

BRECKLAND COUNCIL

At a Special Meeting of the

COUNCIL

**Held on Tuesday, 11 January 2011 at 11.30 am in the
Anglia Room, The Conference Suite, Elizabeth House, Dereham**

PRESENT

Mr S. Askew	Mr J.P. Labouchere
Mr G.P. Balaam	Mr K. Martin
Mrs J. Ball	Mrs S.M. Matthews
Mr S.G. Bambridge	Mr I.A.C. Monson
Councillor Claire Bowes	Mrs L.H. Monument (Chairman)
Mr A.J. Byrne	Mr D.G. Mortimer
Mr R.P. Childerhouse	Mr D.S. Myers
Mr P.D. Claussen	Mr J.W. Nunn
Mr J.P. Cowen	Mrs P. Quadling
Mr R.W. Duffield	Mr J.D. Rogers
Mr P.J. Duigan	Mr B. Rose
Mr M. Fanthorpe	Mr F.J. Sharpe
Lady Fisher	Mr I. Sherwood
Mr R.F. Goreham	Mr W.H.C. Smith
Councillor E. Gould	Mrs P.A. Spencer
Mr J.R. Gretton	Mr A.C. Stasiak
Mr A.P. Joel	Mrs A.L. Steward
Mr R. Kemp	Mrs L.S. Turner
Mr M.A. Kiddle-Morris	Mr N.C. Wilkin (Vice-Chairman)
Mr R.G. Kybird	

In Attendance

Dominic Chessum	- Marketing & Communications Officer
John Chinnery	- Solicitor & Standards Consultant
Jonathan Collison	- Web Officer
Phil Daines	- Development Services Manager (Capita Symonds for Breckland Council)
Terry Huggins	- Chief Executive
Helen McAleer	- Senior Committee Officer
Stephen McGrath	- Member Services Manager
Phil Mileham	- Senior Planning Policy Officer (Capita Symonds for Breckland Council)
Jane Osborne	- Committee Officer
Jamie Smith	- Environmental Planning Officer (Capita Symonds for Breckland Council)
David Spencer	- Principal Planning Policy Officer (Capita Symonds for Breckland)

1/11 APOLOGIES (AGENDA ITEM 1)

Apologies for absence were received from Mr Borrett, Mrs Chapman-Allen, Mr Chapman-Allen, Mr Francis, Mrs Hewett, Mr Hewett, Mrs Irving, Mr Lamb, Mrs Millbank, Mr Simon Rogers and Mr Spencer.

Action By

2/11 DECLARATION OF INTEREST (AGENDA ITEM 2)

The Solicitor and Standards Consultant was in attendance to give Members advice on declarations if required.

Advice in respect of the interest of Town Councillors was sought and the Solicitor explained that if the Town Council had been consulted only, no interest need be declared, however if the Town Council owned land to be discussed there might be a personal and prejudicial interest.

The following declarations were made:

Mrs Monument	Personal and prejudicial interest in land off Greenfields Road, Dereham, as she lived there.
Mr John Rogers	Personal interest in land in Watton as a Town Councillor
Councillor Bowes	Personal and prejudicial interest in specific sites in Watton as she had an interest in land there
Mr Sharpe	Personal interest in land in Swaffham as a Town Councillor
Mr Sherwood	Personal and prejudicial interest in land in Swaffham as a Town Councillor
Mrs Matthews	Personal and prejudicial interest in land in Swaffham as a Town Councillor
Mr Labouchere	Personal and prejudicial interest as a land owner in North Elmham
Lady Fisher	Personal and prejudicial interest in the Habitat directive concerning Stone Curlews
Mr Duigan	Personal interest in land at Dereham Cemetery as a Town Councillor
Mr Gretton	Personal interest in land at Dereham Cemetery as a Town Councillor
Mrs Turner	Personal interest in land at Dereham Cemetery as a Town Councillor
Mr Kemp	Personal and Prejudicial interest as a land owner in East Harling
Mr Cowen	Personal interest as an architect in practice in the district

3/11 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS (AGENDA ITEM 3)

The Chairman noted that she had attended the first presentation ceremony of the Elizabeth Cross and Scrolls to Norfolk people that had lost someone in action. She said it had been a sad and moving occasion. One Breckland resident had died in Afghanistan.

