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RURAL NORTH NEIGHBOURHOOD COMMITTEE (AREA NORTH AND WEST 1)

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 28 SEPTEMBER 2011, 7.00 pm
AT ARTHUR MELLOWS VILLAGE COLLEGE, HELPSTON ROAD, GLINTON,
PETERBOROUGH

Members Present:

Chairman	Councillor Over
Barnack	Councillor Over (as Chairman)
Glinton and Wittering	Councillor Holdich
Northborough	Councillor Hiller
Newborough	Councillor Harrington
Eye and Thorney	Councillor Sanders

Co-opted Members Present:

Deeping Gate Parish Council	Councillor Jane Hill
Eye Parish Council	Councillor M Holmes
Glinton Parish Council	Councillor Dennis Batty
Peakirk Parish Council	Councillor Henry Clark
Thorney Parish Council	Councillor David Buddle and Councillor John Bartlett

Officers Present:

Julie Rivett	Neighbourhood Manager, PCC
Andrew Edwards	Head of Growth and Regeneration, PCC
Jawaid Khan	Cohesion Manager, PCC
Cherry Lester	Locality Manager, PCC
Gemma George	Senior Governance Officer, PCC

Also in Attendance:

Councillor Irene Walsh	Cabinet Member for Community Cohesion and Safety
Owen Seward	REG Windpower
Mike Gibson	Indigo Public Affairs
Amelie Treppass	Indigo Public Affairs
Sgt Alan Bradshaw	Cambridgeshire Constabulary
Kathie Longbone	NHS Lead, NHS Peterborough

Others Present:

Three members of the public attended, including representatives of Northborough Community Association and Newborough Borough Fen Community Association.

Parish Councillors attended from Barnack Parish Council, Eye Parish Council, Newborough and Borough Fen Parish Council and Thorney Parish Council.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillor Dobbs and Councillor Lamb.

Apologies were also received from the following Parish Councillors:

Councillor Dr Ian Burrows, Barnack Parish Council;

Councillor William Cave, Newborough Parish Council; and
Councillor Marion Browne, Ufford Parish Council.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes from the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 July 2011 were approved as a true and accurate record.

4. Open Session

Attendees of the meeting were given the opportunity to ask questions and raise issues affecting the areas in which they lived. These included:

Enterprise Peterborough

Councillor John Bartlett, Thorney Parish Council, requested that a presentation be given by Enterprise Peterborough at the next meeting. The services which were being offered were not up to standard and discussions were required. The Neighbourhood Manager advised that a presentation would be included on the agenda for the meeting due to be held on 15th December 2011.

Bad Weather and Snow

Michael Perkins, a resident of Ashton, sought clarification as to what measures were to be taken in order to improve the situation with regards to the impact of any snowfalls over the winter. Councillor Over advised that grit bins were to be provided. Councillor Hiller further advised that a full written answer to the question would be provided in due course.

5. Matters For Committee Decision

a) Annual Budget

Councillor Over introduced the report on Capital Budget Allocation for 2011/12. The report requested that the Committee considered and approved the proposals for the allocation of the Capital Budget of £25,000 for 2011/12.

Councillor Sanders addressed the Committee and requested £2,500 towards an additional project in Eye and Thorney Ward, this being improvement and safety works to the access way and pavement outside of the local shop on Wisbech Road.

Councillor Harrington further addressed the Committee and requested that the £5,000 funding for Newborough Ward be split across three projects, these being improvements to Peakirk Village Hall's access, Newborough Sports Pavilion improvements and Newborough Skate Park improvements.

The Committee voted and approved unanimously an allocation of the budget to the following proposals (costs estimated):

- Eye and Thorney Ward - £2,500 contribution towards the redevelopment of the old fire station building in Eye Churchyard. The entire project would cost approximately

£7,000 with the remainder to be funded by the Church and the Parish Council. The Neighbourhood Committee's contribution would assist with the renovation of the building including re-pointing and purchasing roof materials. The project was also being supported by Conservation Officers and Structural Engineers at Peterborough City Council;

- Barnack Ward - £9000 contribution towards the provision of an outdoor classroom at Barnack School. The total cost of the project was £5,000 and the remainder would be met by the Parish Council. The £900 would contribute towards materials and the completion of the roof; and
- Northborough Ward - £3,500 contribution towards the purchase of Vehicle Activated Signs for Maxey Village.

The Committee further unanimously approved, in principle and subject to the submission of a future report, to allocate a proportion of the budget to the following proposals (costs estimated):

- Eye and Thorney - £2,500 to improvement and safety works to the access way and pavement outside the local shop on Wisbech Road; and
- Newborough - £5,000 to be split across three projects, those being improvement to Peakirk Village Hall access, Newborough Sports Pavilion and Newborough Skate Park.

