

HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL
7 DECEMBER 2010 AT 6.30 P.M.

PRESENT: MRS. S. FRANCKS - MAYOR
 MR. R. MAYNE - DEPUTY MAYOR

Mr. J.G. Bannister, Mr. P.R. Batty, Mr. P. S. Bessant, Mr. D. C. Bill, Mr. C.W. Boothby, Mr. J. C. Bown, Mr. S. L. Bray, Mrs R. Camamile, Mr. M. B. Cartwright, Mr. D.S. Cope, Mr. W. J. Crooks, Mr. D.M. Gould, Mrs. A. Hall, Mr. P. A. S. Hall, Mr. C.G. Joyce, Mr. C. Ladkin, Mr. M. R. Lay, Mr. K. W. P. Lynch, Ms. W.A. Moore, Mr. K. Morrell, Mr. K. Nichols, Mr. L.J.P. O'Shea, Mrs J. Richards, Dr. A. J. Smith, Mrs. S. Sprason, Mr. B. E. Sutton, Mr. R. Ward, Ms. B. M. Witherford and Mr. D. O. Wright.

Officers in attendance: Mr. S. J. Atkinson, Mrs. R. Ball, Mr. Mark Brymer, Mr. Michael Brymer, Mr. D. Bunker, Mr. R. Crosthwaite, Mr. B. Cullen, Miss L Horton, Mr.S.Kohli, Mr I. Parsons, Mrs. P. I. Pitt, Mrs J. Puffett and Mr. S. Wood.

Prior to commencement of the meeting Members' observed a brief silence in memory of Mick Hill, a long-standing employee in refuse and recycling, who had passed away in October.

333 PRAYER

 The Reverend Andrew Murphy, Barwell Methodist Church, offered prayer.

334 APOLOGIES

 Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Mrs. M. Aldridge, Mr. D.W. Inman and Dr. J.R. Moore.

335 MINUTES (C25)

 Prior to confirmation of the minutes and following a question from a Member the Leader of the Council stated that his response to the question from Mr. Lay at the last meeting had been accurate and that the issue of funding would be better addressed to the County Council.

 It was then moved by Mr. Bray, seconded by Mr. Bill and

RESOLVED - the minutes of the meeting held on 30 September 2010 be confirmed and signed by the Mayor.

336 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

 Personal interests were declared as follows:-

 Mrs. Richards – report number C33.

337 MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor referred to the recent visit to the Borough of representatives of Le Grand Quevilly and to the Council's intention to look into all aspects of its town twinning.

338 QUESTIONS

(a) Question asked by Mrs. J. Richards and addressed to Mr. S.L. Bray

"The new Government has set out many welcome changes to the planning system along with much more realistic objectives in terms of providing necessary housing whilst taking account of the views and needs of local communities.

Despite this the Borough Council seems determined to proceed with its policy of creating two 'Sustainable' Urban Extensions (SUEs) on Greenfield land on the boundaries of Earl Shilton and Barwell in the face of the widespread concerns of local residents about these plans and their general belief that the Council's consultation process has failed to properly engage with the people of these two communities.

It is hard to disagree with the premise that the Borough Council's proposals envisage a massive expansion of both of these settlements without adequate plans for the necessary infrastructure and service provision improvements and certainly without the unqualified support of local residents.

With all this in mind, would the leader agree that this Authority's needs to look again at its whole approach to the SUEs it is planning for the communities of Earl Shilton and Barwell?"

Response from Mr. S.L. Bray

"Thank you Councillor Richards for your question.

Whilst the new Coalition Government has set out its views on the planning system, I would remind you that the clear advice from CLG and the Conservative Minister for Planning at this stage is that the current LDF process continues. No details have been published of any replacement system, nor has any time frame for this been published.

The Council's adopted Core Strategy sets out clearly how growth will be met up until 2026. The Sustainable Urban Extensions for Earl Shilton and Barwell have not only been subject to extensive consultation as part of the LDF Core Strategy process, but have been subject of rigorous examination by a Government Inspector in 2009 and found sound. I have listed below the extent of consultation undertaken so far.

