

Draft Minutes of the Calne Area (5) Extraordinary Committee Meeting held on Monday 16th June 2008 at the Calne Leisure Centre, Calne at 8.15pm.

Present:

Councillor S. Bodman – Chairman

Councillors C.M.R. Boase, A.M. Bucknell, C. Crisp, R. Henning, A.K. Hill, A. Pier, H.R. Plenty, C.V. Ramsey and A.J. Trotman

Town/Parish/County Representatives Present:

Councillor S. Cook	Bremhill Parish Council
Councillor I. James	Bremhill Parish Council
Councillor C. Pearson	Bremhill Parish Council
Councillor D. Wilson	Bremhill Parish Council
Councillor R. Ayles	Calne Without Parish Council
Councillor E. Jones	Calne Without Parish Council
Councillor H. Marshall	Calne Town Council
Councillor N. Bryant	Wiltshire County Council

Other Members Present:

Councillors J. Lay and R.L. Tonge

Officers Present:

J. Densham (Democratic Services Assistant) S. McGregor (Assistant Chief Executive), L. Pullin (Democratic Services Officer), L. Robertson (Head of Policy & Performance)

CA3. Apologies for Absence

No apologies for absence were received.

CA4. Public Questions/Receipt of Petitions

Public questions were dealt with during the consideration of the Gypsy and Traveller Site Provision.

Those who had submitted written questions in advance of the meeting were given written response to their questions.

CA5. Chairman's Announcements (if any)

There were no Chairman's announcements.

CA6. Declarations of Interest

No Declarations of Interest were made.



CA7. Gypsy and Traveller Site Provision

Consideration was given to Report No. 5 (circulated with the Agenda) which introduced the Gypsy and Traveller issues and Options Consultation, set out the background to this issue and the potential for addressing the needs in the short term and advised on the long term future for dealing with the issue within the Local Development Framework process.

The Head of Policy and Performance gave a presentation regarding gypsy and traveller site provision covering the following issues:

- The number of pitches required;
- The location of current pitches in Wiltshire;
- Unauthorised sites;
- Policies regarding the provision of sites for gypsies and travellers;
- Public sites being considered for the location of a gypsy and traveller site;
- The assessment process; and
- The timeline for site provision.

The Committee was also informed that the Government had now stated that 48 pitches (as opposed to the original proposal of 24 pitches) were required in North Wiltshire.

It was noted that privately owned sites could also be considered if put forward by landowners. Any private sites put forward would be subject to a separate consultation process at the end of the summer.

Members of the public then asked questions and made comments on the proposals put forward in the consultation document. Details of the question and answer session are attached as Appendix 1 to these minutes.

The Committee discussed the following matters:

- That if any member of the public wished to see a copy of the response on the Gypsy and Traveller Site consultation from the Working Group set up by Calne Town Council this could be requested by email at cramsey@northwilts.gov.uk
- That in the North Wiltshire Local Plan 2011 land at Oxford Road has been designated for industrial use and the view that it was not in the town's best interests to allow for a long term development for a short term gain;
- That notwithstanding the lengthy and expensive consultation carried out by the Council as part of the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment in assessing the number of traveller pitches required for North Wiltshire the South West Regional Assembly had decided to double the target number of pitches from 24 to 48;
- An assurance to the public that the local Councillors were listening to their views and opinions and that they would be putting these forward to the meeting of the Executive on 3rd July;

- A query as to whether County farm sites and MOD land had been considered as potential sites; and
- The view that none of the publically identified sites are suitable and that it was hoped that more suitable private sites would come forward as part of the consultation process.

Resolved that the Calne Area 5 Committee recommend to the Executive that:

- 1 The proposed publically owned sites at Oxford Road and Abberd Lane, Calne be rejected on the grounds of future regeneration and development of Calne and the Stanley Lane sites in Chippenham be equally refused on grounds of unsuitability and the detrimental effect to the surrounding area.
2. The Executive be asked to seek privately owned sites and pursue another open and transparent consultation.
3. The Executive write to the South West Regional Assembly and the Government Office of the South West seeking clarification on how the numbers of pitches were arrived at and why they have been doubled to 48 and how is it that the Kennet District were selected to receive so few pitches.

The meeting closed at 10.05pm.

There were approximately 550 members of the public present.