

ENVIRONMENTAL AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE

30th September 2004

**PRESENT:-**

**Labour Group**

Councillor Southerd (Chair), Councillor Taylor (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Carroll, Isham, Shepherd, Stone and Whyman, M.B.E.

**Conservative Group**

Councillors Atkin, Bladen, Ford and Mrs. Hall.

**Independent Member**

Councillor Mrs. Walton.

**APOLOGY**

An apology for absence from the Meeting was received from Councillor Bell (Labour Group).

EDS/29. **MINUTES**

The Open Minutes of the Meeting held on 19th August 2004 were taken as read, approved as a true record and signed by the Chair.

EDS/30. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Whyman M.B.E. declared a personal interest in respect of item No. 8 – Industrial and Office Design and Layout (Supplementary Planning Guidance)

**MATTERS DELEGATED TO COMMITTEE**

EDS/31. **REPORTS OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES – CAR PARKING STUDY**

A report was submitted to outline the initial findings of a study of car parking undertaken by the Community Scrutiny Committee and to seek this Committee's views on how it would like to progress the issue. Background was provided to the study, together with the following initial findings:-

- Information on car park usage was out of date and did not include the views of car park users (especially older people and people with disabilities). Derbyshire County Council had offered to help with a new survey, the cost of which would have to be met by the District Council.
- Neighbouring Councils operated a variety of charging and enforcement regimes. Arrangements for enforcing on street and off street parking needed to be 'joined up', if they were to be effective.

- The prevalence of local parking issues in various parts of the district (identified by Members and Parish Councils). These focused on the general shortage of off street places (especially for visitors to local attractions), indiscriminate on-street parking, parking near to schools and the abuse of spaces allocated to people with disabilities. In Swadlincote, the need for more spaces for Leisure Centre users was also highlighted.
- The need to link consideration of parking issues to the wider policy agenda – sustainability, public transport, land use planning, economic regeneration etc.
- The need to address the recommendations in the safety audit of town centre car parks.
- There was a lack of clarity at Officer level over responsibility for the strategic aspects of parking matters.

These issues had been discussed with the Vice-Chair of Environmental and Development Services and the report presented by Councillor Bambrick was the agreed outcome of that meeting. In conclusion, it was felt that parking was an important issue with a number of inter-related aspects. A fundamental review would likely require significant resources, especially if it involved consultation with local people, businesses and public bodies. It would be necessary to have a clear understanding of the review's scope, process and expected outcomes. Responsibility for car parking rested with the policy committee. If scrutiny's assistance was required, an agreed project brief would be needed. There was a need to address the recommendations from the safety audit of town centre car parks. Councillor Taylor was thanked for his contribution to the Scrutiny Committee.

Members felt that this was an excellent report, which provided useful information to move this issue forward. Consideration was given to the report's recommendations. The Leader of the Council felt that this issue should be discussed at a wider Member forum before any decision was made. Councillor Ford commented on the need to alleviate problems around schools. The Chair noted that development of the Morrisons Supermarket might assist with town centre parking. He agreed that it might be more appropriate to look at this issue when all Members had been consulted. The Local Plans Manager made reference to the Town Centre Study and car parking issues could be included as part of this study.

**RESOLVED:-**

- (1) That the initial findings of the car parking study be noted.***
- (2) That the recommendations arising from the safety audit of town centre car parks be considered by the Committee at the earliest opportunity.***
- (3) That a more fundamental review of car parking be discussed by Members as part of a wider forum and, if appropriate, be considered by the Committee in due course.***

**EDS/32. TREES AND DEVELOPMENT (SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING GUIDANCE)**

It was reported that Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) was employed by local planning authorities to add detail to and aid the application of policies contained in the Local Plan. The Council was required to consult widely on the format and content of such guidance prior to its adoption, to ensure that it carried weight when applied either in the determination of planning applications or as a material consideration when set before Inspectors on appeals.

The Draft SPG sought to ensure that trees were afforded due consideration in the planning process, so they could be integrated into new development. The SPG provided information on the standards that the Council would expect from new development proposals. To promote the benefit of trees throughout the District, it stated that planning permission would not normally be granted in a number of given circumstances. The SPG would provide developers with technical information to seek to avoid direct damage to existing trees and to avoid future conflicts with householders. It provided necessary information to avoid conflict with new tree planting and required developers to provide accurate site and tree survey information. No responses were received during the consultation period.

Councillor Shepherd hoped that the Council would pursue reckless developers through the courts. Councillor Mrs. Walton felt it would be useful to have more control on the types of trees planted and the Local Plans Manager responded that through landscape character assessments, the Council was now much more aware of appropriate tree types. Councillor Atkin asked whether the planting of Leylandi conifers could be restricted and the Officer clarified that this guidance would not impact on individual planting in gardens, but could control new development planting. The Leader emphasised that the Council would take enforcement action where damage occurred to trees.

**RESOLVED:-**

***That the Supplementary Planning Guidance, as submitted be adopted for the purposes of development control relating to the integration of trees into new development, pursuant to the emerging South Derbyshire Local Plan.***

**EDS/33. INDUSTRIAL AND OFFICE DESIGN AND LAYOUT SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING GUIDANCE – RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION AND PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS**

Under Minute No. EDS/15 of 8th July 2004, the Committee gave consideration to this Supplementary Planning Guidance. The Draft Guidance was made available for consultation for a six-week period, with copies of the document sent to some 147 differing bodies. In total, twelve representations were received. Details were provided of the responses and proposed amendments to the document, which was appended to the report.

**RESOLVED:-**

***That the Supplementary Planning Guidance, with amendments as submitted, be adopted for the purposes of development control pursuant to the emerging South Derbyshire Local Plan.***

EDS/34. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 (AS AMENDED BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT [ACCESS TO INFORMATION] ACT 1985)**

**RESOLVED:-**

***That, in accordance with Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the Meeting as it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that there would be disclosed exempt information as defined in the paragraphs of Part 1 of the Schedule 12A of the Act indicated in brackets after each item.***

**MINUTES**

***The Exempt Minutes of the Meeting held on 19th August 2004 were received.***

**RECYCLING PLANS (Paragraph 9)**

***The Committee noted the current position on discussions with composting partners and approved plans to extend the composting and “Green Box” collection schemes.***

T. SOUTHERD

CHAIR