

BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the **BABERGH COUNCIL** held in the King Edmund Chamber - Endeavour House, 8 Russell Road, Ipswich on Tuesday, 25 June 2019

PRESENT:

Councillor: Kathryn Grandon (Chair)
Adrian Osborne (Vice-Chair)

Councillors: Clive Arthey Sue Ayres
Melanie Barrett Peter Beer
David Busby Sue Carpendale
Derek Davis Mick Fraser
Jane Gould Honor Grainger-Howard
Richard Hardacre John Hinton
Michael Holt Bryn Hurren
Leigh Jamieson Robert Lindsay
Elisabeth Malvisi Margaret Maybury
Alastair McCraw Mary McLaren
Mark Newman Zachary Norman
Jan Osborne Alison Owen
Lee Parker Stephen Plumb
John Ward

In attendance:

Officers: Assistant Director - Assets and Investments
Assistant Director – Planning and Communities
Chief Executive
Corporate Manager - Strategic Planning
Professional Lead - Growth and Sustainable Planning
Corporate Manager - Strategic Planning
Corporate Manager - Democratic Services
Corporate Manager - Internal Audit
Strategic Director
Professional Lead - Key Sites and Infrastructure

Apologies: Trevor Cresswell
John Nunn

2 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS BY COUNCILLORS

- 2.1 The Monitoring Officer had granted dispensations to all Members for the item BC/19/7 Draft Joint Local Plan.
- 2.2 There were no other declarations of interests.

3 BC/19/5 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING HELD ON 22 MAY 2019

It was RESOLVED: -

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 22 May 2019 be confirmed and signed as a true record.

4 BC/19/6 ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN AND LEADER

- 4.1 The Chair referred Members to Paper BC19/6 which was **NOTED** and invited Councillor Ward, the Leader to report any announcements.
- 4.2 Councillor Ward updated Members on the District Councillor Network Board Meeting (DCN) which took place on 5th June and was the first since the elections.
- 4.3 At the meeting it was noted that a number of permitted development changes to encourage greater flexibility for the uses of town centre buildings came into effect last month. The Government was now considering the initial expressions of interest for the Future High Streets Fund submitted by local authorities earlier in the year and the DCN would be lobbying for early decisions on these.
- 4.4 The continued slow speed of progress on Housing Infrastructure Fund bids by Homes England remained a source of frustration to many DCN members.
- 4.5 Two briefing papers were prepared for the Planning Minister in May on speeding the build-out of consented housing sites and on the housing land supply.
- 4.6 The Environment select committee invited the DCN to provide evidence on the implications of the Waste Strategy for local authorities following a written evidence submission. Nobody liked the free green waste collection proposal.
- 4.7 Written evidence was submitted to MHCLG inquiry into Local Government Finance and Spending Review.
- 4.8 A written response to the Treasury Select Committee inquiry on the 'Impact of Business Rates on Business' was submitted.
- 4.9 Following the lifting of the Housing Revenue Account Borrowing Cap, the DCN commissioned a study of its impact since implementation and gained an understanding of what was needed for districts to fully explore its potential. This was of particular interest to BMS and the findings were relevant to District. The initial headline findings were that lifting the HRA cap had freed up a significant number (two thirds) of stock holding councils to increase their house building programmes. However, there were ongoing barriers to building or using the increased borrowing, which included:

- The impact of Right to Buy
- Affordability of schemes making future revenue more precarious
- Cost and availability of land
- Appetite for borrowing and risk – particularly among elected members, and linked to perceptions of capacity to deliver effectively
- Competition with the private sector

Belle Vue Park

4.10 There had been a press release about the official opening of the new Skate Park and MUGA in Belle Vue park on Saturday. There were a lot of people there to enjoy the party the Council had put on and by all accounts everyone thoroughly enjoyed it. Babergh had invested £150k in these two facilities and further improvements were being planned.

Grimsey Review Study Tour

4.11 Finally, later this week the Leader would be going on a DCN study tour to Roeselare in Belgium, which has implemented many of the recommendations in the 2013 Grimsey Review into the future of the high street. The DCN would produce a publication following the tour and the Leader would provide a report at next month's Council meeting.

5 TO RECEIVE NOTIFICATION OF PETITIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES

5.1 The following validated petitions had been received and would be dealt with through the usual planning process:

1. 77 valid signatures regarding the planning application DC819/01712 in Hintlesham.
2. 144 valid signatures regarding planning application DC/1901873 in Boxford.

