

Minutes

Meeting of : Northern Area Committee
Meeting held in : Antrobus House, Amesbury
Date : Thursday 02 November 2006
Commencing at : 4.30 pm

Present:

Councillor M A Hewitt – Chairman
Councillor C G Mills– Vice-Chairman (In the Chair for minute number 633)

Councillors M Baker, D W Brown, Mrs J M Greville, J C Noeken, A G Peach, J R G Spencer, J Rodell, F Westmoreland, T Woodbridge and K C Wren.

Apologies: Councillors J A Brady and I C West

Councillor R Britton was also in attendance in his capacity as Leader of the Council.

Parish Councillors: Mr Deacons (Durrington), Mr K Rigiani (Idmiston), Mrs Swindlehurst (Amesbury Town Council)

Officers

Mrs J Howles (Development Services), Mr S Hawkins (Development Services), Mrs G Newell (Legal and Property Services), Mr J Meeker (Forward Planning), Ms E Burt (Forward Planning), Mr P Tilley (Wiltshire County Council Highways Department) and Ms S Draper (Democratic Services).

626 Public Questions/Statement Time:

There were none.

627 Councillor Questions/Statement Time:

Councillor D Brown, in his capacity as Portfolio Holder for Environment and Transport, gave the Committee an update on the review of street cleansing in parishes and towns which was currently being undertaken in the Northern Area. The update was as follows:

“At our 7th September meeting I provided an up-date on progress with the Street Cleansing Review, and I can now report further.



Awarded in:
Housing Services
Waste and Recycling Services



Maps have now been produced covering every town and village in every parish within the Northern Area. These maps are now being used to produce a comprehensive illustration of all the routine work that we currently do (as opposed to what is on the current contract – and I anticipate there will be some differing results here) – this will include details of the time actually taken on such tasks, resources used and so on. I have emphasised the importance of being accurate in recording what we actually do and the time taken in order to be realistic when it comes to re-writing the schedules and re-allocating resources within the operation.

This task should be completed within the next week or two, and I will then discuss with officers what questions we wish to ask the Parish and Town Councils, which considerations we would like them to discuss, and the best format to use for this exercise. I anticipate that these questions and considerations will ultimately be sent along with a coloured and coded map showing current works in each village or town, together with a duplicate but blank map, on which Parish councils will be asked to highlight their own particular problem areas and to indicate their priorities, etc.

These will be sent out to all Parish and Town Councils in the Northern Area before Christmas, with a request that they be completed and returned to our Street Care Officer by the end of February next year at the latest. I would urge members (who have Parishes within their patch that meet on rather infrequent occasions) to ensure that they are aware of what is going on and the need to complete and return their questionnaires within the timescale.

I will bring an example of the maps, etc., to the December meeting of this Committee so that you can all see what is required.”

Councillor Peach informed the Committee that he had attended several events held by the Royal Artillery as the appointed representative of the Northern Area Committee. He informed members that he had been out on an exercise and had also spent a day with the soldiers and their families and he would bring the notes of the meetings and some photographs to the next meeting.

Councillor Wren informed members that there was some work proposed to runways at Boscombe Down in the near future. He stated that he had been sent a copy of the proposals by letter and would ensure that all Committee members received a copy.

628 Minutes:

Agreed: That the minutes of the last ordinary meeting held on 5th October, 2006 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

629 Declarations of Interest:

Councillor Hewitt declared a personal and prejudicial interest in agenda item 9 - Operational Development on Land At The Rear of Bourne View, Allington and withdrew from the meeting during consideration thereof.

630 Chairman's Announcements:

The Chairman informed members that the Strategic Alliance had considered the process for delivering six-monthly community planning update reports to all area committees. Given the length and detail of these updates it was considered that producing them every six months was a very onerous task and therefore the Alliance was proposing to move to an annual update report.

The Chairman asked members to return their menu choices and cheques for the NAC Xmas lunch to June Moore in Democratic Services as soon as possible.

He also informed members that a special NAC meeting had been arranged for 8th February 2007 at 4.30pm at Glebe Hall, Winterbourne to consider the Porton Down Development Brief/Masterplan following the consultation and to make a recommendation to Cabinet.

The Chairman advised members who had attended the opening of the new CO-OP store in Amesbury earlier that week, that any gifts or hospitality received of a value over £25 must be declared to the Council.

