

JOBS AND ECONOMY COMMITTEE

6 JULY 2017

Present: Councillor A Harper, Chair

Councillors: M J Crow (Vice Chair)
E Cubley
T A Cullen
D A Elliott
J W Handley
M Handley
R I Jackson
P Lally
W J Longdon
J K Marsters (substitute)
R S Robinson

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors B C Carr and M Radulovic MBE.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor J W Handley declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 4, Part 2 Local Plan because he was the ward councillor for Brinsley.

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 March 2017 were confirmed and signed.

3. PART 2 LOCAL PLAN

The Committee considered the late items that had been submitted regarding the Part 2 Local Plan, along with the allocations for housing and policies in relation to affordable housing, housing mix, gypsy and travellers and retail policy.

Particular attention was paid to the allocation of a site at Brinsley. Two sites had been proposed for development and the Committee was asked to decide which would be the most appropriate for inclusion in the plan. Photographs and maps of both sites were provided for the benefit of members.

Representation in support of option 2 was made to the Committee by Liberty Stones on behalf of Richborough Estates and Elizabeth Williamson of Brinsley Parish Council. Representation in support of option 1 was made to the Committee by Keith Rodgers on behalf of Mr and Mrs Anthony.

The Committee noted that the most significant issue with site option 2 was the risk of coalescence with Underwood. It was stated that Broxtowe Borough Council had a duty to cooperate with Ashfield District Council which had voiced serious concerns regarding option 2 and that a failure to take these concerns into account would jeopardise the entire Local Plan at the examination stage. It was also noted that option 2 did not have defensible boundaries, although it was stated that the developer had pledged to plant a line of trees to create a defensible Green Belt boundary.

Discussion focused on reconciling the principles of localism with creating a sound plan that would be acceptable to the Planning Inspector. It was noted that the Planning team had been working with the developers of site option 1 to ensure that their proposals would be deliverable. The Planning team had been working with both developers since site option 2 had been put forward in early 2017. It was confirmed that the entirety of the option 1 site was in the legal ownership of Mr and Mrs Anthony, including the point of access.

The progress made by Brinsley Parish Council was praised, as it had previously opposed all development in the Green Belt. The Brinsley Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group had attempted to identify small sites for the 150 houses that had been allocated to the area, but had come to the conclusion that a large site would have to be brought forward for development and had consulted accordingly. Its consultation identified option 2 as the preferred site for allocation, whereas the Broxtowe Borough Council consultation had identified option 1 as the preferred site for allocation.

Debate centred on the need for strong evidence to support site allocation decisions. Supporters of the option 2 site argued that the coalescence was not significant and voiced concern that the option 1 site would be separated from the rest of the village by a busy road. Supporters of the option 1 site noted that Ashfield District Council had made clear their intention to object if the option 2 site was allocated and the Planning Inspector would give significant weight to their concerns about coalescence with Underwood. It was noted that if a strong case was made for option 2, but the evidence still supported option 1, the Planning Inspector could call for both sites to be developed.

The Committee noted that once the draft Part 2 Local Plan was approved it would be published for consultation for an extended period in recognition of the summer holidays. All responses to the consultation were to be compiled and brought back before the Committee, who would then agree for the Part 2 Local Plan to be submitted to the Planning Inspector. This would begin the examination process which could last for up to a year.

It was clarified that the land off Cornwall Avenue in Beeston Rylands, known locally as the Horse's Field was not to be built on. There was a housing proposal for 150 houses on the northern end of the site comprised of Severn Trent land and it was noted that if the plan was endorsed it would make abundantly clear that there was not be development of any kind on the Horse's Field.

Representations were made to the Committee by Councillor Richard McRae and Councillor Martin Plackett regarding development on Coventry Lane. It was noted that the allocation for housing on this site had been decided at the meeting on 26 January 2017.

RESOLVED that:

- 1. The policies and allocations listed in the appendices be approved for inclusion in the Broxtowe Part 2 Local Plan.**
- 2. The draft of the Part 2 Local Plan be approved to be published for a six week period of formal representations with delegated authority to the Head of Neighbourhoods and Prosperity in consultation with the Chair of the Jobs and Economy Committee to undertake editing changes to the plan and publish the necessary background supporting evidence.**

(Councillor J W Handley, having declared a non-pecuniary interest in the item joined the debate, but did not vote thereon.)

4. KIMBERLEY JOBS FAIRS

The Committee noted that a jobs fair had taken place in Kimberley on 24 April 2017 which had been successful, and another was planned for 13 September in Stapleford. It was hoped that the jobs fairs would continue to develop through establishing links with employers in the area.

5. TOUR OF BRITAIN: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE LEG

The meeting considered the costs associated with bringing the Nottinghamshire leg of the 2017 Tour of Britain to Broxtowe. It was noted that Liberty Leisure and Nottinghamshire County Council would be organising a wide ranging programme of events to promote the Tour of Britain and cycling. It was also noted that Nottinghamshire County Council had committed to fixing all potholes along the route.

RESOLVED that the Committee recommend to the Finance and Resources Committee that up to £5,000 be allocated towards this event, funded from 2017/18 revenue contingencies.

6. TOWN CENTRES UPDATE

The Committee noted the update on town centres, including the change of responsibility for the issue under the departmental reorganisation. This would include a revised plan for town centres and renewed strategies. Plans for a beach to be set up on the former Bus Station site in Beeston were also note, with particular reference to the provision of chemical toilets at the attraction and the fact that the operator was to deck the site with wood to ensure even surfaces.

7. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

The Committee noted the progress made in delivering the Council's Economic Development Strategy.

8. UPDATE ON KEY SITES

The Committee noted the progress of housing sites across the Borough. There was concern that the report was not entirely up to date. It was also noted that the Manor at Toton referenced the Manor Garage site and not the Manor Public House. There was discussion surrounding Beeston Cement Depot, the Boots and Plessey sites, Beamlight and Moults Yard.

It was noted that overall the number of houses being built in the Borough had increased.

9. CONSENT STREETS IN BEESTON

The Committee discussed the possibility of introducing a consent streets scheme for Beeston. It was noted that there had been a number of complaints about aggressive sales people around the centre of Beeston. The implementation of the Consent Streets Scheme would give the Council the ability to control unwanted trading on public highways.

RECOMMENDED to Council that the proposed change to the Scheme of Delegation in appendix 1 be approved.

RESOLVED that:

- 1. Consent streets be introduced in Beeston and the Council's intentions be advertised accordingly.**
- 2. The proposed charges given in the report be approved.**
- 3. The Consent Street policy in appendix 2 be approved.**

10. STAPLEFORD WI-FI UPDATE

The Committee noted the launch of the free Wi-Fi scheme in Stapleford. It was agreed that the data provided by the scheme would be useful in identifying footfall trends, designing events to promote Stapleford and marketing businesses in the town centre.

11. WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee requested that a presentation be made to the Committee by Elephant Wi-Fi at its meeting on 2 November 2017. Forthcoming work on Town Centre and Economic Development Strategies were also noted.

RESOLVED that the Work Programme, as amended, be approved.