

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL
SCRUTINY COMMISSION
14TH JULY 2005 AT 6.30 P.M.

PRESENT: Mr. M.R. Lay - Chairman

Mr. D.R Bown, Mrs. R. Camamile, Mrs. M.J. Crooks, Mr. W.J. Crooks, Mrs. D. Finney, Mr. D.E. Hinton, Mr. K.A.J. Hunnybun, Mrs. E.A. Spencer and Mr. J.E. Stanley.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4.4, Mrs. C.M. Claridge and Mr. N.B.L. Davis also attended the meeting.

Officers in attendance: Mr. P.F. Cash, Mr. B. Cullen, Mr. R. Palmer, Mrs. P.I. Pitt and Mr. T.M. Prowse.

102 APOLOGIES & SUBSTITUTIONS

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Mr. D.C. Bill, Mr. R.D. Ellis, Mrs. S. Francks, Mr. K.W.P. Lynch, Mrs. M.L. Sherwin and Mr. R. Ward and the following substitutions authorised in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4.3:-

Mr. D.R. Bown for Mr. Ellis
Mrs. Crooks for Mrs. Francks
Mr. Crooks for Mr. Lynch
Mrs. Finney for Mr. Bill
Mr. Hinton for Mrs. Sherwin

103 MINUTES (SC9)

On the motion of Mrs. Spencer, seconded by Mrs. Camamile, it was

RESOLVED - the minutes of the meeting held on 2nd June 2005 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

104 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mr. J.E. Stanley declared a personal interest in Report C.10 (Draft Hinckley Town Centre Renaissance Masterplan) in that a family member owned property in that vicinity but indicated that his interest related solely to Area 8 of the development area.

105 DRAFT HINCKLEY TOWN CENTRE RENAISSANCE MASTERPLAN (SC10)

Prior to consideration of the final draft Consultation Report, the Commission received a detailed presentation from Officers relating to the concept plan for the proposed development.

Mr. Stanley, having previously declared an interest in Area 8, left the meeting at 6.42 p.m., returning at 6.47 p.m.

Following discussion regarding the possible provision of a swimming pool up to 50 metres at the proposed new Leisure Centre, Mr. Stanley again left the meeting at 7.13 p.m. Reference was made to the strong developer interest and to the need to be sympathetic to the Conservation Area.

Mr. Stanley returned to the meeting at 7.20 p.m., leaving again at 7.37 p.m. Mrs. Claridge left the meeting at 7.39 p.m., at which time Mr. Stanley returned.

Following consideration by Cabinet on 27th July 2005 there would be a further public consultation exercise and thereafter a more detailed report, ideally with some consideration of costings, would be brought back to the Scrutiny Commission. Members were of the opinion that Cabinet should be recommended to support a vigorous campaign to speed up the Masterplan programme.

On the motion of Mrs. Camamile, seconded by Mr. Hinton, it was

RESOLVED -

- (i) The proposals outlined and summarised in the report of the Deputy Chief Executive relating to the Hinckley Town Centre Renaissance Masterplan documents (i.e. Action Plan, Baseline Report and Baseline Report Appendices) be agreed; and
- (ii) The views of the Scrutiny Commission be reported to the meeting of Public Cabinet on 27th July 2005 and adoption be sought to the Hinckley Town Centre Renaissance Plan for consultation purposes and as a technical working document, used to inform development control decisions and Local Development Framework Policy, until such time as the final document is approved in the autumn of 2005.

106 SECTION 106 AGREEMENTS AND DEVELOPER CONTRIBUTIONS (SC11)

A revised version of the report of the Head of Culture & Development was circulated at the meeting. The Commission was requested to assess current policies and procedures and to consider a review of current arrangements. This report was also to be considered by Cabinet on 27th July 2005.

The suggestion was made that officers explore the possibility of extending time limits within Legal Agreements (to 10 years as against the current 5), and that in an attempt to provide additional community facilities within villages, developers be asked to agree that Section 106 monies be used for alternative community facilities where it was not possible to deliver improvements in play and open space provision not earmarked for specific purposes. Additionally when the current Play and Open Space Guide was revised in an attempt to provide greater flexibility in the use of resources, consideration could be given to extending the distance that a facility could be provided from an application site.

On the motion of Mr. Crooks, seconded by Mrs. Spencer, it was

RESOLVED - the recommendations contained within the report of the Head of Culture & Development be supported and the suggestions of the Scrutiny Commission outlined above be conveyed to the Cabinet.

Mr. Hinton left the meeting at 8.27 p.m.

107 IMPROVEMENT PLAN AND IMPROVEMENT MEASURES - PERFORMANCE IN APRIL AND MAY 2005 (SC12)

In updating Members on the above, the Deputy Chief Executive indicated that when future statistics were produced, comparisons would be provided of the previous year's figures and details circulated to the Commission on a quarterly basis.

Mr. Hunnybun left the meeting at 8.30 p.m., returning at 8.32 p.m.

In welcoming the introduction of quarterly reports, it was moved by Mr. Lay, seconded by Mrs. Camamile and

RESOLVED - the key performance information report be noted.

108 CORPORATE PLAN - RURAL AREAS THEME - PLANNING THE REVIEW (SC13)

Arising from the Scrutiny Commission's review of the Corporate Plan and the agreed need to examine the impact and relevance of such a Plan in rural areas, Members were requested to approve a suggested timetable for this within the Scrutiny Commission work programme. The desirability of seeking extensive local knowledge throughout a wide consultation exercise was expressed, together with the need to call upon the expertise of high quality external witnesses.

On the motion of Mr. Bown, seconded by Mrs. Camamile it was

RESOLVED

- (i) The timetable for the review be approved.
- (ii) The suggested areas for consideration outlined in the report form the basis of the investigation; and
- (iii) The Chairman of the Scrutiny Commission and the Chairmen of the Select Committees (or their nominees, ensuring representation from each Group) be given delegated authority to approve, in consultation with the Chief Executive (or his nominee), detailed arrangements and issues which arise between Scrutiny Commission meetings.

109 MINUTES OF COUNCIL SERVICES SELECT COMMITTEE - 30TH JUNE 2005 (SC14)

The Commission, in receiving the above, again raised concerns with regard to Members' attendance at meetings generally.

110 SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME (SC15)

The Commission, having been presented with the above, it was moved by Mrs. Camamile, seconded by Mr. Crooks and

RESOLVED - the suggested areas for scrutiny be noted.

111 MATTERS FROM WHICH THE PUBLIC MAY BE EXCLUDED

It was moved by Mr. Stanley, seconded by Mrs. Camamile 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 paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of that Act.

112 COMPARATIVE SALARIES OF REFUSE COLLECTION OPERATIVES (SC16)

Arising from a request for information from a Member, the Commission considered details provided by the Head of Health and Environment on rates paid to refuse operatives in certain areas within the County. On the motion of Mr. Crooks, seconded by Mr. Lay it was

RESOLVED -

- (i) the report be noted pending the outcome of this Council's Job Evaluation exercise; and
- (ii) a report be brought back to the Commission in six months time regarding the impact of the Job Evaluation process on refuse operatives.

(The meeting closed at 8.55 p.m.)