

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL  
SCRUTINY COMMISSION  
5 OCTOBER 2006 AT 6.30 PM

PRESENT: Mr M R Lay - Chairman  
Mrs R Camamile - Joint Vice-Chairman  
Mr K W P Lynch - Joint Vice-Chairman

Mr D C Bill, Mrs C M Claridge, Mrs M J Crooks, Mr R D Ellis, Mr D E Hinton, Mr K A J Hunnybun and Mrs M L Sherwin.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4.4, Mr M O Bevins, Mr N B L Davis, Mr R J Furniss and Mrs R W Wright also attended the meeting.

Officers in attendance: Mr S Atkinson, Mr Michael Brymer, Mr P Cash, Mr B Cullen, Mrs T Darke, Mr S Jones, Mr S Kohli, Miss R Owen and Mr T M Prowse.

Also in attendance: Mr O Savage, Consultant.

270 APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTIONS

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Mr P R Batty, Mrs D Finney, Ms J E Price, Mrs E A Spencer and Mr J E Stanley and the substitution of Mrs Crooks for Mrs Finney authorised in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4.3

271 MINUTES (SC39)

On the motion of Mr Ellis, seconded by Mr Hunnybun, it was

RESOLVED – the minutes of the meeting held on 31 August 2006 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

272 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No interests were declared at this stage.

273 SCRUTINY REVIEW – COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP – RESEARCH PHASE 1 – FINANCE AND OUTCOMES (SC40)

Oliver Savage, the Consultant supporting the review, presented a report to Members which set out the income and expenditure for the Community Safety Partnership and associated community safety activity in the Borough and reviewed the impact of this spending on community safety.

RESOLVED – the report be noted.

274 LEICESTERSHIRE MINERALS DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK AND LEICESTERSHIRE AND LEICESTER WASTE DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK PREFERRED OPTIONS (SC41)

Members received a report which informed them of the Leicestershire Minerals Development Framework and Leicestershire and Leicester Waste Development Framework Preferred Options.

Concern was expressed with regard to recommendations 3 and 6, and attention was drawn to the proximity of Area B of the quarry to the village of Newbold Verdon and the detrimental impact this would have on residents. It was also felt that insufficient information had been provided on what would happen to the sites afterwards, for example if they would be used for landfill.

In respect of the Waste Development Framework, it was stated that there was a poor road infrastructure around Nailstone and more information was needed about the plans to improve this. The possibilities of using the waste to produce energy were raised.

It was moved by Mr Ellis, seconded by Mr Bill and

RESOLVED – the recommendations contained within the report be supported with the exception of:

- (i) Recommendation 3 to read: the Council cannot comment on the proposal for a high-tech treatment facility on the Nailstone Colliery site without further information on the detail of the proposal including commitments on infrastructure provision, the economic and environmental sustainability and energy generation for the Borough as a whole and seeks this information from the County Council;
- (ii) Recommendation 11 to read: the Scrutiny Commission raises serious concerns that the northern part of Area B encroaches too close to the settlement boundary of Newbold Verdon. Clear mitigation measures need to be included to offset environmental impact for the nearby residents in terms of noise, dust and transport movement. Members have the same serious concerns with Site A and the effects this would have on Cadeby.

275 STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PLANNING INSPECTORATE REPORT (SC42)

Members received a report which advised of the report received from the Planning Inspectorate approving the Council's draft Statement of Community Involvement subject to a series of recommendations.

RESOLVED – it be recommended that the Planning Inspectorate's recommendations be incorporated into the report and the SCI be published as a part of the Local Development Framework.

276 RURAL AREAS REVIEW – PROGRESS WITH IMPLEMENTATION (SC43)

The Scrutiny Commission were provided with information on the progress of implementation of the Rural Areas Scrutiny Review and future planned actions.

Members were happy to see support for parishes in the development of car parks being continued. Members welcomed the report and hoped it would ensure that rural areas were given equal consideration; however a Member felt that this should not be to the detriment of the towns within the Borough.

RESOLVED – the report be noted.