Core Strategy Phase Date	Consultation Carried Out
November – December 2003	Public Consultation and issues papers drawing out public opinion and establishment of a cross-party Member Working Group.
Summer 2005	‘The Shape of Things to Come’ – more detailed consultation to identify development opportunities – feasibility and constraints.
July 2006 (3 July – 15 August)	<p>Core Strategy Preferred Options published for public consultation. This provided a preferred option for major growth based on concentrating most development in the main ‘Hinckley Urban Area’ (including Barwell and Earl Shilton). The document divided the urban core up into a number of sub areas.</p> <p>Exhibitions: Barwell Methodist Church – 1 August 2006, 3-8.30pm Co-op Earl Shilton (trailer) – 8 August 2006, 3.30-9pm Members Workshop – 11 July 2006</p>
September 2007 (24 September – 5 November)	<p>Further development of options and alternatives based on feedback from GOEM.</p> <p>Exhibitions: Earl Shilton Library – 9 October 2007, 5-7pm Co-op Earl Shilton – 13 October 2007, 10am – 1pm Barwell Library – 16 October 2007, 5-7pm</p> <p>Parish Council Meetings (explanation of the proposals and an opportunity to discuss and debate them): Barwell Parish Council – 4 October 2007, 7pm Earl Shilton Parish Council – 16 October 2007, 7.30pm Earl Shilton Parish Council – 30 October 2007, 7.30pm Parish Forum – 6 September 2007</p> <p>Workshops: opportunities to discuss the documents with others:-</p>

	<p>Core Strategy Workshop – 25 October 2007, 6-8pm (Hinckley United Football Club)</p> <p>Barwell Parish Council Workshop – 29 October 2007, 7pm (Meadow Road Community Centre, Barwell)</p> <p>Councillors Workshop – 1 November 2007, 6-8.30pm (Hinckley United Football Club)</p>	
Barwell/Earl Shilton SUE Masterplan Phase Development	Time	Meeting
4 December 2009	2-6pm	Barwell Public Consultation
5 December 2009	10am – 2pm	Barwell Public Consultation
11 December 2009	2-6pm	Earl Shilton Public Consultation
12 December 2009	10am – 2pm	Earl Shilton Public Consultation
25 January 2010	5.30pm	Earl Shilton Town Partnership – Update
17 February 2010	3pm	Earl Shilton Town Council and Methodist Church update
2 March 2010	All Day	Barwell SUE Masterplan Workshop
3 March 2010	All Day	Earl Shilton SUE Masterplan Workshop
8 March 2010	5.30pm	Earl Shilton Town Partnership Update
12 April 2010	5.30pm	Earl Shilton Town Partnership Update
20 April 2010	10.45am	Earl Shilton Town Council and Methodist Church Update
22 April 2010	6pm	Earl Shilton and Barwell Scrutiny
26 April 2010	5.30pm	Earl Shilton Town Partnership Update
24 May 2010	5.30pm	Earl Shilton Town Partnership Update
17 June 2010	10am	Earl Shilton Town Council – Consultation re: Weavers

		Springs access
28 June 2010	5.30pm	Earl Shilton Town Partnership Update
16 August 2010	5.30pm	Earl Shilton Town Partnership Update
2 September 2010	10am	Earl Shilton and Barwell Forward
17 September 2010	5.30pm	Earl Shilton Town Partnership Update
8 October 2010	2-6pm	Barwell Public Consultation
9 October 2010	10am – 2pm	Barwell Public Consultation
15 October 2010	2-6pm	Earl Shilton Public Consultation
16 October 2010	10am – 2pm	Earl Shilton Public Consultation
21 October 2010	10am	Meeting with Barwell Parish Council re Cemetery extension requirement

As you will see, the Council has continued its engagement with residents and stakeholders on the development of the SUE Masterplan. In fact, the Council was recently congratulated by the Earl Shilton Town Council for the level of engagement we have afforded the communities on the proposals. As you will be aware, there was a further recent consultation on revised Masterplans over two weekends in October in Earl Shilton and Barwell and the level of public involvement was good. There is further consultation planned early in the New Year on the Area Action Plan for the SUEs with a final stage programmed for Summer 2011, prior to the submission of the document to the Secretary of State. Beyond this, there will be much more detailed consultation on future planning applications for the SUEs. I am also pleased to report that the Developer Consortiums for both Barwell and Earl Shilton have agreed to set up local stakeholder forums to meet with local residents, businesses and politicians. This should commence early in the New Year.

I share your desire to ensure adequate plans are made for necessary infrastructure and service provision. I can confirm that progress is being made with the support of Prospect Leicestershire to draw up an infrastructure plan that will identify the community facilities and infrastructure required with the development. This will form part of the AAPs which will be considered by Council and subject to consultation early in the New Year.