Finally the Chairman drew members' attention to some additional information relating to a previous decision of the Committee contained in the late correspondence.

The whole of the Committee recognised the work that was done by the Area Co-ordinator, Sara Draper, over the last 3 years, and a big thank-you was given by all.

631 Community Safety In The Northern Area

Inspector Sweett, based in Amesbury, gave an update to Committee members on the community safety work ongoing in the Northern Area.

He informed members of the following:

- There were currently four neighbourhood policing teams in place with Police Community Support Officers and Community Beat Managers. Leaflets would be distributed widely to local residents to explain the new arrangements to them. In addition workshops had taken place and the Police would be liaising with local communities to ascertain community priorities.
- Community support was needed to achieve the full benefit of the neighbourhood policing project and members were asked to convey the message to their local communities that this could make a dramatic impact on crime and improve the quality of life for local people.
- It was noted that FarmWatch had ended and there had been a plan several years ago to revive it, but to date no progress had been made. Inspector Sweett undertook to try and develop this scheme.
- Crime statistics for 1st April to 31st October were as follows:
 - There were 778 crimes in the Amesbury section down from 788 in the same period last year.
 - Detection was currently 32.9%. Although this was a reduction on the previous period, it was possibly a result of a new IT system and it was estimated that this figure would improve in the future. Notwithstanding this reduction in detection rates, Amesbury was the second best performing sector for detection of crime in the County.
 - Violent crimes had increased by 43 offences compared to the previous period however, officers had been tackling this type of crime proactively and it was likely that this had led to an increase in reporting of this type of crime.
 - Burglary had increased by seven offences in this quarter. It was likely that one individual was responsible for a series of offences and the Police had a suspect under investigation.
 - There had been a 48% increase in reported drug offences. Inspector Sweett explained that this increase was as a result of his officers taking more proactive action. This had included raiding public houses and the introduction of a field intelligence officer.

Resolved – That Inspector Sweett be thanked for the update.

632 Porton Down Master Plan and Development Brief

Mr K Rigiani, on behalf of Idmiston Parish Council, raised the concerns of the Parish Council that had been formally submitted to the Council as part of the consultation exercise.

The Committee considered the previously circulated report of the Planning Officer, Forward Planning. The Officer also gave a presentation to members outlining the key points of the Development Brief and the Masterplan.

During the discussion that followed the members raised the following comments:

- The expansion of Porton Down was welcomed because of the economic benefits it would bring to the local area.
- The volume and speed of traffic in the village of Idmiston was a problem at the present time and any expansion would make the situation worse.
- Controls over traffic needed to be in place at an early stage to reduce the impact on local residents.
- Concern was expressed over the likely efficacy of any green travel plan for the site. The representative of Wiltshire County Council Highways Department explained that some of the proposed transportation measures being required of the developer were deliberately timetabled for the future rather than immediately. This was done to provide an incentive to make travel plans effective because if the travel plans were effective at reducing traffic then some of the future measures may not be needed thus saving the developers money. It was also noted that given the remote location of the site, the main travel plan measures that would make a difference to overall traffic levels would be car sharing and provision of buses.

- However, it was pointed out that should the travel plans not prove effective, there would be a doubt over the future development of the site.
- The members asked for the figures on the number of DSTL staff relocating to Salisbury from Farnborough permanently and the number that would be commuting from Farnborough before the Development Brief and Masterplan came back to the Committee. It was also noted that whilst the MOD continued to offer generous car allowances, employees were very unlikely to reduce their car use.
- The representative of Wiltshire County Council Highways Department informed the Committee that the Parish Council needed to assist the County Council by encouraging local residents to inform them of where there were particular problems with speeding. It was also noted that it may be possible to impose Traffic Regulation Orders in the future to help mitigate the impact of the expansion of Porton Down on the village, however, local consensus on this would be necessary.
- The members wanted the Masterplan to demonstrate what benefits the development of the site could bring to Salisbury District.
- It was noted that it was very difficult to decide whether or not to adopt the Development Brief and the Masterplan when the future development intentions of the Health Protection Agency were not clear.
- The members sought confirmation that the 1884 planning procedure, which had previously allowed immunity from the normal planning process, was no longer available to the MOD. The Planning Officer confirmed that this procedure had been withdrawn in June 2006 however, there was still a procedure granting immunity for developments concerning national security.
- Members felt that the various organisations at Porton Down needed to liaise to provide a coherent and organised plan for future expansion.
- It was requested that page 41 of the previously circulated Masterplan be revised to include a final bullet point stating "Local concerns about issues arising from transport and traffic should be addressed".

