



EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

THE GRANGE, NUTHOLT LANE,
ELY, CAMBRIDGESHIRE CB7 4EE
Telephone: 01353 665555

NOTICE OF MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Special meeting of the **EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL** will be held in **THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, NUTHOLT LANE, ELY ON THURSDAY 4 SEPTEMBER 2014** commencing at **6.00pm** with up to 15 minutes of Public Question Time, immediately followed by the formal business, and you are summoned to attend for the transaction of the following business.

AGENDA

- 1. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME** **[oral]**
The meeting will commence with up to 15 minutes public question time
- 2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** **[oral]**
- 3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** **[oral]**
To receive declarations of interest from Members for any items on the Agenda in accordance with the Members Code of Conduct.
- 4. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS** **[oral]**
- 5. NOTICE OF MOTIONS UNDER PROCEDURE RULE 10** **[oral]**

Renewable Energy Policy Objectives

Whilst this Council recognises the benefits of additional renewable energy generation within the District, the Council expresses concern that the current national planning guidance, with its presumption to approve, is at odds with localism and does not provide adequate protection to local communities.

Therefore, this Council requests the Secretary of State to conduct an urgent review of current National Planning Policy Framework in relation to renewable energy.

To provide the maximum assurance to local communities, this Council endorses the following policy objectives.

That this Council:

- is committed to ensuring that all local communities and residents are fully involved in the determination of planning applications for large scale renewable energy schemes including public events and exhibitions.
- will fully consider the views of all concerned residents who may or may not directly be affected by a proposed renewable energy scheme in the determination of planning applications;
- is committed to ensure that large scale renewable energy schemes should be developed on lower quality agricultural land or land with limited environmental value. Applicants proposing to develop significant amounts of high quality agricultural land will be required to comprehensively justify this as part of their planning application;
- is supportive of large scale renewable energy proposals where it can be clearly demonstrated that any adverse impacts are significantly outweighed by the benefits of the scheme to the local community or communities;
- guarantees that all large scale renewable energy proposals are considered by the Planning Committee of elected members;
- is generally supportive of the development of small scale or micro renewable energy schemes which are sited on or close to existing or proposed buildings and which have proven limited or no adverse impacts;
- is supportive of large scale renewable energy proposals where it can be demonstrated that there is clear support from both residents and elected representatives (members of parliament, MEP's, county, district and parish councils) and in every case, the community benefits are proven to outweigh the harm and threats of the application;
- recognises the potential for adverse impacts on the local highway network following the development of large scale renewable energy schemes and will restrict the movements of vehicles through the use of planning conditions and effective enforcement;
- requires the applicant to fully demonstrate to the community and the Council that they have fully complied with all of these requirements and any other material planning considerations.

This Council instructs the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State to this effect in consultation with the Leader of Council and that the Principal Forward Planning Officer reflects the above policy objectives in the draft Supplementary Guidance to be presented to the October Full Council.

PROPOSER: Councillor Bill Hunt

SECONDER: Councillor Charles Roberts

6. EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE LOCAL PLAN - PLANNING INSPECTOR'S INTERIM CONCLUSIONS REPORT AND FURTHER PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS

PLEASE NOTE: Due to their size, Appendices 3-7 to the report have been published on the Council's website www.eastcambs.gov.uk for Councillors and members of the public to read and a paper copy is available on request from Democratic Services.

J Hill
Chief Executive

To: All Members of the Council

NOTES:

1. Members of the public are welcome to attend this meeting. There are a number of schemes aimed at encouraging public participation in the Council's activities and meetings. These include public question times and a process to enable petitions to be submitted. Details of these can be obtained by calling the telephone number as listed at the top of this agenda or by logging onto the Council's website.

The maximum capacity for meetings in the Council Chamber has been set by the Fire Officer at 100 persons. Allowing for Member/Officer attendance and room layout constraints, this will normally give a capacity for public attendance of 50 people.

Admittance to the Council Chamber is on a "first come, first served" basis and public access will be from 15 minutes before the start time of the meeting.

2. Fire instructions for meetings:
 - If the fire alarm sounds please make your way out of the building by the nearest available exit - i.e. the back staircase or the fire escape in the chamber. Do not to use the lifts.
 - The fire assembly point is in the front staff car park by the exit barrier.

- This building has an auto-call system to the fire services, so there is no need for anyone to call the fire services.
- The Committee Officer will sweep the area to ensure that everyone is out of this area.

3. Reports are attached for each agenda item unless marked “oral”.
4. If required all items on the agenda can be provided in different formats (e.g. large type, Braille or audio tape, or translated into other languages), on request, by calling Main Reception on (01353) 665555 or e-mail:

translate@eastcambs.gov.uk

5. If the Committee wishes to exclude the public and press from the meeting, a resolution in the following terms will need to be passed:

“That the press and public be excluded during the consideration of the remaining item no(s). - because it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the public were present during the item(s) there would be disclosure to them of exempt information of Category 1-7 of Part I Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).”