On the basis of my comments above, I consider this Authority is taking the right approach to its planning for the development of the SUEs and regeneration of Earl Shilton and Barwell.”

Following a supplementary question from Mrs. Richards Mr Bray indicated that he was happy to facilitate a meeting between Mrs. Richards and officers from this Authority and from the County Council to discuss future infrastructure and service provision.

(b) Question asked by Mr. W.J. Crooks and addressed to Mr. S.L. Bray

“In a recent leaders speech, Councillor Bray announced that the Council would be taking a more rigorous approach to tackling Planning Enforcement.

As Councillor Bray is the Executive Member for Planning, would he kindly advise me what steps/action has been taken so far?”

Response from Mr. S.L. Bray

“May I thank Cllr Crooks for this opportunity to update Members of the work being undertaken to tackling planning enforcement within the Development Services Department.

Monies have been made available from the Housing and Planning Delivery Grant to support the enforcement process. This money has allowed for the appointment of a consultant to address the backlog of enforcement complaints and provide support to the trainee enforcement officer. This has resulted in the backlog being reduced from 255 cases in August to its current level of 130 open cases as of last week.

The consultant is also looking at long-term enforcement cases to seek a resolution and also to look at cases that were closed but have been re-opened following concerns from some Members.

She is also helping to draft an enforcement protocol on which we are seeking to consult with the community early next year before taking it to Planning Committee. This protocol will look at how the section responds to enforcement complaints as well as setting out the process for resolving/closing cases and reporting progress to Members.

Councillor Crooks will be aware that the manager of the enforcement section took early retirement on the grounds of ill health in the middle of this year. A decision was taken to remove the post of enforcement manager and have two enforcement officers reporting directly to the Development Management Manager. These jobs have had to be drawn up and evaluated. This has resulted in an existing post being re-graded and the other post being advertised last week with a view to interviewing in late December and having a person in post in January/early February 2011.

It will be the first time for some time that there have been 2 full time enforcement officers working purely on a caseload and it is envisaged that this will allow for a more pro-active enforcement team closely linked to development control officers.

Members will be aware that officers recently successfully undertook direct action at The Klondyke and are also pursuing other breaches of control through the courts.

I should remind Members that a breach of planning control is not in itself an offence. There is always an option for the Authority to consider retrospective applications which have to be assessed on their own merit. I should also state that enforcement action should only be taken when it is expedient in the public interest to do so and planning permission would not ordinarily be granted. Having said that the Authority will continue to investigate all breaches of planning control with vigour and take the appropriate action where necessary. I look forward to a fully staffed and resourced enforcement section and the revised practices that will be brought forward in the early part of next year following the measures being put in place.“

(c) Question asked by Mr. P.R. Batty and addressed to Mr. S.L. Bray

“Bearing in mind that it was no secret the Hinckley & Bosworth Local Plan was to be replaced after 2006 with a Local Development Framework to cover a 20 year period 2006 – 2026, can the Leader please enlighten the Council why no provision was made by the Council to clearly identify a continuous 5 year housing land supply from 2006.

This is a particularly important question in that recent events have proved that having left this vacuum, strategic and valuable Green Wedges, Green Belt and other important Green Spaces throughout the Borough have been left to the mercy of the ambition of resurgent developers who are now successfully applying for planning permissions that would not normally be granted had this vacuum not existed.

The irony is that in all probability the majority of these speculative applications when granted will be “mothballed” until a stronger housing market re-emerges after a nominal “start” has been made on the sites.”

Response from Mr. S.L. Bray

“Thank you for your question on this matter Councillor Batty. The national requirement for the provision of a five year housing supply has been in existence for a number of years and is a requirement of Planning Policy Statement 3 ‘Housing’. The adopted Hinckley & Bosworth Local Plan identified housing and employment allocations to help deliver this Councils’ target set by the former County Structure Plan. To meet a five year supply relies on housing allocations coming forward and planning permissions being granted. The Regional Spatial Strategy has set targets to 2026. The Council is in a position through

its adopted Core Strategy to demonstrate how these can be met to assist in delivering a five year supply. The fact that we have been able to advance the Core Strategy positions the Council effectively to meet this requirement, as we are now able to bring forward major new allocations in the form of the SUE's that can facilitate planning applications for new housing and related facilities. The key issue is timing. There is an argument that if we had not commenced this work on the LDF and advanced to the current position, our position on five year supply could get worse.

