Chairman welcomed Councillors Graves, L Lawman and Watts to their first meeting of the Development Committee and newly elected Councillor Gough to his first committee meeting. He also made reference to the passing of former Councillor and committee member Mr John Raymond who died on 6 June 2013.

#### **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

**RESOLVED** to note that apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bass, Elliott and Henley (3).

#### **2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 19 March 2013 be confirmed and signed.

#### **3. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING**

The annexed circulated report of the Head of Planning and Local Development was received on the progress of the Neighbourhood Plans.

Neighbourhood Planning was introduced under the Localism Act 2011 and in August 2012 the Department for Communities and Local Government announced that they would provide £30,000 funding for each Neighbourhood Plan, subject to a successful examination. The report detailed the Neighbourhood Plans that were currently being undertaken for Earls Barton, Wollaston and Irchester and the council resources that were being put into this, along with the funding received for Neighbourhood Planning.

A member asked if smaller parish councils had considered preparing a Neighbourhood Plan. The Principal Planning Policy and Regeneration Manager informed the committee that three smaller villages had been exploring various options.

**RESOLVED** that the update on the progress being made on the Neighbourhood Plans be noted.

#### **4. MARKET WORKING GROUP UPDATE**

The annexed circulated report of the Head of Planning and Local Development was received on the activities of the Market Working Group since it was reinstated in July 2012.

The report detailed the discussions that had taken place within the Market Working Group and the recommendations regarding a number of issues including the location of stalls; Market Charter; parking and the amendment to the off street parking order; the Tuesday Bric a Brac Market; and Street Trading. Traders had been issued with the Wellingborough Shoppers Charter and there had been more promotion of the market recently with a programme of marketing activities taking place.

Councillor Hawkes passed on the thanks of All Hallows Church to the officers for the amendment to the off-street parking order. A request was also made for the map, appended to the parking order, to be circulated to members. Compliments were received on the recent continental market and the array of stalls on offer.

Councillor Allebone also asked for 2 volunteers to sit on the Members' Working Group as substitutes, until a formal report was put to committee in July. Councillor Higgins agreed to take the Conservative place and Councillor Watts would ask her group leader to make an appointment and let the Chairman know.

**RESOLVED** that:

- (i) the recent activities of the Market Working Group be noted;
- (ii) approval be given to the amendment of the Borough Council of Wellingborough's Off-Street Parking Orders as stated in the report.

#### **5. ADOPTION OF TREES AND LANDSCAPE SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT**

The annexed circulated report of the Head of Planning and Local Development was received on the results of the public consultation exercise on the trees and landscape supplementary planning document, which was approved at the meeting in October 2012, and to seek approval to adopt the amended document.

This report had been considered by the committee on 19 March 2013 when a resolution had been made to adopt it. Following this, it had been noticed that some changes were required to the appendices. Attached to the report were the updated appendices 1 and 2.

**RESOLVED** that the Trees and Landscape Supplementary Planning document be adopted.

## **6. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY UPDATE**

The annexed circulated report of the Head of Planning and Local Development was received on the economic activity from March to June 2013.

The report made particular reference to the ongoing work to create a vibrant town centre, improvements to the visitor economy, improved conditions for growth and education and skills. Details of the tasks for the next period ending September 2013 were also included.

Members asked about apprenticeships and whether options could be explored to work with Tresham, and if details on apprenticeships could be incorporated in the ROSE Job Fair.

The Economic Regeneration Officer confirmed that apprenticeships were already promoted at Rose events and that she was already working closely with Tresham.

Members asked when the Wellingborough investment brochure would be available. The Economic Regeneration Officer confirmed that the target date was September.

Members asked for an update on the regeneration of the High Street. The Head of Planning and Local Development informed the meeting that an exempt verbal update would be given at the Resources Committee on 12 June 2013. Some Members considered that this information should have been provided to the Development Committee. The Chairman suggested that Members speak with the Leader of the Council/Chairman of Resources if they had concerns about this.

With regard to the BID Board, the Chairman clarified that he had a seat on the Board and that minutes were taken and these could be circulated to Members.

**RESOLVED** to note the Economic Development Activity Quarterly report to June 2013.

## **7. SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT FOR A LOCAL LIST OF HERITAGE ASSETS**

The annexed circulated report of the Head of Planning and Local Development was received to seek permission to consult on the local list of heritage assets.

The local list would assist Planning Officers and the Planning Committee and would also inform Neighbourhood Plans, Village Design Statements and Conservation Area Appraisals. It would be a register of heritage assets of local significance to the whole of the borough.

The Conservation Officer had held meetings with the Wollaston Neighbourhood Planning team and further meetings were being arranged with

other parishes undertaking a Neighbourhood Plan, as it was considered that this was a good place to start. Councillor Carr had also provided further information which the Conservation Officer would incorporate.

A draft Local List of Heritage Assets, Supplementary Planning document had been produced for consultation.

Members considered that this was an excellent piece of work which would remind people of the rich heritage of the borough. It was also considered that Heritage Societies across the villages would also provide invaluable information.

**RESOLVED** that approval be given to the borough wide consultation on the draft Local List of Heritage Assets Supplementary Planning document.

## **8. TOWN CENTRE REDEVELOPMENT – RAG PROGRESS REPORT**

The annexed circulated report of the Head of Planning and Local Development was received on the latest progress on the project programme for the town centre redevelopment.

The Head of Planning and Local Development gave a verbal update and made particular reference to a recent meeting with representatives of Tresham College. Plans for a new college were at the pre-application stage. A funding application had also been made and, if approved, would enable a planning application to be submitted.

Councillor Graves had also attended the meeting and informed the committee that the design for the new college was very good, and that he was optimistic that Tresham would be successful in obtaining funding. It was anticipated that up to 1,000 students would be able to attend the college and that apprenticeships would be available.

The Head of Planning and Local Development also informed the meeting that preparation work for the electrification of the East Midlands line would commence on Monday 17 June and that Finedon Station Road Bridge would be closed for 12 weeks.

Bovis Homes had taken initial steps to appoint a dedicated Project Manager to lead the delivery of Stanton Cross.

**RESOLVED** that the report and verbal update be noted.

## **9. NOTIFICATION OF URGENT ACTION – CONSULTATION ON STREET TRADING AND PEDLARY LAWS**

The annexed circulated report of the Head of Planning and Local Development was received on the urgent action taken by the Chairman of the Committee.

**RESOLVED** that the urgent action taken be noted.

**10. ANY OTHER ITEM**

The Chairman extended the thoughts and prayers of the Development Committee to Councillor Mrs Patricia Raymond. He asked that all present stand for a minute’s silence in memory of Mr John Raymond.

Chairman.....

The meeting concluded at 8.05pm.