277 GRANT FUNDED SUPPORT (SC44)

Members were informed of grant funded support given to external organisations and the process involved in evaluating an application. Members felt that the report did not contain enough detail about the processes and method of review, and asked that it be withdrawn and a revised report brought to a future meeting.

RESOLVED – the report be withdrawn.

278 DECISIONS BY PLANNING COMMITTEE (SC45)

The Commission received a report which informed them of the number of recommendations of officers to the Planning Committee overturned by Members of the Committee over the previous three months. It was agreed that these reports be brought to the Commission every 6 months.

It was felt that particular applications should not be identified in the report, which would ensure that discussion was focused on statistics and the continued relevance of policies, rather than scrutinising individual decisions.

RESOLVED –

- (i) reports be brought to the Scrutiny Commission every 6 months;
- (ii) reports concentrate on statistics and policies, rather than identifying particular applications;
- (iii) the report be noted.

279 PROPOSED CONSTITUTION REVISIONS RE PLANNING COMMITTEE AND PROCEDURES (SC46)

A report was presented to the Commission which sought its views on proposed revisions to the Council's Constitution insofar as it relates to the Planning Service. It was recommended that the Site Visit procedure should be tightened, training for members of the Planning Committee and those likely to substitute should be mandatory, and group meetings before Committee be stopped.

Members felt that more information needed to be provided to Parish Councils on how site visits were conducted. It was also suggested that training on planning law be provided to Parish Councils, but it was noted that this could not be compulsory but could be offered to them.

It was agreed that there should be a briefing for all Members before the Planning Committee meeting in order to receive late items.

RESOLVED – the following changes to the Constitution be recommended to Council:

- (i) the site visit procedure be tightened;
- (ii) mandatory training for members of the Planning Committee and possible substitutes be arranged as part of the Member Development Programme;
- (iii) group meetings no longer take place before the Planning Committee, but a briefing for all Members be held;
- (iv) information on the conduct of site visits be provided to Parish Councils;
- (v) training with regard to planning be offered to Parish Councils.

280 CULTURAL STRATEGY 2007-2012 (SC47)

Members received a report which presented the proposed Cultural Strategy 2007-2012 and outlined the adoption process.

It was suggested that emphasis be put on green space, and canal walks and cycle ways. It was also felt that equalities issues were not adequately addressed in the strategy and few minority groups were mentioned.

RESOLVED – the above comments be taken into consideration.

281 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME AND CABINET FORWARD PLAN (SC48 and SC49)

Members gave consideration to the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme for 2006/2007 and the Cabinet Forward Plan October 2006 to January 2007. It was stated that the Disaster Recovery Plan would not go to the Finance & Audit Services Select Committee on 23 October.

RESOLVED – the work programme and Cabinet Forward Plan be noted subject to the above amendment.

282 MINUTES OF SELECT COMMITTEES / SCRUTINY PANELS

Minutes of the following meetings were received:

- (i) Housing Task Group, 30 August 2006 (SC50);
- (ii) Finance and Audit Services Select Committee, 11 September 2006 (SC51).

283 GYPSIES AND TRAVELLERS – STRATEGIC APPROACH TO TACKLING SITE PROVISION AND ENFORCEMENT (SC52)

A report was presented to the Scrutiny Commission which set out a new strategic approach to tackling Gypsy and Traveller issues in the Borough. It was noted that appendix B to this report was exempt and the recommendations contained within the report would be considered separately in private session.

RESOLVED – the report be endorsed and recommendations contained in the report be supported.

284 MATTER FROM WHICH THE PUBLIC MAY BE EXCLUDED

It was moved by Mrs Camamile, seconded by Mr Hunnybun 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 and 10 of Part I of Schedule 12A of that Act.

285 GYPSIES AND TRAVELLERS – STRATEGIC APPROACH TO TACKLING SITE PROVISION AND ENFORCEMENT – APPENDIX B (SC52)

Members were provided with a progress report in relation to unauthorised developments on a travellers' site.

RESOLVED – A combination of options A and B be supported subject to being with in the time limit for taking action.

(The meeting closed at 9.07 pm)