

# Minutes



## Local Development Framework Sub- Committee 24<sup>th</sup> July 2013

Present:

Councillors	Present	Councillors	Present
D L Bebb	Yes	Lady Newton	Yes
G Butland	Apologies	W D Scattergood	Yes
A V E Everard	Yes	C Siddall	Yes
M C M Lager	Yes	M Thorogood	Yes
J M Money	Yes	R G Walters (Chairman)	Yes

Councillor Horner was also in attendance.

### Mrs Eleanor Dash

At the commencement of the meeting Councillor Walters, Chairman of the Local Development Framework Sub-Committee, announced that Mrs Eleanor Dash, Planning Policy Manager, would be retiring in August 2013 after 39 years public service, 24 of which had been with Braintree District Council. On behalf of the Sub-Committee and personally, Councillor Walters thanked Eleanor for her dedication and work. Councillors Everard, Lager and Lady Newton praised Eleanor also for her exemplary service, common sense and unstinting willingness to deal with all requests for help and advice. All Members of the Sub-Committee wished Eleanor well for the future.

Eleanor thanked Councillors for their kind words.

### 20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

**INFORMATION:** There were no interests declared.

### 21 MINUTES

**INFORMATION:** The Minutes of the meeting of the Local Development Framework Sub-Committee held on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2013 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### 22 QUESTION TIME

**INFORMATION:** There was one statement made. Details of the person who spoke at the meeting are contained in the Appendix to these Minutes.

Principally, these Minutes record decisions taken only and, where appropriate, the reasons for the decisions.

23 **SITE ALLOCATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN DRAFT - SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL/STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

**INFORMATION:** It was reported that Essex County Council had been commissioned to undertake a Sustainability Appraisal (SA), incorporating a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the draft Site Allocations and Development Management Plan. The purpose of the SA/SEA was to identify any impact which the draft Plan may have on sustainability, prior to publication of the submission version of the Plan.

Each site contained within the draft Plan had been appraised against fifteen sustainability objectives. The appraisal and assessment had identified positive, negative and other impacts relating to each site. A summary of the findings for each site was set out in the SA/SEA Environmental Report.

The appraisal and assessment of the Development Management Policies had concluded that these impacted positively on the sustainability objectives of the Plan, particularly with regard to shaping the District's communities, economy and landscape. However, areas for possible improvement had been identified in respect of water quality and sewerage, flood risk and air quality.

The SA/SEA had also been subject to public consultation and details of the representations which had been submitted were set out in the Agenda report. It was noted that the representations had been considered at previous meetings of the Sub-Committee.

Following adoption of the Site Allocations and Development Management Plan, the Council would publish an SA/SEA Adoption Statement to indicate how environmental considerations and consultation responses had been reflected in the Plan and how its implementation would be monitored in the future.

**DECISION:** That the Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment of the draft Site Allocations and Development Management Plan, and the representations submitted during the consultation period, be noted.

24 **STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT - CONSULTATION RESPONSES**

**INFORMATION:** Consideration was given to a report on the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI). This was one of the key documents of the Local Development Framework and outlined community involvement in planning applications and plan making. The Council's SCI had initially been adopted on 13th July 2006 and amendments had been approved in 2009 and 2010.

A further review of the SCI had been carried out in 2012 and the document had been condensed to provide a clear overview of consultation and engagement activities.

The draft revised SCI had been published for a six week consultation period during January and February 2013 concurrent with consultation on the draft Site Allocations and Development Management Plan. Three representations had been submitted and details of these were set out in the Agenda report. No further amendments to the SCI were proposed in response to these representations.

**DECISION:** That the draft, revised Statement of Community Involvement be approved without further amendment in response to the representations submitted.

25 **BRAINTREE DISTRICT PROTECTED LANES ASSESSMENTS 2013 - LITTLE BRAXTED LANE, IN THE PARISH OF RIVENHALL**

**INFORMATION:** Members were reminded that Essex County Council had carried out an assessment of Protected Lanes in the Braintree District. This assessment had been approved by the Local Development Framework Sub-Committee on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2013. However, concern had been expressed that Little Braxted Lane in Rivenhall Parish (BTELANE143) had not been identified as a Protected Lane and it was agreed that a further assessment of the lane should be undertaken.

A more detailed assessment of the lane had now been carried out and, as requested, this had included reference to the document 'A Hidden Countryside' written by Mrs Helen Pitchforth. A report on the outcome of the re-assessment had been circulated in advance of the meeting. This confirmed that the lane did not meet the criteria for designation as a Protected Lane.

**DECISION:** That Little Braxted Lane in the Parish of Rivenhall be not identified as a Protected Lane.

26 **SITE ALLOCATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN - CONSULTATION PROCEDURE**

**INFORMATION:** Consideration was given to a report on the consultation procedure which had taken place on the draft Site Allocations and Development Management Plan and how the representations submitted had been dealt with. The report set out also the proposed strategy for consultation on the Submission draft of the Plan, which would take place in Autumn 2013.

The draft Site Allocations and Development Management Plan had been published for consultation for a six week period between 9<sup>th</sup> January 2013 and 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2013. Publicity about the draft Plan had included notification to all District Councillors and people on the Local Development Framework consultee database; Press releases; a front page feature on Braintree District Council's website; references on social media sites (Facebook and Twitter); displays in local libraries; and correspondence and information sent to Town and Parish Councils.

In the first two days of the consultation period, site notices had been erected adjacent to all new, proposed residential development sites of ten or more dwellings and all new, proposed employment sites. A series of 12 staffed displays had been held across the District. Members were reminded that the Local Development Framework Sub-Committee had agreed not to write to all households in the District to inform them about the consultation process.

People had been given the opportunity to speak during Question Time at Local Development Framework Sub-Committee meetings, or to submit written statements, and the majority of meetings had also been webcast, enabling the public to view the proceedings.

During the consultation period 1636 individual comments had been received from 1007 separate consultees. Several petitions had also been received. In addition, land owners had put forward 54 possible development sites across the District, which had been subject to consultation with the relevant Parish and Town Councils.

Consultation on the Submission draft of the Site Allocations and Development Management Plan would take place in Autumn 2013. Whilst representations would be submitted to the Council, these would primarily be for the Planning Inspector appointed to examine the document to consider. Representations would have to be based on the four tests of soundness set out in national guidance which required that the Plan should be positively prepared; justified; effective; and consistent with national policy.

Details of the proposed six week period of consultation on the Submission draft Plan and publicity arrangements were set out in the report. These would include a prominent article in the Council's magazine which would be distributed to all households in the District at the end of September 2013.

#### **DECISION:**

- (1) That the consultation strategy for the draft Site Allocations and Development Management Plan and the number of responses received, be noted.
- (2) That the consultation strategy for the Submission draft of the Site Allocations and Development Management Plan be approved.

#### **Future Meetings**

It was reported that the Local Development Framework Sub-Committee meeting scheduled for 4<sup>th</sup> September 2013 had been cancelled and that the next meetings of the Sub-Committee would be held on 6th November 2013 and 8th January 2014.

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At the close of the meeting, the Chairman thanked all Members of the Sub-Committee and Officers for their hard work on the Local Development Framework process.

The meeting commenced at 6.00pm and closed at 7.05pm.

Councillor R G Walters

(Chairman)

APPENDIX

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK SUB-COMMITTEE

24<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2013

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Details of Questions Asked / Statements Made During Public Question Time

- 1 Statement Relating to Item 8 - Site Allocations and Development Management Plan - Consultation Procedure

Statement by Mr Jim Konig, 107 Bridport Way, Braintree.