On a lighter note she advised Members that the next full Council on 27 January 2011 would mark the commencement of a sponsored slim in support of Young Carers in Norfolk. She would be taking part herself and encouraged others to consider doing so. More details would be announced at the next meeting.

Action By

**4/11 SITE SPECIFIC POLICIES & PROPOSALS DEVELOPMENT PLAN
DOCUMENT 2001-2026 - PROPOSED SUBMISSION DOCUMENT
(AGENDA ITEM 4)**

Action By

The Development Services Manager introduced the report which he hoped Members would agree had been worth waiting for.

Elaine Rivett

The Site Specifics Policy document did not include areas covered by the Thetford Area Action Plan or the Attleborough and Snetterton Heath Action Plan, but did cover the rest of the district. It set out the broad principles and parameters of growth and identified suitable sites for housing and employment.

The consultations had taken place over a long period of time which had given Parish Councils and other Stakeholders the opportunity to provide considered responses. The process had been thorough and inclusive. There had been lots of detailed discussions at the eight sessions of the LDF Task & Finish Group and at the additional mop-up meeting.

The Principal Planning Policy Officer and the Senior Planning Policy Officer then went through the summary of changes to the preferred options document by locations.

At this point it was clarified that the Officers would present their report in full before questions would be taken.

Market Towns:

Dereham

Three sites were recommended for residential and two sites for employment development. The employment site east of Dereham Business Park was amended to include the alternative site. Retail development proposals within the town centre remained the same. An area of land for Open Space and a new cemetery was allocated to the east of the football ground.

Swaffham

A single allocation for 250 homes, two employment areas near the A47 accessed via the Eco-tech site and two additional Open Space areas.

Watton

Four sites allocated for new housing - one of those sites to include additional land, for an extension to the high school.

Local Service Centres:

Harling

Originally proposed for an allocation of 50 homes, however, 65 homes had received recent planning approval therefore there was no need to release further land.

Narborough

50 homes allocated – as per the Preferred Options Document.

Action By

Shipdham

Allocation reduced to 85 (from 100) on one site (The other preferred site having received planning permission). A clarification on site references was provided following an enquiry from the Ward Member.

Swanton Morley

50 homes allocated on a single site.

Settlement Boundaries:

14 Settlement Boundary recommended for deletion or amendment had been reconsidered by the 'mop-up' LDF Task & Finish Group. The Group had recommended the retention of 11 of those. The changes were incorporated in the document and included an additional change to the Settlement Boundary of East Tuddenham to include land at 'The Baynings'.

Habitats Regulations Assessment

This had been prepared in accordance with the Core Strategy Document. Preliminary work had been undertaken already and indicated that there would be no adverse effects on European Sites from the allocations.

Publication of the Document

Approval was sought to publish the document prior to submission. The publication period was proposed to be 7 February 2011 to 21 March 2011. All evidence base information, consultation results, Habitats Regulations work and the Sustainable Appraisal would be made available for comment. A Statutory Notice would be published in the local press and details would be available on-line.

The publication was not for widespread consultation purposes. It would provide an opportunity for those who had participated in the process to comment on the soundness of the document. If no fundamental issues were raised with regard to soundness, the document would be submitted to the Government Inspector. However, if fundamental issues were raised, the document would come back to Council.

The potential timetable following publication was to submit the document in April, hold the Examination in Public in July, receive the Inspector's report by November and adopt the document by the end of December 2011.

All the changes to the Proposals Map and Settlement Boundaries, as recommended by the LDF Task & Finish Group had been included in the final document.

Members were then invited to put their questions.

Mr Askew sought clarification of exactly which Parishes were covered by the Attleborough and Snetterton Heath Area Action Plan (ASHAAP) (and therefore not covered by the Site Specifics document).

Action By

It was explained that Besthorpe, Snetterton and Quidenham (including Eccles, Hargham and Wilby) were covered by the ASHAAP. Other Parishes had been consulted on the Action Plan, but were not included. It was specifically clarified that East Harling was covered by the Site Specifics document and not the ASHAAP.

Appendix A to the Council report would form part of the Consultation Statement which would be submitted with the document and the final recommendations were in the sixth column of that appendix.