6. Updates on Matters of Interest Relevant to the Committee

a) Cohesion in Rural Areas

Jawaid Khan, Cohesion Manager and Councillor Irene Walsh, Cabinet Member for Community Cohesion and Safety, gave a presentation to the Committee which outlined what 'cohesion meant for Peterborough'. The main points were highlighted as follows:

- Cohesion tended to be a difficult issue to address across the Local Authority;
- Cohesion had a broad remit and was not just reflective of those issues resulting in conflict;
- Could further support be given to the rural communities around cohesion issues?
- There tended not to be so many issues within the rural communities, however there were pockets of deprivation;
- In broad terms, cohesion meant equality and mutual respect for one another and the promotion of a sense of belonging in the community;
- Cohesion was one of the top six priorities in the Single Delivery Plan, that being 'Empowering People and Creating Cohesive Communities';
- There was Partnership working across Peterborough and a multi-agency unit had been formed involving community groups and Members of the Cabinet. The Youth MP for the city was also involved and he utilised his Facebook page to great effect. The Youth MP was also a member of the Cohesion Board;
- A difference could be made by listening to, and working with communities;
- Tension monitoring was undertaken in certain areas of the city;
- There was a three themed Cohesion Action Plan which had been implemented, this aimed to tackle hate crime and its underlying causes, empower the community and reduce community tensions;
- There were numerous strands under each theme and the key ones were highlighted to the Committee;
- The role of the Cohesion Board was outlined and it was identified that there was no resident nominated from the rural communities.

Jawaid Khan further addressed the Committee and advised that there was no nominated representative on the Cohesion Board from the rural communities. In response, Brenda Stanojevic, Eye Parish Council, stated that cohesion issues did not tend to be perceived as being relevant to the rural communities.

Councillor Irene Walsh stated that the view expressed by Brenda Stanojevic was a fair one, however going forward, issues could arise which may be relevant. It was therefore important that a representative be nominated.

Councillor David Sanders addressed the Committee and stated that although he could understand the request, and a nomination for the Cohesion Board from rural communities would be a good idea, he felt that the Neighbourhood Committee was not the correct platform for this kind of presentation going forward. Councillor Sanders further stated that the Neighbourhood Committee's time should be better utilised by concentrating on local issues affecting the local people.

In response, Councillor Irene Walsh stated that she could understand Councillor Sanders' point of view, however the Local Authority aimed to provide support across the whole of Peterborough, including rural communities, and to reach as many residents as possible. The Neighbourhood Committees had therefore been identified as one of the best methods of reaching and engaging with local residents.

Councillor Sanders stated that although he agreed to a certain degree, he still believed that future presentations should be focussed around rural issues only.

b) Live Healthy, Live Green

Kathie Longbone, NHS Lead, NHS Peterborough, gave a presentation to the Committee which outlined the Live Healthy, Live Green campaign. Key points were highlighted as follows:

- The campaign focussed on the joint agenda for health and environmental issues in the city;
- Peterborough had a higher number of births than the national average;
- Life expectancy for girls and boys born in the least and most deprived areas varied by over 10 years for girls and 11 years for boys;
- By 2018 it was predicted that obesity and binge drinking would have increased substantially with a decline in the number of smokers;
- Peterborough recognised its impact on local and environmental challenges and had aspirations to be Environment Capital;
- Each household produced a large amount of waste which was deposited into landfill each year and a large proportion of children travelled to school by car;
- Change was needed and doing nothing was not an option;
- New partnerships were being developed to deliver effective and efficient change;
- Through partnership work support programmes would be delivered to help people drink less, eat healthy, lose weight and stop smoking amongst other things;
- Everyone across the city needed to play their part;
- There were 'My Pledge' cards available for all attendees to complete identifying one thing they would change in order to live healthy and live green.

Councillor Harrington stated that the provision of sustainable transport across the city would be an ideal scenario however, this was unlikely to ever happen in the rural areas. A reduction in the carbon footprint for people living in the rural areas was therefore not going to be easy to achieve.

