

11 DECEMBER 2017

Minutes of a meeting of the **PLANNING POLICY & BUILT HERITAGE WORKING PARTY** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Holt Road, Cromer at 10.00 am when there were present:

Councillors

Mrs S Arnold (Chairman)
J Punchard (Vice-Chairman)

Mrs A Fitch-Tillett	R Reynolds
Ms V Gay	S Shaw
Mrs A Green	Mrs V Uprichard
Mrs P Grove-Jones (from 11.00 am)	Ms K Ward

Observers:

Mrs A Claussen-Reynolds
N Pearce
Ms M Prior
J Rest

Officers

Mr I Withington – Planning Policy Team Leader
Mr S Harrison – Planning Policy Officer

44. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor N Smith.

45. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

None.

46. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 13 November 2017 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

47. ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

There were no items of urgent business.

48. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

49. UPDATE ON MATTERS FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Planning Policy Team Leader reported that the Landscape Character Sensitivity Assessment was being prepared.

50. LOCAL PLAN – SETTLEMENT PROFILES

The Planning Policy Officer presented the report, which provided an introduction to the settlement profiles and village assessments and provided information on the demographic make-up of town and village settlements within the District. The settlement profiles included information on topics such as population structure, economic base, housing, health, education and the level of services. This information provided base line information to inform the Local Plan and also information to town and parish councils which were undertaking neighbourhood planning.

The Officers answered questions and gave further clarification where necessary.

Councillor Ms K Ward referred to a request at an earlier meeting to include broadband and mobile communications in the assessment.

The Planning Policy Officer explained that given the range of providers and variable service quality of mobile and broadband it was considered best not to include this information in the individual settlement profiles.

The Chairman stated that the County Council was putting pressure on broadband providers and it was important that the pressure was maintained. She referred to the headline statistic in the District profile relating to the percentage of people working from home being higher than in England as a whole, and stated that it was important that technology was right to enable this to grow.

Councillor J Rest stated that “working from home” did not necessarily mean having an office at home but also included people whose businesses were registered at their home address but worked away from it.

Councillor J Punchard considered that figure of 31 square miles covered by SSSI designations quoted in the North Norfolk District Profile appeared to be low.

The Planning Policy Officer explained that the figure was taken from a County-wide environmental assessment and stated that he would check this.

Councillor Ms V Gay asked if travel to work statistics would be available.

The Planning Policy Officer explained that there was more information available in the Census. The figures in the document presented to the Working Party was intended as a snapshot to inform the settlement profile.

Councillor Ms Gay asked if the snapshot would be updated. She commented that the statistics for North Walsham showed a number of vacant premises which she was aware would soon be taken up.

The Planning Policy Team Leader explained that the statistics would be updated when an Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) was produced. An AMR had not been produced in the current year due to lack of resources. This would be a task for the newly recruited monitoring officer.

The Planning Policy Team Leader stated that retail policies were quite restrictive in terms of the type of businesses allowed in town centres. Ways to reduce vacancy rates through planning policy would be discussed when considering the retail policy.

The Committee noted the report.

51. LOCAL PLAN – STRATEGIC FLOOD RISK ASSESSMENT

The Planning Policy Team Leader presented a report relating to the North Norfolk level 1 SFRA. The study updated the existing evidence base in line with national legislation and stakeholder requirements, provided an understanding of flood risk from all sources in order to provide robust, sound and up to date baseline evidence to inform the preparation of the emerging Local Plan. This would allow for informed choices taking flood risk into account, including the sequential location of development and development management decisions. He outlined the main findings and presented the associated maps and GIS layers.

The report recommended that the Working Party recommend to Cabinet to note the contents and publish the 2017 Level 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) including the associated PDF mapping and GIS layers as a source of evidence to support the emerging Local Plan for North Norfolk and be used as a basis of information across the District.

Councillor J Punchard considered that a major problem was lack of drain clearance by the County Council. “100 year” events were not every 100 years and river levels were being increased.

The Chairman suggested that pressure needed to be put on the County Council to deal with this issue. It was agreed that this was a matter for Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider.

Councillor Mrs A Fitch-Tillett stated that she was the Environment Agency’s appointee on the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (RFCC). The Environment Agency was also concerned at the lack of progress by NCC and she was pleased that this matter would be considered by Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

It was noted that work was yet to be carried out to put the flooding layers onto the GIS system. A request had been made to IT to carry out this work.

Councillor Ms K Ward stated that a representative of IT would be attending the O&S Committee in January and she would request a specific update on this matter.

Councillor R Reynolds stated that the flood maps were very important as insurance calculations were based on them and it was correct to push for this to be done.

RESOLVED

To RECOMMEND that Cabinet notes the contents and publish the 2017 Level 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) including the associated PDF mapping and GIS layers as a source of evidence to support the emerging Local Plan for North Norfolk and be used as a basis of information across the District.

52. LOCAL PLAN – APPROACH TO AMENITY LAND

The Planning Policy Team Leader presented a report which gave an update on progress on the review of open space designations and the work currently being undertaken to identify suitable Local Green Space. It was intended is to prepare a topic paper detailing the proposed Amenity Space designations and Education/Formal Recreation Areas and proposed Local Green Space and the alternatives considered. These preferred options and alternatives would form part of

the first Draft Plan regulation 18 consultation, where the suitability of the sites identified for designation, as well as any observations on those sites where designation had been judged unnecessary or inappropriate would be available for comment.

In answer to Members' questions, the Planning Policy Team Leader explained that development would not be permitted on Local Green Space unless it enhanced the open character or recreation use of land. Designation could not be used as a tool to prevent the development of a site. Private land areas could be important to the character and setting of a settlement and those already designated as open space under the current Local Plan would be reviewed.

The Working Party noted the report.

The meeting closed at 11.25 am.

CHAIRMAN