6 QUESTIONS BY THE PUBLIC IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES

6.1 None received.

7 QUESTIONS BY COUNCILLORS IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES

7.1 None received.

**8 BC/19/7 BABERGH AND MID SUFFOLK DRAFT JOINT LOCAL PLAN:
PREFERRED OPTIONS**

- 8.1 The Chair stated that the Joint Local Plan could not be changed apart from typographical and factual errors and Members should focus on the policies within the report and avoid in getting into specific issue relating to Members' wards. Such issues should be raised as part of the consultation.
- 8.2 Councillor Arthey, Cabinet Member for Planning, introduced the report and informed Council that a great deal of work had been undertaken since the draft plan had been presented to Members two years ago, including the Draft Local Plan Working Group. He said that the Council must have an up to date Local Plan to be compliant with Government regulation. Members had been invited to several Local Plan Briefing Session leading up to the completion of the Draft Local Plan.
- 8.3 Members were asked to approve the Draft Local Plan for public consultation. The minimum consultation period being six weeks. Councillor Arthey **MOVED** the recommendations, however as the consultation period began in July, he further **PROPOSED** that the length of the period was extended to ten weeks to allow for the summer holiday.
- 8.4 Councillor Ward **SECONDED** the recommendations.
- 8.5 Councillor Carpendale **SECONDED** Councillor Arthey proposal of a ten weeks consultation period.
- 8.6 Councillor Hinton asked for clarification on which evidence had been used to determine the data in the report. He was also concerned if employment prospect and issues with infrastructure were sufficiently covered in the draft plan.
- 8.7 Councillor Maybury raised concerns based on the responses she had received from the Parish Councils in her Wards regarding infrastructure issues such as available places the local schools, health provisions and highways. She felt that the Draft Local Plan had been hurried through and not enough time had been allowed for Members to consider the plan.
- 8.8 Councillor McCraw called for a Point of Order and asked that the questions raised were answered.
- 8.9 Council Arthey drew Members attention to the section for infrastructure in the Joint Local Plan document and invited the Corporate Manager for Strategic Planning to respond to Member's questions.
- 8.10 The Corporate Manager for Strategic Planning listed the following documents, as part of the evidence base:
- An updated version of the strategic housing and employment land availability plan, published along with the consultation.

- The housing needs were based on a standard governmental methodology which used household projections and affordability in the calculation which was available in the planning guidance on the website
- There was a Strategic Housing Market Assessment of Employment Land Needs Assessment from 2016
- A Sector Needs Assessment from 2017.
- The infrastructure delivery plan had been developed in corporations with Suffolk County Council and would be published together with the Joint Local Plan.
- Water issues were detailed in the LPC 23 policy, page 116 and 117, which detail the optional standard of 110 litre of water per person per day.

8.11 Councillor Hinton questioned further the reduced water consumption and the capacity of the infrastructure for the strategic road network.

8.12 The Corporate Manager for Strategic Planning responded that the road infrastructure had been developed in consultation with Suffolk Highways and Suffolk County Council and that more discussion were undertaken as the development progresses.

8.13 The issues of water consumption were in line with requirements.

8.14 Councillor Lindsay agreed with Councillor Maybury and felt that the draft Joint Local Plan had been rushed and that not enough time have been allowed for Members to respond to the Plan. He **PROPOSED** an amendment to be added as recommendation 3.2.

Proposed amendment to be inserted after 3.1 to read as follows:

3.1 That the Babergh and Mid Suffolk Draft Joint Local Plan: Preferred Options Document (June 2019) (appendix A) be approved for consultation

3.2 That the Corporate Manager of Strategic Planning before the proposal maps were approved for consultation reviews and where appropriate redraws the proposal maps or add caveats in consultation with any ward member that raises concerns about their ward before Thursday the 11th of July 2019.

3.3 That the Corporate Manager – Strategic Planning, in consultation with the Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Planning, be authorised to make consequential amendments to the consultation document arising from:

- removal of drafting and technical errors and typing mistakes, and
- improvements to the layout of the document

8.15 Councillor Jamieson **SECONDED** the amendment.

- 8.16 The Assistant Director for Planning and Communities stated that it would be difficult to redress the material at this stage. He was unsure of what adding caveats would involve and he was concerned that this would delay the document further.
- 8.17 Councillor Lindsay clarified that he was asking for more detail in areas he felt contained speculative information.
- 8.18 The Assistant Director for Planning for Growth stated that there had been provision for all allocated infrastructures in accordance with the appropriate policies and that any further addition to the document would not add any value to the consultation process.
- 8.19 Councillor Arthey reminded Members that this was a strategic document and could not include individual ward concerns.
- 8.20 Members debated the amendment and it was generally felt that any further delay would not be an advantage and that Members had had enough time to consider the document
- 8.21 Councillor McCraw expressed concerns that without a Join Local Plan the Council would be vulnerable to speculative developers.
- 8.22 Councillor Beer agreed with Cllr McCraw and **SECONDED** the proposal of extending the consultation week to ten weeks.
- 8.23 Councillor Lindsay stated that the start of the consultation would not be delayed but allow Members more time.
- 8.24 Members proceed to vote on the Amendment, which was **LOST**.
- 8.25 Councillor Maybury referred to page 74 in the Draft Joint Local Plan and was delighted that disability needs had been included in the plan.
- 8.26 The proposed recommendation 3.1 as amended and 3.2 were put to Members for voting and the vote was **CARRIED**.

