

Minutes

Meeting of : Northern Area Committee
Meeting held in : Antrobus House, Amesbury
Date : Thursday 28 August 2008
Commencing at : 4.30 pm

Present:

Councillor M A Hewitt – Chairman
Councillor D W Brown – Vice-Chairman

Councillors: J Broom, S L Dennis, C G Mills, I M Mitchell, J C Noeken, J F Smale, J R G Spencer, F Westmoreland, I C West, K C Wren, G Wright

Parish Councillors: P Fisher (Idmiston), R Fisher (Amesbury), D Healing (Durrington), S Stubbs (Newton Toney)

Apologies: Councilor M Lee

Officers: G Newell (Principal Solicitor), E Milton, J Sage and A Minting (Conservation Officers), S Hughes (Senior Planning Officer), P Trenell (Senior Democratic Services Officer)

192. Public Questions/Statement Time:

There were none.

193. Councillor Questions/Statement Time:

There were none.

194. Minutes:

Councillor Westmoreland asked that his dissent be recorded under minute 187 (planning application S/2008/0717).

Resolved: that subject to the above amendment the minutes of the meeting held on 31 July 2008 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

195. Declarations of Interest:

There were none.

196. Chairman's Announcements:

There were none.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



CUSTOMER SERVICE EXCELLENCE

Awarded in:
Housing Services
Waste and Recycling Services



197. Community Police Update:

Inspector Martyn Sweett of Wiltshire Constabulary updated members on local crime figures. He reported that there had been a 5% decrease in crime compared with the same period (April to August) last year and that the local detection rate was running at 30%, one of the best rates in the county.

The committee thanked Inspector Sweett for good work with reference to speeding at Archer's Gate, crime in Shrewton and anti-social behaviour in Durrington. However, it was noted that there was continuing frustration regarding long waiting times when dialling the 0845 number.

Parish Councillor P Fisher raised the problem of parents parking on the pavement outside Idmiston Primary School and Inspector Sweett undertook to look into the matter.

198. Primary Care Centres Update:

Jo Howes (Community Engagement Manager, Wiltshire Primary Care Trust) addressed the committee and explained the proposals for Primary Care Centres in Wiltshire. It was likely that two such centres would be built in Salisbury, but final decisions had not yet been taken by the PCT Board. She emphasised that any changes would be GP-led.

Councillor Hewitt informed members that he had been to visit the Primary Care Centre at Malmesbury and was very impressed. He encouraged other councillors to visit and see the centre in operation.

Phil Matthews of the Wiltshire Local Improvement Network addressed the committee and assured members that as a representative of patients in Wiltshire he was happy with the proposed developments and that the PCT were keeping everyone well informed.

199. Solstice Park Update:

Sarah Hughes (Senior Planning Officer) addressed the committee on the current status of land at Solstice Park. She circulated a map detailing existing consents on building at the site. Members stressed the vulnerability of the Northern Community Area due to the deficiencies of the A303 and asked that Forward Planning and Transportation Unit work in conjunction with the Regional Development Agency to secure improvements.

Cliff Whitley, the Development Manager at Solstice Park addressed the committee and expressed his frustration at the length of time it had taken for some planning applications on the site to be determined. Councillor Westmoreland expressed an intention to raise a question on this matter at Full Council.

Resolved: that the committee ask that the Forward Planning and Transportation Unit investigate what could be done to achieve improvements to the A303 by working in conjunction with the South West Regional Development Agency.

200. Conservation Area Update:

Elaine Milton (Senior Conservation Officer) addressed the committee with regard to the Amesbury Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan. Members expressed a view that they had not been adequately consulted in the formulation of the document.

Resolved: that members wish to see the 'Proposals for Enhancement' from page 23 onwards removed from the main body of the document and included in a separate appendix which clearly identifies them as indicative examples of the type of development that may occur in Amesbury, rather than firm proposals.

201. Regional Spatial Strategy:

Members stressed the importance of the A303 as a regional link to the South West. They also noted that the A303 runs through Amesbury, not Salisbury, as stated in the circulated report

Resolved: that the committee should submit a response to the public consultation of the Regional Spatial Strategy stressing the importance of the A303.

202. Community Update:

Councillor Mitchell informed the Committee that the Amesbury Community Partnership was considering changing its name to the Stonehenge Community Partnership in order to extend its remit and allow cooperation with neighbouring community groups outside of Amesbury.

Councillor Westmoreland noted that the planning applications to build supermarkets at Solstice Park and London Road had both been called in by the Secretary of State. He asked for support of members at the forthcoming planning inquiry, and especially of those from outside Amesbury who saw the development as beneficial to the wider community area.

Councillor Hewitt asked that details of who authorised the archaeological dig in the car park in Amesbury be brought to the next meeting of the committee.

*The meeting closed at: 7:03 pm
Members of the public present: 4*