

Wychavon District Council

Notes of the Eco Town Joint Working Group held in Committee Rooms, Civic Centre, Queen Elizabeth Drive, Pershore on Monday, 16 June 2008 commencing at 10:00 a.m.

Present:

Councillors -
Mrs J C Dowty
Geraghty
Gillams
P J Haycock
Mrs J A Pearce
Mr L Stowe

Officers -
Mrs G Collin
Mr J Hegarty
Mr C Staves
Mr A Cowan
Mr P Maitland

Substitutes:

Councillors:-

G Atkinson (in place of M Heatley, Warwickshire County Council)

9. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillors T Bean, C Saint, Mrs S L Jepson, Ms J M Girling, S Beese and M Heatley.

Substitutes had been appointed as recorded above.

10. Minutes of the Meeting held on 16th May 2008

The Group queried whether the scope of the Sustainability Appraisal had been received from the Department of Communities and Local Government. The Group were informed that a Scoping Report had not been received, but a limited question and answer circular information sheet had been forwarded. This will be circulated to Members.

The Group had a broad discussion of the potential for a road to by pass the village of Mickleton.

The Notes of the meeting of the Group held on Friday 16th May 2008 were received and noted.

11. Feedback from Eco-Town Challenge Panel 3rd June 2008

Colin Staves, Policy, Heritage and Design Manager, Stratford-on-Avon District Council and Gill Colin, Head of Planning, Wychavon District Council gave feedback from the Eco-Town Challenge Panel on 3rd June 2008.

The Group were made aware that the event had been quite a low key affair with no radical ideas coming forward and that the Challenge Panel were not involved in the decision making process.

Colin and Gill informed the Group that the presentation they received on the Middle Quinton proposed Eco-Town had been centred on the methodology of how to develop the proposed Eco-Town but was lacking in deliverability.

The Group were updated that the presentation Colin and Gill gave to the Challenge Panel had received positive feedback and that the Panel had noted their concerns about the potential for high car usage as the proposed site was very isolated.

The Group were also made aware that a second meeting of the Panel had been arranged for 7 July but Local Authority representatives had not been invited to attend. The Group expressed their concern that Local Authority representatives were excluded from the next stage in this process.

The Group were also concerned that the CLG (Communities and Local Government) were insisting that all information relating to Eco-towns at these Challenge Panels had to be worded positively, thereby making the process flawed as it is not possible to be critical of the project.

The Group requested that Officers write to CLG expressing their concerns about the composition of the Panel and the exclusion of the Local Authority representatives from the second meeting of the Panel.

12. Update from Joint Officer Group Meeting with Eco-Town Promoters and CLG 10th June 2008

Colin Staves, Policy, Heritage and Design Manager, Stratford-on-Avon District Council circulated the notes from the Middle Quinton Eco-Town Joint Officer Group Meeting held on Tuesday 10th June 2008.

The Group discussed the notes in detail and highlighted the following areas:

- Sustainability Appraisal.
- Planning processes not being met.
- Potential funding (Heads of Terms for Legal agreements, Biodiversity Assessments, retail impact assessments, flood risk assessment, etc).
- Need to press CLG for a contribution as there will not be a planning fee.
- One consultant to advise all three highways departments.
- Time restraints in which to reply to promoter's information.
- Meeting dates and the need to feedback information when available.

13. Eco-Town Constraints Report

Colin Staves, Policy, Heritage and Design Manager, Stratford-on-Avon District Council introduced the Eco Towns Constraints report.

The Group noted and discussed the report. It was questioned by the Group whether the size of the site of the Middle Quinton Eco-Town was large enough to accommodate the proposed development.

There were concerns regarding flooding on the proposed site and the heightened risk of the run off of water affecting adjoining areas

The sewage implications of the Eco-Town were discussed by the Group as it was not seen how the current systems would cope with foul sewage.

The Group discussed the implications that the Eco-Town would have on the Police and the Fire & Rescue service. The Group was informed that Warwick Police had already indicated that they would need a custody suite located in the Eco-Town and that substantial investment in buildings in the area would be needed.

14. Eco Town Proposal – Joint Response

The Group discussed in detail how to respond to the Eco-Town consultation document.

The Managing Director of Wychavon District Council advised the Group that he was organising the submission of an open letter to the Government signed by the Leaders of the six member Councils, containing a summary of all the major issues and concerns about the Middle Quinton Proposal. The Councils could then submit individual, but aligned, responses to the consultation document. It was agreed that this would have the biggest impact.

15. Date of Next Meeting

- Monday 21st July 2008 - 10am provisionally at Moreton-in –the Marsh.

The Meeting closed at 12.27 p.m.

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