

ENVIRONMENTAL AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE

8th October 2009

**PRESENT:-**

**Conservative Group**

Councillor Bladen (Chairman), Councillor Stanton (Vice-Chairman) and Councillors Bale, Ford, Mrs. Patten, Mrs. Plenderleith (substitute for Councillor Timms) and Watson.

**Labour Group**

Councillors Mrs. Lane, Rhind, Taylor and Tilley.

**Independent/Non-Grouped Members**

Councillors Mrs. Brown and Pabla.

**In Attendance**

Councillor Mrs. Farrington (Conservative Group).

EDS/19. **APOLOGY**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Timms (Conservative Group).

EDS/20. **MINUTES**

The Open Minutes of the Meeting held on 27th August 2009 were taken as read, approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

**MATTERS DELEGATED TO COMMITTEE**

EDS/21. **PUBLICITY FOR PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

It was reported that at a Meeting on 22nd September 2009, the Development Control Committee had considered a report and suggested response to the CLG consultation document.

The Government was currently seeking views on three possible changes to the requirements for publishing planning applications, which were:

- (i) Making web publication mandatory for a period of 21 days for planning notices where there was currently a mandatory requirement to advertise in a newspaper.
- (ii) Making the statutory period 21 days for displaying site notices for listed buildings and conservation area consent and for development affecting the setting of a listed building or the character of a conservation area.
- (iii) Removing statutory requirements to publicise certain applications in newspapers.

Further details were given on these options, and it was confirmed that a response to the consultation must be submitted by 25th October 2009. The changes, if approved, would take place from April 2010. The removal of the mandatory requirement to place the notice in the newspaper would not prevent the local authority placing an advert voluntarily if it was considered in the best interest of the of the local community.

**RESOLVED:-**

***That the recommendation from the Development Control Committee on 22nd September 2009, as the Council's response to the consultation from Communities and Local Government, regarding changes to mandatory notices relating to planning applications, be agreed.***

EDS/22. **SWADLINCOTE CONSERVATION AREA PARTNERSHIP SCHEME**

A report was submitted at the request of the Heritage Grants Sub-Committee, advising Members of the status of partnership working arrangements with English Heritage.

The Swadlincote Heritage Economic Regeneration Scheme (HERS) started in June 2001. Investment in the town centre had resulted in top quality repair and restoration of Swadlincote's historic buildings, improving the shopping and visitor experience for all. Over the six years of the HERS the total offered in grant aid amounted to just under half a million pounds, and this generated a total investment in the town of over £1 million. In 2007 the HERS, was re-branded and became Partnership Schemes in Conservation Areas (PSiCAs), with investment in the town by the partners and businesses continuing as per the earlier scheme. This current scheme was now in its final year. English Heritage acknowledged that work in the town centre had not yet reached a critical mass to the extent that it no longer needed support and had therefore invited the Council to bid to participate in the PSiCA for a further 3 years. The minimum contribution required from the Council to continue the scheme would be £40,000 per year, assuming as at present a £10,000 contribution from the County Council and it was recognised that current finances did not permit continuing with the PSiCA.

Members expressed their concern and disappointment that the District Council were not continuing this scheme. However, it was accepted that current finances would not allow this.

**RESOLVED:-**

- (1) That the positive impact that working in partnership has had on the historic environment of the town centre be acknowledged.***
- (2) That the invitation from English Heritage to submit a bid to continue with the Swadlincote Conservation Area Partnership Grant Scheme (PSiCA) be noted.***

- (3) ***That it be recognised that current finances do not permit continuing with the scheme at present but future opportunities to work in partnership will be investigated where appropriate.***
- (4) ***That this Committee receives a further report in 6 months, providing an update on the impact of withdrawing from the scheme.***

EDS/23. **EAST MIDLANDS AIRPORT NOISE ACTION PLAN**

A report was submitted advising Members that the EU Environmental Noise Directive and subsequent UK regulations required airports with over 50,000 movements per year to produce a Noise Action Plan (NAP). East Midlands Airport (EMA) had produced a NAP that detailed the current noise impact of the airport's operations and the measures in place to mitigate this impact. It also sought to establish if the existing noise mitigation programme was appropriate for the levels of noise currently generated by the airport. The Consultation period expired on 21 October 2009.

It was requested that a senior representative from the airport be invited to do a presentation to a future meeting of the Environmental and Development Services Committee.

**RESOLVED:-**

- (1) ***That it be reported to East Midlands Airport, that, for the reasons set out in the Appendix to the report, the Draft Noise Action Plan does not adequately justify why the airport considers existing noise levels to be acceptable.***
- (2) ***That authorisation be given to the Head of Environmental Services in consultation with the Chairman of Environmental and Development Services Committee, to make any amendments to the response to the consultation.***

EDS/24. **EAST MIDLANDS REGIONAL PLAN: PARTIAL REVIEW – OPTIONS CONSULTATION**

A report was submitted informing Members of an Options Consultation for the partial review of the East Midlands Regional Plan and sought agreement for a response.

The report provided a summary of the options put forward by the East Midlands Regional Assembly for Partial Review – Options Consultation, together with officer comments, which, it was proposed, formed the basis of the Council's response, together with any additional comments from Members. A strong objection was stated to the principle of a Partial Review, for the reasons set out in the report.

Members felt that further consultation at this time was not very productive.

**RESOLVED:-**

***That Members agree the text set out in the following paragraphs within the report:***

- ***5.2 - 5.4 (general principle);***
- ***5.6 - 5.9 (housing distribution);***
- ***5.10 (affordable housing);***
- ***5.12 (transport);***
- ***5.14 - 5.17 (energy generation);***
- ***5.19 - 5.20 (aggregates),***

***as the Council's response to the East Midlands Regional Assembly.***

EDS/25. **HERITAGE GRANTS SUB-COMMITTEE**

**RESOLVED:-**

***That the Minutes of the Heritage Grants Sub-Committee Meeting held on 25th June 2009 be received.***

EDS/26. **WORK PROGRAMME**

Members were asked to consider the updated work programme and to review its content where appropriate.

**RESOLVED:-**

***That the updated work programme be approved.***

J. BLADEN

CHAIRMAN

The Meeting terminated at 7.40 p.m.