

Minutes

Meeting of : Northern Area Committee
Meeting held in : Antrobus House, Amesbury
Date : Thursday 15 November 2007
Commencing at : 4.30 pm

Present:

Councillor C Mills – Chairman
Councillor M Hewitt – Vice-Chairman

Councillors: J Broom, D Brown, M Lee, I Mitchell, J Noeken, J Smale, J Spencer, I West, F Westmoreland and G Wright.

Councillor Paul Clegg was present in his role as Portfolio Holder for Planning and addressed the committee on the item set out under minute 52 below (Community Leadership and Governance).

Apologies: Councillors S Dennis and K Wren, Parish Councillor D Winter (Figheldean)

County Councillors: M Baker (Durrington & Bulford)

Parish Councillors: G Burt (Bulford), R Fisher (Amesbury), S Stubbs (Newton Toney)

Dennis Edwards -Tenant's Panel Representative

Inspector Martyn Sweett – Wiltshire Constabulary

Officers: Adam Madge (Principal Planning Officer), J Ferguson (Legal and Property Services), A Crampton (Partnership Team Manager), J McClay (Environmental Health Manager), J Howles (Area Team leader), S Milton (Principal Democratic Services Manager), P Trenell (Democratic Services Officer), P Tilley (Wiltshire County Council).

45. Public Questions/Statement Time:

There were none.

46. Councillor Questions/Statement Time:

Councillor Hewitt updated the committee on the health of Councillor Wren.

47. Minutes:

Resolved: that the minutes of the last meeting held on 20th September 2007 (previously circulated) be approved as correct record and signed by the Chairman.



Awarded in:
Housing Services
Waste and Recycling Services



48. Declarations of Interest:

County Councillor Mark Baker declared a personal interest in the matter set out under minute 55 (Post Office Closures) due to his ownership of a Post Office and position on the National Federation of SubPostmasters. He remained in the meeting and spoke but did not vote on the matter.

Councillor Smale declared a personal interest in the matter set out under minute 58 below (S2007/2039) as he lived within 100 metres of the site. He remained in the meeting but did not speak or vote on the matter.

Councillor Westmoreland declared a personal interest in the matter set out under minute 58 below (S2007/2039) because he was personally acquainted with the occupants of the property. He remained in the meeting, spoke and voted on the matter.

49. Chairman's Announcements:

The chairman reminded the committee that the Northern Area Christmas lunch would take place at the Antrobus Arms Hotel ahead of the committee's next meeting on 13th December.

50. Solstice Park to Bulford Footway:

The committee questioned Phil Tilley of Wiltshire County Council on the need to provide a footpath between Bulford and Solstice Park. Some members expressed the view that a major overhaul to the roads in that area was necessary, and that a footpath and cycleway should be part of a larger carriageway improvement project.

Resolved: that the Northern Area Committee wish to see radical carriageway improvements to the C32 between Bulford and Solstice Park, to include a footway and cycleway, and ask Wiltshire County Council to investigate and give a progress report within the next twelve months.

51. Community Policing Update:

Inspector Martyn Sweett updated the committee on the crime statistics in the local area and answered the committee's questions.

52. Community Leadership and Governance:

The Portfolio Holder for Planning updated the committee on the process of transition to unitary government in Wiltshire and received questions. Councillor Clegg informed the committee that a timetable for transition, including Salisbury District Council's internal plans for consulting Town and Parish Councils, would be produced as soon as the necessary information was available from Wiltshire County Council.

Resolved: that an update on the transition to unitary government become a standing item on future Northern Area Committee agendas.

53. Licensing Procedure:

The committee considered a brief presentation from the Environmental Health Manager in conjunction with previously circulated background information. During discussion it was requested that Parish and Town Councils be distributed the weekly e-mail currently sent to all responsible authorities containing details of all applications received across the district. The Environmental Health manager also agreed to circulate a leaflet to all Parish and Town Councils detailing the options open to ensure licence conditions are enforced.

54. South Wiltshire Area Grants applications – 2007/8 Tranche 2:

The committee considered the previously circulated recommendations of the SWAG review panel.