Mrs Matthews referred to paragraph 3.4.16 (on page 8 of the agenda). She objected to the words in the final sentence "The absence of any significant local or technical objection..." and wished it to be noted that historically the Town Council had strongly objected to the approval for 400 houses on a site to the south of Swaffham. The town was linear in form and served by one spine road which gave access to King's Lynn, Fakenham and Norwich and was already congested.

Mr Goreham asked if the points he had made earlier in the Cabinet meeting would be taken on board. For the benefit of those Members who had not been present at the earlier meeting he was asked to reiterate those points. As they referred specifically to Greenfields Road, the Chairman declared a personal and prejudicial interest and left the room.

(Mr Wilkin, Vice-Chairman in the Chair)

Mr Goreham explained that he and Mr Fanthorpe generally agreed with the future proposals for residential development in Dereham except for that at Greenfields Road. There had been a lot of public concern from residents that if the estate roads were interconnected it would create a rat-run. The Planning Officers had acknowledged these concerns but did not think that a connection would be detrimental. That was not the opinion of local people and Mr Goreham asked that it be noted that they had raised their concerns.

The Development Services Manager confirmed that Planning Officers were aware of the issue and that when a planning application was submitted it would be looked at very carefully.

The Vice-Chairman noted that a petition regarding this matter had been received by the Council.

(Chairman in the Chair)

Some small amendments to spellings, text errors and omissions, etc were noted and would be updated before publication. Members were concerned that some comments in the document had been submitted by e-mail and did not have full name and address details supplied.

The Senior Planning Policy Officer explained that as the Inspector might wish to invite those people to speak at the Examination in Public, the details would be sought at a later stage.

There were no further comments were made.

Action By

RESOLVED to:

- (1) agree to the publication of the Site Specific Policies and Proposals document, including the Cabinet Recommendations and amendments necessary for Appropriate Assessment, for a period of at least 6 weeks;
- (2) agree to the submission of the Site Specifics Policies and Proposals document to the Secretary of State for an Examination in Public by a Government appointed Inspector whose report would be binding on the authority, unless comments received during the 6 weeks of pre-Submission publication indicated that the document was unsound and should be withdrawn;
- (3) where Minor amendments were needed following publication, agree that these be delegated to the Executive Member in consultation with the Leader.

The Chairman thanked the Officers for their presentation.

5/11 LAUNCH OF THE NEW WEBSITE (AGENDA ITEM 5)

The Marketing & Communications Officer gave Members a short presentation on the new website which would be launched within the next week. The launch was just the start in a drive to provide more and more complex information on-line.

The changes to the website had been proposed to make information more easily accessible and to encourage more people to use the website which in turn would save the Council money.

To meet the tight timescales set, an outside web developer had been used and a completely new website had been prepared. As well as making the site easier to use, the objective had been to ensure that all information was accurate and up-to-date and software had been included to ensure it stayed that way, by prompting editors to check content on a regular basis. Finally, the project had been delivered within the very tight budget allowed.

The facilities on the new site were demonstrated and included a prominent picture box for good news stories or crisis information and a read aloud service for those with disabilities.

Each department had been colour coded for easy identification and there was a simple explanation of the services each department provided. No information was more than four clicks from the homepage.

All web editors had been trained and could edit pages quickly. Changes were checked and approved before publication. Links would also be checked regularly to ensure that none were broken. A Google analytic tool would be used to identify problems encountered by the public.

The biggest challenge of the project had been the data cleansing and migration which had taken longer than expected and had caused the launch to be put back from its original target date of 1 September 2010.

Prior to the launch a survey had been carried out to test the new website and assess user's satisfaction. The results had been positive and encouraging.

Members were unanimous in their appreciation of the work done by the Marketing & Communications Officer and the Breckland Web Officer and especially impressed that the project had been delivered under budget.

A Member asked if there would be a "Who is my Councillor?" link on the front page – as there was on the current site, and the Marketing & Communications Officer assured him that one would be added.

Members enquired about the potential for raising money from the new website by allowing advertising and the Marketing & Communications Officer confirmed that the website had that capability if required.

Action By

**Dominic
Chessum**

The meeting closed at 1.00 pm

CHAIRMAN