It was RESOLVED: -

- 1.1 **That the Babergh and Mid Suffolk Draft Joint Local Plan: Preferred Options Document (June 2019) (appendix A) be approved for a ten week consultation.**
- 1.2 **That the Corporate Manager – Strategic Planning, in consultation with the Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Planning, be authorised to make consequential amendments to the consultation document arising from:**
- (i) removal of drafting and technical errors and typing mistakes, and;**
 - (ii) improvements to the layout of the document**

9 BC/19/8 PUBLICATION OF THE BABERGH HOUSING DELIVERY TEST ACTION PLAN

- 9.1 Councillor Arthey introduced Paper BC/19/8 and provided a brief summary of the key information in the report. He then **MOVED** recommendations 3.1 and 3.2.
- 9.2 Councillor Davis **SECONDED** the recommendations.
- 9.3 Councillor Ward stated that the Housing Delivery Action Plan justified the Joint Local Plan and allowed sites to be brought forward and the plan ensured that sites would be available in the future.
- 9.4 Councillor Hinton asked for clarification of the achievement of 88% for housing requirements.
- 9.5 The Corporate Manager for Strategic Planning responded that 88% was the total of all developments including sites of less than ten houses, however, the Housing Delivery Plan focused on Major developments.
- 9.6 Councillor Hurren expressed concern for the compulsory purchase order referred to on page 44.
- 9.7 The Corporate Manager for Strategic Planning responded this was included in the Homes and Housing Strategic policy.
- 9.8 Councillor Busby commented that stalled developments were caused by the developer but that this could be alleviated if the Council built more houses. He felt that the requirement of 35 % affordable homes on development sites did not encourage developers to complete development sites and could be the cause of stalled sites.
- 9.9 Councillor Arthey referred to pages 42 and 43 of the report and said that engagement with all developers was needed to ensure progress.
- 9.10 Members continued to discuss the Housing Delivery Action Plan and it was established that the Council had to produce the plan as a legal requirement.
- 9.11 The recommendations 3.1 and 3.2 were **PUT** to the meeting and the vote was **CARRIED**

It was **RESOLVED**: -

1. That the Babergh Housing Delivery Test Action Plan (June 2019) is approved for publication.
2. That the Corporate Manager – Strategic Planning, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Planning, be authorised to make consequential amendments to the document arising from any drafting errors and typing mistakes.

Note: Councillor Maybury left the meeting at 6:09pm

10 BC/19/9 NOMINATIONS FOR APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTORS TO THE BOARD OF BDC (SUFFOLK HOLDINGS) LTD

10.1 Councillor Busby **MOVED** the recommendation 3.1, which was **SECONDED** by Councillor Holt.

10.2 The vote was put to the Members and the vote was **CARRIED**.

It was RESOLVED: -

That the appointment of Councillor John Hinton and Councillor Elisabeth Malvisi as Directors of BDC (Suffolk Holdings) Ltd be approved.

11 APPOINTMENT OF SUBSTITUTES TO THE SHARED REVENUES PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE

11.1 The Chair informed Members that Items 11 and 12 on the agenda were to be proposed together and referred to the tabled paper. The paper was for noting.

It was RESOLVED: -

It was noted that the following appoints be made:

APPOINTMENT OF SUBSTITUTES TO THE SHARED REVENUES PARTNERSHIP

Lee Parker	John Ward
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AGENDA ITEM 12 – APPOINTMENT TO THE SUFFOLK POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

Peter Beer	
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AGENDA ITEM 12 – APPOINTMENT OF ARMED FORCES CHAMPION

John Hinton	
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AGENDA ITEM 12 – APPOINTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH CHAMPION

Melanie Barrett	
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AGENDA ITEM 12 – APPOINTMENTS TO COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW WORKING GROUP

Zac Norman	Lee Parker
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12 COUNCILLOR APPOINTMENTS

Please see Item 11 above.

13 LONG SERVICE AWARD - COUNCILLOR MARK NEWMAN

13.1 The Chair informed Members that this item had been withdrawn.

The business of the meeting was concluded at 6.32 pm.

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Chair