Resolved: that the application be approved.

55. Post Office Closures:

The committee received a verbal briefing on proposed Post Office closures from Councillor Martin Lee. County Councillor Mark Baker addressed the committee drawing on his experience as a member of the National Federation of SubPostmasters. It was felt that all councillors should take responsibility for investigating the accuracy of proposed closures in their ward.

Resolved: that a task group be established under the Chairmanship of Councillor Martin Lee to investigate the closure plans and report back to Northern Area Committee.

56. Community Update:

Councillor Brown requested that the GVA Grimley Retail Needs Study be brought before the Northern Area Committee.

Resolved: that the committee considers the GVA Grimley Retail Needs Study at their meeting of 13th December 2007.

Councillor Mills updated the committee on his work with the Village Halls Association. Three village halls within the local area were currently seeking funding and he would report back to the committee with any updates.

Councillor Westmoreland reminded the panel that the Mayor of Amesbury was to open the shops around Stonehenge Walk on Friday 23rd November.

57. Diversion of Bridleway 29:

The committee considered the attached report of the Head of Forward Planning & Transportation and the Area Team Leader. During discussion members registered their discontent with the quality of the plan submitted by Wiltshire County Council.

Resolved: that the committee approve of the diversion in principle, but wish to see consideration given to the inclusion of a controlled pedestrian crossing at point A.

58. S/2007/2039 – Single storey extension to provide an additional bedroom & en-suite facilities to allow an increase in occupancy from 8 to 9 residents at 101 Countess Road, Amesbury, Wiltshire SP4 7AT for Archidraft Design:

The committee considered a verbal presentation from the Principal Planning Officer in conjunction with the previously circulated officer's report and a site visit held earlier in the day. Mr G Dupre, a local resident, spoke in opposition to the application.

Resolved: that the application be refused for the following reasons:

i) Although the proposed extension itself is relatively modest in its scale, it is being added to a property that has been significantly extended in the past. Previous extensions to enlarge the property have resulted in the unbalancing of the semi-detached pair to the point that adding another extension would detrimentally impact on the appearance of both properties. As a result, it is considered that on balance, the proposed extension although relatively small would result in the over development of this semi-detached property, which would significantly unbalance this pair of semi-detached properties to the detriment of their overall appearance, contrary to policy D3 of the adopted Salisbury District Local Plan.

ii) Contrary to the following policy/policies of the adopted Salisbury District Local Plan: D3 – Design

59. S/2007/2079 – Change of use from A1 to A5 at 44 Salisbury Street, Amesbury, Salisbury, SP4 7HD for Reef Estates Ltd:

The committee considered a verbal presentation from the Principal Planning Officer in conjunction with the previously circulated officer's report. Mrs W Penton-Bright of the Beverly Hills Residents Association spoke in opposition to the application. Mr S Dearing spoke in favour of the application on behalf of Reef Estates.

Resolved:

- 1) that the application be referred to the Planning and Regulatory Panel;
- 2) that the committee recommend refusal for the following reasons:

i) The proposed location of the development in the primary shopping frontage is considered inappropriate by reason of the nature and character of the activity taking place as there would be little activity during daytime hours, contrary to the predominant character of Salisbury Street and policy S1 (iv) of the adopted local plan. It would also be contrary to the aims and objectives of the Amesbury Community Strategic plan (2006-2016) and its goal to promote Amesbury as a great place to shop, work and visit.

ii) The primary street frontage of Salisbury Street already contains a significant number of non retail uses and as such it is considered that this additional A5 use would unbalance the existing uses within that street to the detriment of the vitality and variety of the street as a whole and as such the proposal is contrary to policy S1 (iii) of the adopted local plan.

iii) The proposed use by reason of its impact on residents through noise of customers and delivery vehicles accessing the site at unsociable hours would it is considered adversely effect the amenity of neighbouring properties contrary to policies S1 (v) and G2 (vi) of the adopted local plan.

*The meeting closed at 7.52 pm
Members of the public present: 5*