



EYE TOWN COUNCIL

20 Broad Street, Eye, Suffolk, IP23 7AF
07713 196 251

MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY EYE TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON Monday 6th November 2017 in the COUNCIL CHAMBER, EYE TOWN HALL @ 2:00 pm

Present: Mayor Cllr Ribchester, Deputy Mayor Cllr Robins, Cllr Burke, Cllr Evitt, Cllr Hudson, Cllr Crispin, Cllr Blake

1 Apologies and Approval of Absences

None received

2 Members Declaration of Interests and Consideration of Requests for Dispensations

None

3 Local Plan Report

The Mayor asked the Chairman of the Eye Neighbourhood Plan Group, Mr Peter Gould to report on the proposed response to the draft District Local Plan

Mr Gould reported that the area for designation of the Neighbourhood Plan had been approved by Mid Suffolk, whereas in 2015 this had been the sticking point in attempting to complete the NP.

There was now some urgency to submit our comments on the local plan by 10th November. The consultation was an opportunity to make a number of points which will be relevant to both the Local Plan and the NP.

The Local Plan does not address all the issues affecting Eye. The Neighbourhood Plan is a way we can make a major contribution and provide an overall vision for planning the Town's future.

MSDC identified in 2015 that Eye needed over £10 m of infrastructure requirements but had given outline consent to a development of 284 houses with developer contributions providing only 25% of this assessed need. The Town Council had been unable to get a satisfactory explanation regarding making up the deficit. The fact that Eye has an infrastructure deficit now raises the question can we take more growth? There are further examples where MSDC has not consulted or provided adequate explanation such as Paddock House or Tacon Close. The Town has not been permitted real input into these developments.

In the draft Local Plan Eye is designated as a Market Town and is thus grouped with Sudbury and Stowmarket. Eye is a quite different place in scale and type to these two large towns and would not be able to take the implied scale of growth. Eye is much more similar to Debenham which has a

Signed: Mayor *[Signature]* Clerk *[Signature]* Date 15.11.17 2157

designation of a core village. Diss acts much more of a market town in the area, but of course is over the border.

There is a very strong sense that Eye is a unique town, a very special place with character and people want to see that uniqueness maintained.

The airfield provides an opportunity for economic growth and jobs; however, the feeling is that developers see it as an opportunity for what they want on an ad hoc basis rather than this site being developed in a planned and coordinated manner.

There are a number of key issues that the Local plan and Neighbourhood plan need to address.

- Growth needs to be matched with appropriate infrastructure
- Parking is already an issue; future plans need to be put in place
- Shops and businesses in the town need to be accessed and used
- Transportation and traffic needs to be assessed again and infrastructure plans put in to cope with future growth

The public drop in session in October was attended by over 100 people. Information gained from this event provide similar answers to those obtained in 2015, thus building our knowledge and consultation base data and reinforcing the views and opinions taken in 2015

People understand that a certain amount of development is desired and necessary for the Town to have a sustainable future.

Paddock House was one development where people just wanted to know what was happening.

Victoria Mill land adjacent to the allotments was also a site which perhaps could be developed for the benefit of the Town

Schools, both primary and secondary schools need to plan for the future. The Primary school in particular is now fairly full. Is it in the right place? Does it need to be relocated or extended to cope with growth from new housing

The Mayor thanked Mr Gould for his presentation and after some discussion it was agreed that the report could be put forward to Mid Suffolk with some small amendments which would be drafted by Cllr Burke and circulated to the Council before submission.

Proposed by – Cllr Evitt Seconded by Cllr Hudson - motion carried unanimously.

4. Archaeology Report

Cllr Evitt provided a summary of the findings of the Archaeology Report carried out by AB Heritage on the Victoria Mill Land, North of the allotments. In summary evidence of Architectural importance or merit was restricted to the westerns edge of the site.

Some monies have been spent so far on carrying out this work, but most of it covered by grants.

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The council now has to decide whether to go ahead in moving to the next stage of developing this land which would involve exploratory work/ feasibility study with an Agent /Developer to examine the possibilities for potential housing

Cllr Evitt proposed that an amount of £2000 pounds be approved for a feasibility study involving an Agent /Developer.

Proposed by – Cllr Evitt Seconded by Cllr Robins - motion carried unanimously.

Being no further business, the Meeting was closed by the Mayor at 2.30 pm

Signed: Mayor *SPH* Clerk *Walton* Date *15/11/17* 2159