

HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

BARWELL & EARL SHILTON SCRUTINY GROUP

8 FEBRUARY 2012 AT 6.30 PM

PRESENT: Mr K Nichols - Chairman

Mr RG Allen, Mr DM Gould, Mr MS Hulbert, Mr C Ladkin, Mrs J Richards and Mrs H Smith

Officers in attendance: Richard Crosthwaite, Rebecca Owen and Simon Wood

1 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

Councillor Nichols was confirmed as Chairman for the remainder of the municipal year.

2 TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE GROUP

Members of the group were reminded of the Terms of Reference which were agreed by the Scrutiny Commission on 15 January 2012.

3 WORK PROGRAMME

Members received an update on the Area Action Plan to enable them to consider the future work programme of the group. The Sustainable Urban Extensions (SUEs) were discussed, along with the Masterplan and the Leicester & Leicestershire Integrated Transport Model (LLITM). During discussion the following points were made:

- The LLITM would simulate what traffic would be like at specific stages during development to enable consideration of capacity of the road network and necessary improvements.
- The LLITM would give consideration to the current bottlenecks and how to overcome these problems.
- The developers could not reasonably expect any planning applications to be determined until they could demonstrate that issues regarding infrastructure had been addressed.
- Representatives from LCC Highways should be invited to a future meeting of this group, along with HBBC's Highways consultant when the LLITM had been produced.
- Blaby District Council had recently permitted a development of 106 houses close to the SUE site which would be accessed via the same roads as the SUE traffic. Concern was raised over whether this could be repeated on other sites adjacent to Earl Shilton. It was, however, noted that the Blaby Core Strategy did not anticipate any further housing in that area.
- More consideration should be given to pedestrians rather than concentrating on facilitating passage of vehicles.
- It needed to be clearer to members of the public that the initial designs produced by Capita for the centres of Barwell and Earl Shilton constituted opportunities and a 'vision' rather than the detailed proposals.
- Severn Trent had made a decision to divert Barwell sewage flows to the Hinckley Waste Water Treatment Works (WWTW) and were planning a pipeline to enable this. This would reduce pressure on capacity at the Earl Shilton WWTW. Severn

Trent Water were yet to make a decision on whether to decommission the Earl Shilton WWTW.

Following discussion, it was agreed that the main areas to be covered by the scrutiny group were:

1. Area Action Plan review (next meeting);
2. Highways (attendance by LCC & our consultant from Capita);
3. Infrastructure Plan (including PCT, Education);
4. Sewage works;
5. Regeneration;
6. Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL);
7. Affordable Housing;
8. Employment.

In relation to the areas for discussion listed above, reference was made to the following:

- Concern regarding how developments within and improvements to the centres of Barwell and Earl Shilton would be financed – this could be from a range of sources including Section 106 monies, the New Homes Bonus or private developers. It was suggested that officers from the Finance team be invited to discuss where appropriate.
- How crime would be managed by the Police, and the need for the Police to use a CIL-compliant formula when presenting evidence.
- The process of preparing a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) ‘charging schedule’ was subject to the preparation of detailed viability evidence and joint work with Leicestershire authorities was at an early stage (a process of at least 12 months was anticipated). CIL charging was not likely to be in place to use when determining SUE applications. Section 106 agreements remained as a mechanism for securing contributions towards mitigating the impact of development on local infrastructure.
- The importance of understanding affordable housing need in Barwell and Earl Shilton before permitting applications for housing.
- The types of employment that will be created, the amount of employment and the transport to those sites.

4 DATE OF FUTURE MEETINGS

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on 7 March 2012 and would look in detail at the Area Action Plan.

(The Meeting closed at 7.42 pm)