

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 3RD SEPTEMBER 2008

PRESENT

Mr. Fisher presided over Messrs. Leith and Steeples.

1. APOLOGIES

Mesdames Harrison, Holmes and Clark. Mr. Mackin.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

At this point the members welcomed Mr Cliff Andrews from the Ivel & Ouse Countryside Project who arrived to present information on Parish Green Infrastructure Plans (PGIP). Mr Andrews started by explaining the aims and goals of the initiative in general and then specifically in relation to Shefford.

Although the vast majority of the work involved in producing a plan will be undertaken by the Ivel & Ouse Countryside Project Mr. Andrews explained that it was very important that the Town Council fully supports the Plan because ultimately it will 'owned' by them and actions arising from it will need to be driven forward by the Town Council along with other local groups.

Primarily the work will involve enhancing the current green areas and ascertaining if any other areas are suitable for inclusion into the initiative.

The committee thanked Mr. Andrews for the presentation and offered their full support accordingly.

3. PLANS FOR CONSIDERATION

BC/CM//2008/24

Retrospective use of buildings and surrounding hard standing for a materials recovery/recycling facility for PC equipment.

Unit 4C, Shefford Industrial Estate, St. Francis Way.

No objection.

Comment: Entry and exit to the town should be via Churchill Way and not Amphthill Road.

4. DECISIONS

None.

5. SURVEY – TOWN & PARISH COUNCILS

Some weeks ago the members were asked to complete a survey from the District Council. That information was collated and a joint response is to be returned to them accordingly.

6. STREET NAMING & NUMBERING – LAND ON EAST SIDE OF OLD BRIDGE WAY

The postal addresses for 112 flats and dwellings being constructed at Land On The East Side of Old Bridge Way are all to be named as River View with a post code of either SG17 5FL or SG17 5FN.

7. STREET NAMING & NUMBERING – SQUIRES PARK

Eleven new houses were numbered into Squires Close with a post code of SG17 5JB. However, this postcode is also used for properties in Hitchin Road, therefore, residents of the new houses were having problems with visitors locating their properties. These houses have now been named Squires Park with a post code of SG17 5FP.

The Building Control Department at the D C is to be questioned as to why they felt both the name and postcode should be changed and why wasn't the Town Council consulted on the new name.

8. REVIEW OF EAST OF ENGLAND PLAN

The East of England Plan was published by the Secretary of State in May. It sets out a development strategy for the region up to 2021 and includes the scale and distribution of new housing, priorities for the environment, economic development and agriculture. The East of England Regional Assembly is committed to carrying out an early review of the plan to provide for the period up to 2031. Copies of the draft project plan and statement of public participation are now out for consultation and the deadline for responses is Monday 15th September 2008.

9. CAPITAL SCHEME TO REPLACE STREET NAMEPLATES

Mid Beds D C at their Executive meeting on 18th June 2008 approved a capital scheme for the replacement of street nameplates in addition to the Revenue scheme already in operation. The nameplate scheme will be prioritized as follows :

1.) signs which are missing if evidence is available that a sign is missing. 2.) signs which are unreadable. 3.) locations where there is presently no sign but should be. 3.) old style signs (i.e. metal face plates).

The committee has been requested to complete the attached form accordingly and return to Building Control.

Concerns were raised that the deadline for submission was too short bearing in mind that no committee meetings are held during August.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The County Council's Arboricultural Officer is to be contacted about the failing Horsechestnut tree at the Community Hall which is thought to be subject of a Tree Preservation Officer.

Beds Highways are to be contacted again about another failing Horsechestnut tree along the Campton turn opposite house no. 10.

The appropriate authority is to be requested to repair the guttering on the Old Brewery building.

The meeting closed at 9.10 p.m.