Resolved – that the content of the Porton Down Master Plan and Porton BioScience and Technology Centre Development Brief be noted, and that officers especially note the concerns expressed by members at the meeting, outlined above.

633 Operational Development on Land At The Rear of Bourne View, Allington

Mrs Judd, a neighbour to the above property, spoke in support of enforcement action being pursued.

Mr Prince, on behalf of the owner of the above property, spoke in objection to enforcement action being pursued.

Further to the receipt of these statements and further to a site visit undertaken earlier that day, the Committee considered the previously circulated report of the Head of Development Services together with the schedule of late correspondence circulated at the meeting.

Resolved – that the above matter be referred to the Planning and Regulatory Panel as the Committee did not consider that it was able to make an objective decision on the matter.

634 S/2006/1654 – Erect 5 Flats With 8 Parking Spaces at Land at the Packway. Larkhill, Salisbury, SP4 8PY for N H Developments:

Mr J Atkins, the applicant, spoke in support of the above application.

Mr R Deacons, on behalf of Durrington Parish Council, informed the Committee that the Parish Council had no objection to the above application.

Further to the receipt of these statements and further to a site visit undertaken earlier that day, the Committee considered the previously circulated report of the Head of Development Services together with the schedule of late correspondence circulated at the meeting.

Resolved – that subject to the applicant and all other relevant parties completing the Section 106 Agreement in respect of Policy R2, then the above application be approved for the following reasons:

- (1) The proposal would create five flats with car parking spaces available for each flat. The development would not be detrimental to the existing character of the area, or the amenities of adjoining or future occupiers of the flats. The absence of a ground floor shop in the scheme would not constitute a loss of existing employment opportunities or threaten the ongoing viability of existing shops in the Packway. There would also be no detriment to highway safety, in accordance with the adopted policy provisions of the Salisbury District Local Plan.

And subject to the following conditions

1. The development hereby permitted shall be begun before the expiration of three years from the date of this permission.

Reason: To comply with the provisions of Section 91 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. AS amended by section 51 (1) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (0004 AMENDED)

2. Before development is commenced, a schedule of materials and finishes, and, where so required by the Local Planning Authority, samples of such materials and finishes, to be used for the external wall[s] and roof[s] of the proposed development shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. Development shall be carried out in accordance with the approved details. (D04A)

Reason: To secure a harmonious form of development

3. There shall be no occupation of the flats until the car parking layout has been implemented in accordance with the approved plan (SK01A). The development shall be maintained in this condition thereafter.

Reason: In the interests of highway safety

4. The bathroom window for Flat 4 in the west elevation shall be glazed with obscure glass, and shall have one fixed casement and one opening casement (the north side) which shall open onto The Packway only. The development shall be maintained in this condition thereafter.

Reason: To prevent undue overlooking into rear gardens to the north.

5. None of the flats shall be occupied until the proposed connection to existing mains (in The Packway) for foul sewage disposal has been completed in accordance with the submitted plans.

Reason: To ensure that the development is provided with a satisfactory means of foul drainage.

6. No development shall commence until details of provision for:
i) secure, covered cycle parking, and
ii) waste and recycling bin storage

for each dwelling have been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The development shall be implemented in accordance with the approved details before there is any occupation of the dwellings.

Reason: In the interests of sustainable development

(2) The applicant be informed of the following:

- (1) The applicant/developer is advised that the west elevation bathroom window for Flat 4 should be hinged to open towards The Packway, to prevent occupiers from overlooking gardens to the rear of the development.
- (2) The Committee members were very concerned about the lack of signage indicating where the one-way system began and ended at The Packway, and would like Wiltshire County Council to consider erecting signs to resolve this issue.
- (3) R2 Section 106 Informative
- (4) That the above decision has been taken in accordance with the following policies of the adopted Salisbury District Local Plan:

Policy	Purpose
G1 & G2	General Principles for Development
D2	Design
G12 & G13	MOD Land
R2	Public Open Space