A green belt designation does not bestow the administrative boundary of the Hinckley and Bosworth or even the County. There is not a policy vacuum; there are still national planning policy statements, saved Local Plan policies, and Adopted Core Strategy and Supplementary Planning Documents. The Judicial Review at the High Court in which CALA Homes challenged Eric Pickles decision to revoke Regional Spatial Strategies was found that the Government acted unlawfully and therefore illegal. As a result, the Regional Plan remains a material consideration."

Following a supplementary question from Mr. Batty Mr. Bray indicated that he would arrange for a written response on housing supply between 2006-2009 to be sent to Mr. Batty.

(d) Question asked by Mr. P.R. Batty and addressed to Mr. S.L. Bray

"Notwithstanding the laudable motion to be proposed by Cllr Bray at the December 2010 Borough Council meeting, would the Leader agree that the current 5 year housing land supply figure needs to be robustly challenged with Central Government as this figure was based on an existing formula and normal housing market supply and demand projections at a time when the housing market has been anything but normal.

Bearing in mind the Global Financial Crisis and the resultant once in a lifetime deep recession which led to a collapse in the housing market, it is clear that the methodology used (based largely on projected demand) to arrive at the 5 year housing land figure would have been fundamentally flawed.

This assumption is supported by the housing market downturn, with new build starts at an all time low during the height of the recession. Developers with severe cash flow pressures were unable or unwilling to bring new sites forward for planning and many existing sites were "mothballed".

Consequently, during the last 18 months, an average downturn in the sale and completion of new build in excess of 40%. These crucial factors have directly contributed to the shortfall in the current "false" 5 year housing land figure.

Therefore, does the Leader agree that Local Authorities and communities in their area should not be harshly penalised for circumstances entirely beyond their control and that developers should not be encouraged to embark on a frenzy of Green Space land grabbing by unreflective and unhelpful Government planning policies and guidelines.

Whilst this is unlikely that the Coalition Government will agree, as they should to a moratorium on the 5 year housing land supply, does the Leader agree that in any event this Council should make robust representation to Government that in light of the direct affect of the recession and the housing market downturn on the 5 year housing land supply figure, to reduce this figure by a minimum of 20% for the period 2009 – 2012 inclusive?"

Response from Mr. S.L. Bray

"Thank you for your question. I consider the motion I have put before Council sends a clear message to the Coalition Government to remove the requirement for a five year land supply until such time legislation is enacted and implemented to bring about changes in the national planning system.

Whilst I note your scepticism over the likelihood of the Government agreeing this request, I do not consider we should weaken our resolve and suggest reduction in targets at this stage.

I did write to Eric Pickles, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in July this year. The response from the Minister of Housing on behalf of the Secretary of State advised that to reduce our housing targets would need to be based on robust evidence of housing need and population projections. Under the current national system it is unfortunate that economic conditions do not have any bearing on the way housing targets are calculated."

Mr. Gould entered the meeting at 6.47 p.m.

In response to a supplementary question from Mr. Batty Mr. Bray reiterated that he had received an answer from the Rt. Hon. Eric Pickles MP relating to housing figures and could not speculate as to whether the Secretary of State was likely to reduce the five-year housing land supply figure.

339 LEADER'S POSITION STATEMENT

In his presentation the Leader referred to the various items on this evening's agenda. Reference was made to the stringencies which now faced the Council following the Comprehensive Spending Review and the impending financial settlement for 2011-12. Highlighted were some of the Council's recent achievements including

- the redevelopment of the Atkins Building

- joint working with North Warwickshire and Hinckley College on the construction of the new college building
- the Greenfields Industrial development
- the recent opening of the new Hinckley Club for Young People.

In conclusion the Leader reminded Members that on 14 December the Planning Committee would be considering the application for development of the bus station site, which would further regenerate the town.

Finally the Leader paid tribute to street scene employees who, despite the adverse weather, had been able to collect the majority of household rubbish.

340 MINUTES OF SCRUTINY COMMISSION MEETINGS – 16 SEPTEMBER (C26) AND 28 OCTOBER 2010 (C27)

In presenting these Mr. Lay paid tribute to the Commission for its diligence in helping to facilitate the process of reducing the backlog of disabled facilities grants. Also commented upon was the Commission's review of waste collection services and Mr. Lay referred to staff's hard work in delivering a service which demonstrated excellent value for money .

