

Planning and Highways Delegations Committee

Minutes of the Meeting Held on Friday 1 November 2013 at 10.20am in the Edwards room, County Hall

Present: Mr G Nobbs
Mr D Harrison

Also Present: Mr B Bremner
Mr A Grey
Mr A Dearnley
Mr N Dixon

Other Councillors Present: Mr C Aldred
Mr J Childs

Officers: Mr S Faulkner - Principal Infrastructure and Economic Growth Planner
Ms F Croxen – NPLaw
Mrs J Mortimer – Committee Officer

1 Election of Chairman

Mr G Nobbs was elected Chairman of the Planning & Highways Delegations Committee.

Mr Nobbs in the Chair.

2 Apologies

An apology was received from Mr J Joyce.

3 Minutes

The minutes from the meeting held on 22 January 2010 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

The minutes from the meeting held on 14 October 2013 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4 Declarations of Interest

Mr A Grey and Mr J Childs declared interests as they both owned separate businesses in the Great Yarmouth area.

5 Great Yarmouth Borough Council Local Plan: Core Strategy Consultation (Regulation 19) – September 2013.

5.1 The Committee received the report by the Director of Environment, Transport

and Development which outlined to the Committee that this was the final opportunity to comment on the Local Plan before it was submitted to the Secretary of State.

5.2 The following points were noted in response to questions from Members:

- The housing figures set out in the Local Plan Core Strategy had been produced by Great Yarmouth Borough Council and had been taken from the Strategic Housing Market Assessment. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) places the responsibility on LPAs to set their own housing targets as well as encouraging sustainable economic growth and although the levels appeared high they were considered reasonable.
- Evidence would be provided about the impact on the highways surrounding Great Yarmouth during the site specific stage of the process when more detail would be provided and safeguards put in place to alleviate the pressure put on services.
- The distribution of the allocation of housing between affordable and market housing was a matter for Great Yarmouth Borough Council as Housing Authority and was not something Norfolk County Council could comment on as part of this consultation.

5.4 Mr J Childs addressed the Committee as Local Member for East Flegg Division, during which the following questions were raised:

- Schools within the area were already full, so where would children who moved into the area be educated? Also, had the impact on doctors, dentists, etc. in the area been considered?
- With the area included within the consultation subject to possible flooding or being susceptible to cliff erosion, why were these areas being considered for development?
- Where would the additional houses be built?

In response to the questions raised by Mr Childs, the Principal Infrastructure and Economic Growth Planner said that these issues had already been identified and included within the response. He continued by saying that site specifics were not included within the report and these would be considered during that stage of the process. The impact on schools, libraries, and other services were matters for Great Yarmouth Borough Council to consider. These matters could be addressed under the Borough Council's planning obligations policy, which would allow funding to be sought from developers to assist with the costs of providing additional services.

5.5 Mr C Aldred, Local Member for Lothingland Division asked if Parish Council comments would be reflected in the consultation response. The Principal Infrastructure and Economic Growth Planner responded that Parish Council's were statutory consultees and Great Yarmouth Borough Council would take the comments made by Parish Councils in response to the consultation into account at the appropriate time.

5.6 Mr Dearnley asked if there was any real evidence to support the statement that building more housing would encourage economic growth and asked if reports had been carried out to show the long term benefits of additional housing within the NPPF. The Principal Infrastructure and Economic Growth Planner responded that this was an issue for consideration later in the consultation process. At present Norfolk County Council needed to respond with their comments on whether the level of housing could be sustained.

5.7 The Committee **RESOLVED** to recommend that Great Yarmouth Borough Council be informed that Norfolk County Council:

- i) Supported the underlying sustainable principles set out in the Local Plan and the housing levels proposed;
- ii) Considered that the Plan would benefit from (a) providing greater clarity in Policy CS.2 as to the level and distribution of housing in both the Key Service Centres and the Primary Villages; and (b) providing evidence that these housing levels can be sustainable accommodated in order to support the soundness of the plan; and
- iii) Considered that Policy CS.12 would benefit from (a) reference in the supporting text to the Marine Management organisation's emerging Marine Plans; and (b) clarity regarding the County Council's Minerals and Waste role.

CHAIRMAN

The meeting ended at 10.50am.



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