

APPENDIX F

WAVERLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLANNING POLICY SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP 9 DECEMBER 2008

REPORT TO THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE ON 6 JANUARY 2009

In Attendance:

Councillors Mrs Cockburn (Chairman), Inman, Renshaw and Mrs Savage.

Also in Attendance:

Graham Parrott, Matthew Evans, Sarah Wells, Jennie Falconer and Emma Dearsley

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were apologies received from Councillors Edwards, Mrs James, Hill and Mrs King.

Mrs Arrick had indicated to the Chairman that she wished to resign from the Planning Policy SIG and arrangements would be made with the Portfolio Holder to reappoint to the SIG.

2. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The SIG was reminded of its Terms of Reference.

3. WAVERLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK - UPDATE

3.1 The SIG was reminded that it had begun consideration of the Core Strategy Topic Papers (listed below) at its last meeting on 30 October 2008:

- Living and Working
- Town and Country
- Environment, Biodiversity and Climate Change and
- Community Needs.

3.2 The SIG was advised that the Topic Papers would be prepared for public consultation in the New Year once they had received approval by the Executive on 6 January 2009. The key aim of the consultation would be to enable the local community and other stakeholders to express their views on these options and choices relating to some of the key issues that the LDF core strategy will be dealing with.

3.3 The SIG was also presented with the draft Settlement Hierarchy, which would also be published for public consultation in the New Year. Officers were in the process of collecting information on local services and facilities within the towns and villages to build up a picture of the settlement hierarchy in Waverley.

- 3.4 This would be used to promote sustainable communities by bringing housing, employment opportunities and services closer together in an attempt to reduce the need for travel, particularly by private vehicle. This would also provide a framework which would feed into the Core Strategy DPD for concentrating housing growth and other forms of development in those settlements that have a range of services and employment opportunities, and limiting growth in those that do not.
- 3.5 The SIG considered the draft settlement hierarchy and noted that full details of accessibility and public transport had not yet been included. Members were concerned about whether the information they had obtained was representative and were assured that this was one of the aims of public consultation, to gain a broader view. Members discussed each individual area, and noted that, in the current economic climate, detail in the papers was constantly changing. Members also discussed boundaries, in particular, Cranleigh as it had excluded Rowley. They were advised that, information would be amended if this issue was raised as part of the public consultation.
- 3.6 Members of the SIG discussed some of the factual information relating to Farnham, Godalming, Haslemere and Cranleigh and officers agreed to incorporate these additions into the version of the Settlement Hierarchy being prepared for consideration by the Executive.
- 3.7 The SIG moved on to discuss the Topic Papers and a number of minor changes were made to the wording and the questions being asked. It was agreed that officers should consider combining the topic paper on "Community Needs" with "Town and Country".
- 3.8 The SIG was advised that the Topic Papers and Settlement Hierarchy would be presented to the Executive in January and then put to public consultation soon after. They would discuss with the Portfolio Holder which organisations should also be consulted.
4. REVIEW OF THE INTERIM MINIPLAN FOR THE THAMES BASIN HEATHS SPA
- 4.1 The SIG received a report which proposed that there be a review of the interim miniplan. Members were advised that the Suitable Accessible Natural Green Space (SANGs) allocated in Farnham Park was nearing the capacity originally agreed by Natural England, so a review of the Interim Miniplan was necessary.
- 4.2 The SIG recalled that the SANGs was part of a three-pronged approach to safeguarding the Special Protection Area devised by Natural England. Councils were required to identify SANGs for people to visit which had a similar character as the Special Protection Area. The interim miniplan explained the approach, set out the tariff and the improvements that the funding from developers, who wanted to build housing in Farnham, would provide. Members noted that this had been in operation for 18 months.

4.3 Members acknowledged the need to identify new SANG and that a review of the miniplan should be carried out. They were advised that officers would work on a project plan for this review and bring this information back to the next meeting.

5. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be arranged with the Chairman in the New Year.

The meeting commenced at 10.00 a.m. and concluded at 11.50 a.m.