341 YOUTH COUNCIL ACHIEVEMENTS (C28)

Chloe Thompson, Chair and Cassie Stilladay, Vice-Chair attended to give a presentation on the achievements of the Youth Council over the past year. Highlighted were the holding of teen nights at 'Elements' night club, involvement in an inter-country European project in Germany and the annual 'Voice of Young People' conference held at the new Hinckley Club for Young People. Thanks were accorded to Council officers for their support over the year and this was followed by numerous Members complimenting the Youth Council on its impressive list of achievements and initiatives.

It was moved by Ms. Moore, seconded by Dr. Smith and

RESOLVED – the summary of the Youth Council's annual achievements be endorsed.

342 LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN HEALTH ACT 2007 – NEW GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS (C29)

Dr. Smith and Mr. Bray left the meeting at 7.17 p.m. and 7.18 p.m. respectively.

Following an on-line public consultation exercise formal adoption was sought to introduce the Elected Leader and Cabinet model of governance arrangements, as required by the above legislation. The Executive member for Corporate Services indicated that Council needed to resolve this by 31 December 2010 and that the new arrangements would take effect following the Council election in May 2011.

On the motion of Mr. Wright seconded by Mr. Bill it was

RESOLVED –

- (i) the elected Leader and Cabinet Executive model of governance be formally adopted; and
- (ii) the Constitution be amended in consequence of (i), to come into effect from the Council elections in May 2011.

Mr. Bray and Dr. Smith returned to the meeting at 7.20 p.m.

343 PRUDENTIAL CODE AND TREASURY MANAGEMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2009/10 (C30)

As required by the CIPFA code of conduct and Prudential code for Capital Finance in local authorities the Executive member for Finance presented this statutory document to Council for approval.

It was then moved by Mr. Lynch, seconded by Bill and

RESOLVED – the actual Prudential Indicators set out in the report of the Deputy Chief Executive (Corporate Direction) be approved and the Treasury Management Stewardship report for 2009/10 be noted.

344 RE-ALLOCATION OF FLEXIBLE WORKING CAPITAL BUDGETS (C31)

Council approval was sought to transfer the Flexible Working Capital Budget to other capital budgets.

Whilst in agreement with this proposal Members sought reassurance that flexible working was working well and that customers were being well served. Following a suggestion from Mr. Bessant the Executive member for Finance indicated that he was agreeable to the Scrutiny Commission looking flexible working arrangement, subject to the Commission being provided with hard evidence of particular areas which should be examined.

On the motion of Mr. Lynch, seconded by Mr. Bray it was

RESOLVED –

- (i) approval be given to the transfer of unspent flexible working capital budgets to:
 - transformation
 - shared revenues and benefits
 - relocation to the former Fludes site; and
- (ii) the Scrutiny Commission, following receipt of concrete examples of areas which Members consider should be examined, further examine the flexible working process.

345 SHARED REVENUES AND BENEFITS PARTNERSHIP CAPITAL PROJECT EXPENDITURE (C32)

Consequent upon the Council's Council Procedure Rules Members' approval was sought to the above. Capital expenditure was required in order to enhance the infrastructure of the shared revenues and benefits service with Harborough and North West Leicestershire District Councils. There were no additional costs to this Council, which held funding on behalf of the Partnership.

It was moved by Mr. Lynch, seconded by Mr. Bray and

RESOLVED – the capital cost of the infrastructure enhancement to enable the Partnership to use one system, as outlined in paragraph 3.3 of the report of the Deputy Chief Executive (Corporate Direction) be approved.

346 LICENSING ACT 2003 – STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY (C33)

Following endorsement by the Licensing Committee and in accordance with the above legislation Council approval was sought to the above, which needed to be published before 7 January 2011.

On the motion of Mr. Cope, seconded by Mr. Lay it was

RESOLVED – the revised Statement of Licensing Policy 2010 (to be effective for a three-year period) as set out in appendix A to the report of the Deputy Chief Executive (Community Direction) be approved.

Mr. Batty left the meeting at 7.35 p.m., returning at 7.37 p.m.

347 SEXUAL ENTERTAINMENT VENUES (C34)

Again having been endorsed by the Licensing Committee Council was requested to consider the adoption of the amended provisions of schedule 3 to the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 governing 'sexual entertainment venues'.

It was moved by Mr. Cope, seconded by Mr. Bray and

RESOLVED – the following be approved

- (i) the provisions of section 3 to the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 (as amended by section 27 of the Policing and Crime Act 2009) as they relate to the licensing of 'sexual entertainment venues' and that responsibility for the determination of applications for such licences be delegated to the Licensing Committee; and
- (ii) the application fee for the licensing of sexual entertainment venues be set at the same level as those for sex establishment licences.

