



EAST
CAMBRIDGESHIRE
DISTRICT COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM 4

BURWELL MASTERPLAN WORKING PARTY MINUTES

Minutes of a Meeting held at Mandeville Hall, Tan House Lane, Burwell on Monday 3 September 2012 at 6:30pm.

PRESENT

District Councillor Peter Moakes (Chairman)
County Councillor David Brown
District Councillor Lavinia Edwards
Parish Councillor Pat Kilbey
District Councillor Hazel Williams MBE

OTHERS

Shirley Blake – Principal Sustainable Development Officer
Sally Bonnett – Infrastructure and Projects Officer
Tracy Couper – Principal Democratic Services Officer

18 members of the public were in attendance at the meeting

62. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

10 questions were received and circulated from Mr Gus Jones. The Chairman stated that a formal written response would be sent to Mr Jones (a copy of the questions and written response is appended to these Minutes).

63. **APOLOGIES**

There were no apologies.

64. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

As declared at previous Burwell Masterplan meetings, County Councillor David Brown declared a personal interest in the matters to be discussed, as he was both a County Councillor and District Councillor.

65. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Working Party held on 27 June 2012 were received. In connection with the Transport section of Minute 59, Councillor Brown highlighted a correction to the second paragraph on page 7 of the minutes to read:

Councillor David Brown agreed with those comments and highlighted the A14/A142 junction **at Exning and** capacity at Quy as being a real issue.

It was resolved:

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That the minutes of the Burwell Masterplan Working Party meeting held on 2 April 2012 be confirmed as a correct record, subject to the above amendment.

66. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman made no announcements.

67. **DRAFT BURWELL MASTERPLAN**

The Working Party considered a report (M80 previously circulated), the draft Burwell Masterplan, and a presentation by Sally Bonnett, Infrastructure and Projects Officer. It was reported that the views of the Working Party and the public present were being sought prior to the draft Masterplan being made available for public consultation.

Ms Bonnett highlighted the 12 Development Objectives on page 20 of the Masterplan and the following key issues:

- Balanced growth
- Employment growth
- Housing location, mix and design
- Traffic and transportation
- Community facilities
- Green spaces, cycleways and footpaths
- Implementation and funding

Members noted that the 6 week public consultation period would run from 1 October to 11 November 2012* and public exhibitions were timetabled for 12 and 13 October. The results of the consultation then would be considered by the Working Party prior to a final version of the Masterplan being produced for approval by the Council. This would become a supplementary Planning document as part of the Local Plan.

The Chairman requested the views of the Members of the Working Party on the draft Masterplan.

Councillor Williams MBE stated that she was supportive of the draft Masterplan, but that the target of an additional 630 jobs over the period of the Masterplan would require the active promotion of Burwell and she queried how the Economic Development Team at the Council would do this. The Chairman stated that he had already had discussions with the Economic Development Team on this issue, with a particular focus on the former D S Smith site. The Masterplan needed a holistic approach and not just focus on housing provision. Councillor Williams MBE welcomed the focus on the D S Smith site for employment use and not housing. Councillor Williams MBE referred to the proposed Marina development and stated that this was likely to be of benefit to the community, with the reservation of the issue of the possible impact of traffic movements on North Street. The Chairman stated that this would need to be considered as part of any future Planning application.

Councillor Brown commended the draft Masterplan and referred to the structured and inclusive nature of the production of the document. He stated that he would

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pass some minor typographical amendments to the officers and that it would be helpful for the dates of the consultation period to be included in the draft consultation version. In response to a question by Councillor Brown, Shirley Blake, the Principal Sustainable Development Officer, confirmed that it was intended to submit the final version of the Masterplan to a December meeting of the Working Party and the January meeting of the Development and Transport Committee.

Councillor Kilbey stated that the onus in the draft Masterplan appeared to be on the Parish Council to take implementation matters forward. She commented that a partnership was required between the Parish Council and the District Council in the form of a joint Working Group to take implementation forward. The Principal Sustainable Development Officer stated that could be considered.

Councillor Williams MBE referred to the comment on page 26 that no extra car parking provision was required in Burwell and asked where this had come from, as there were issues relating to parking on the High Street around the area of the Bank. The Infrastructure and Projects Officer stated that this had arisen from the focus groups and that there was a surplus of spaces available, but that people were not using some of these effectively. Councillor Kilbey commented that there also was an issue regarding parking for weddings and funerals in the area of the Church. The Principal Sustainable Development Officer agreed to consider the comments made.

The Chairman then asked for the views of the public present on the draft Masterplan and points were made and responded to as follows:

- Parking provision probably adequate but more question of human nature, as people not prepared to walk any distance.
- Only received 1 days notice of meeting – why only 18 members of public present rather than usual 50-60. Ms Bonnett explained date announced at previous Working Party meeting and of the arrangements for notifying all local people on database of meeting.
- How will local people be notified of draft Masterplan and consultation period? Ms Blake explained that there would be notices in local papers and posters in venues around village, together with a flyer to all households summarising the content of the draft Masterplan and consultation arrangements. The full document would be sent to everyone on the database and be available on the Council's website.
- As a cycling buff, I notice the Masterplan refers to cycle paths but not cycle storage areas.
- Should be reference in the Masterplan to review arrangements, since it is a 20 year Plan.
- Agree need clarity on who is going to be responsible for delivering the programmed 630 jobs in the village. Will the District Council take responsibility? Ms Blake stated that the Masterplan would raise the profile of Burwell with developers and businesses.
- If the primary school expands in size will this mean loss of the fields, e.g. for community uses such as the Carnival? Councillor Williams MBE stated that the school had large areas of open space and that, from previous experience, expansion did not cause issues in this area. The issue was more likely to centre around quality of teaching in an expanded school.

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- The additional houses will lead to up to 300 additional children crossing the roads every day. What about crossing provision? Ms Blake stated that this was referred to on page 26 of the draft Masterplan.
- Agree need to build new business/industrial units to promote job growth.
- Page 9 should refer to the people of Burwell looking to Cambridge for its shops and services first rather than Newmarket.
- Can't see any mention of Priory Wood – this was planted by local residents.
- Reference in draft Masterplan to decline in number of children aged 0-14. Don't want to damage viability of schools, due to such a reference. Needs clarification.
- Under 35's not be able to afford to purchase houses in Burwell for next 5 years, as limited provision for affordable housing.
- Does target of 40% affordable housing provision conflict with objective for small, low-density developments in keeping with 'rural village' character?
- Need to send flyer to all households at an early stage in consultation to give people plenty of time to submit their views.
- What will the green western edge look like? Will there be public access and usage, e.g. a public wood?
- There was a plan a year ago for housing that included 'ginnells' for public access – has this idea been rejected?
- Proposed village perimeter link road referred to in map on page 5 – is this a road link? Ms Blake confirmed that this was a footpath link.
- Good news that Masterplan pushing for DS Smith site to continue as Business use.
- Lay out main road routes to give priority to people who live in the village.
- Do not believe traffic flows through village that bad overall and agree with statement in Masterplan that volumes seem to have reduced in recent years. Councillor Williams MBE agreed that there were issues during the morning rush hour period, but that overall traffic was not as bad a people thought and a traffic count would be helpful to accurately assess the issue.

The Chairman thanked the public for their views and encouraged them to submit any further comments as part of the consultation process.

It was resolved TO RECOMMEND TO DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE:

That the draft Burwell Masterplan be approved for public consultation, subject to any minor editorial changes agreed by the Chairman.

The meeting concluded at 7.40pm.

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