348 LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK: EARL SHILTON AND BARWELL AREA ACTION PLAN PREFERRED OPTION DOCUMENT (C35)

Having been endorsed by Planning Committee and the Executive this was presented to Council for approval.

Mr. Lynch left the meeting at 7.42 p.m.

Although encouraged by the response rate at the series of public exhibitions Members expressed the importance of securing the intended infrastructure to secure the intended strategy of regenerating Earl Shilton and Barwell . Some members queried whether there had been sufficiently wide consultation although the response on this matter to Cllr Richards question was noted. It was generally accepted, however, that developer contributions arising from the SUE's were the only way to bring about regeneration.

On the motion of Mr. Bray, seconded by Mr. Bill and following a show of hands with 15 Members present voting for the recommendation and 8 against it was

RESOLVED – the Preferred Option document for the Earl Shilton and Barwell Area Action Plan Development Plan document and associated Sustainability Appraisal be approved and a six-week consultation period be held from 7 January – 18 February 2011 inclusive.

349 STREET SCENE SERVICES (C36)

In presenting details of revisions to the service delivery structure the Executive member for Refuse and Recycling commended those involved in these operations and it was unanimously agreed that a formal letter of thanks be sent.

Messrs. Gould and Ladkin left the meeting at 8.16 p.m. and 8.17 p.m. respectively, returning at 8.18 p.m. and 8.20 p.m.

It was moved by Mr. Crooks, seconded by Mr. Bray and

RESOLVED – the following be agreed:-

- (i) the purchase of new waste collection receptacles from the Waste Management Reserve; and
- (ii) the revised operational service delivery structure for Street Scene Services and subsequent financial savings.

350 MOTIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 13

(a) From Mr. D.S. Cope

“Council welcomes the news that the government has committed itself to the key Liberal Democrat pledge of providing more social housing by scrapping the Housing Revenue Account subsidy system.

In particular, it welcomes the council retaining income from rents on council properties, rather than seeing the rental income from tenants going to Whitehall for them to recycle to other council tenants elsewhere in the country.

Council believes this new policy will lead to a much-needed boost for repair and maintenance of existing council properties, and for the building of new social housing.

It congratulates all who worked hard for this change in approach, including the Local Government Association and those involved with the "My Rent went to Whitehall" campaign

Council resolves to:

1. Condemn the previous Labour Government for its 13-year-long failure to reform the HRA system, even when it had viable proposals before it in its last year, which meant that fewer council homes were built in their term of office than in any comparable period since the Second World War.
2. Welcome the Coalition announcement that they plan to build 150,000 affordable homes to start helping some of the 1,763,000 families stuck on local council waiting lists left by the previous government."

Following a vote by means of a show of hands with 15 Members voting in favour of the motion, 10 against and 2 abstentions it was moved by Mr. Cope, seconded by Mr. Crooks and

RESOLVED – the Motion be declared CARRIED.

(b) From Mr. S L Bray

"I wish to call on Council to express its deep concern over the national requirement for Councils' set out in Planning Policy Statement 3 'Housing', to provide a five year housing supply. Despite the changes being proposed by Government to the national planning system, this requirement still stands and appears to be an overriding issue that is taking precedent in the determination of applications and appeals. This is both contrary to the 'Localism' agenda and is harming local communities.

I therefore ask the Council to call on Government to revoke this requirement."

Dr. Smith and Mrs. Richards left the meeting at 8.48 p.m., returning at 8.50 p.m. and 8.52 p.m. respectively.

Having been proposed by Mr. Bray and seconded by Mr. Bill it was

RESOLVED – unanimously – this Motion was supported.

351 MATTER FROM WHICH THE PUBLIC MAY BE EXCLUDED

It was moved by Mr. Bray, seconded by Mr. Bill and

RESOLVED – in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the remaining item of business on the ground that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 2, 3 and 10 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of that Act.

352 DRAFT RESPONSIVE REPAIRS BUSINESS CASE (C37)

Presented to Members were options for the future provision of the Responsive Repairs Contract.

Mr. Bill left the meeting at 8.57 p.m., returning at 9.02 p.m.

Members were generally fully supportive of the case being put forward, whilst having regard to satisfying the needs of the community. Following a lengthy debate it was moved by Mr. Cope, seconded by Mr. Bray and

RESOLVED – option 4 set out in the business case and arrangements for the future provision of the Council's Responsive Repairs Service be agreed.

(The meeting closed at 9.25 pm)