Councillor Sanders stated that, as mentioned following the previous presentation, he did not believe that the Neighbourhood Committee meeting was the correct platform for such presentations.

c) Wind Turbine Consultation

Amelie Treppass, from Indigo Public Affairs and Owen Saward, from REG Windpower gave a presentation to the Committee which outlined the proposals for wind turbines at French Drove, Thorney. Key points were highlighted as follows:

- The history of REG Windpower;
- The number of wind turbines already located across the country, and those in development;
- The proposals for the additional turbines at French Farm;
- Planning permission had already been granted for two turbines on the site, the proposal was for an additional four;
- The amount of energy which would be generated by the turbines;
- There were ecological studies being undertaken on the site;
- The public consultation was due to launch that evening;
- A website had been launched containing a feedback form;
- Local residents and community groups were to be consulted with extensively;
- A visit to the Eye and Thorney Parish Councils was planned for 14 October 2011;
- There were to be a number of exercises undertaken including possible visits to other operational wind farms, leaflets dropped to allow for residents to provide their feedback and a public exhibition in January 2012;
- The planning application was due to be put forward in Spring 2012;
- The turbines would have a positive effect on the community, including helping Peterborough on its way to becoming 'Environment Capital', utilising local tradesman during construction and the implementation of a community benefit fund.

The Committee was invited to make comment on the proposals and consultation. Councillor Andy Totten, Bainton and Ashton Parish Council, queried whether there were any other potential sites in the Peterborough area up for consideration. In response, Owen Saward advised that there were no other sites currently up for consideration within the Peterborough area. The list of potential sites was listed on the REG Windpower website.

Councillor David Buddle, Thorney Parish Council, stated that a visit to discuss the consultation and proposals in further detail would be welcomed however, it was felt that the period of time in between the consultation and the proposed planning application being submitted was very short and it would not be easy to gather responses from people in the rural communities during such a short period of time. In response, Amelie Treppass advised that the consultation would be extensive. There would be posters and a public exhibition. Visits would also be undertaken to the Parish Councils and other meetings with local residents could be implemented. The aim was to reach as many people as possible. Owen Saward further addressed the Committee and stated that there would be a 16 week determination period for such a planning application and Peterborough City Council would also engage with local residents. There would be extensive community involvement.

Councillor Dennis Batty, Glinton Parish Council, questioned what the minimum distance was for a wind turbine to be located away from residential properties in order to eliminate noise disturbance completely. In response, Owen Saward advised that there were strict planning

guidelines in place with regards to the regulation of noise at residential properties. There was however no legislation covering the location of wind turbines in relation to properties. The issue of noise would be looked into and there would be noise monitoring undertaken at the site.

Councillor Hiller addressed the Committee and in the first instance stated that, as a member of the Planning and Environmental Protection Committee, he had no predisposition on the merits of wind farms. Councillor Hiller further advised that at a previous meeting of the Planning and Environmental Protection Committee, an application for wind farms at Thorney had been refused due to objections raised by the RAF in relation to radio interference. Councillor Hiller queried whether this issue had now been resolved. In response, Owen Seward advised that there were ongoing discussions with the MOD however he was not in a position to discuss this any further.

Councillor Sanders stated that he had received a number of phone calls from local residents with regards to these proposals. Wind farms were a blot on the landscape and he was strongly opposed to any turbines being located at this site. He further stated that the presentation given to the Neighbourhood Committee had included no counterbalance to the argument and had been very one sided in favour of the applicant. In response, Councillor Hiller stated that when the issue was contentious, engagement with the local community was encouraged by Peterborough City Council at an early stage.

Councillor Harrington stated that he too sat on the Planning and Environmental Protection Committee and wished to state that he was in no way predetermined. Councillor Harrington further queried how much agricultural land was lost to this type of development. In response, Owen Seward advised that the space taken up by the base of the turbine was the only agricultural land lost, this was therefore a very small percentage of land. Amelie Treppass further advised that farmers did still utilise fields occupied by wind turbines.

Councillor John Bartlett, Thorney Parish Council, queried where the funds from the community benefit fund would be distributed to as these were the types of issues which needed to be addressed earlier on in the process. Councillor John Bartlett further stated that any monies should go to Eye and Thorney directly. In response, Amelie Treppass advised that this point would be looked at during the consultation.

Councillor David Over further advised that the Rural Neighbourhood Committee would perhaps have a strong case for the funds and the money would be treated similar to an S106 agreement. The funds would therefore go wherever they were required.

Councillor Brian Ogden, Thorney Parish Council, queried whether Peterborough City Council had any specific planning guidance in relation to wind farms. In response, Councillor Hiller advised that there was a specific part addressing wind farms in Peterborough City Council's Core Strategy.

7. Next Meeting

The next meeting was due to be held on Thursday 15 December 2011 in Northborough Village Hall.

The meeting would commence with the ward forum at 6.30pm and 7.00pm for the Neighbourhood Committee meeting.

ACTIONS

ITEM	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE	BY WHEN
4. Open Session	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To include a presentation by Enterprise Peterborough on the next meeting agenda; • To provide a full written response with regards to what measures were to be implemented over the winter to improve the situation with regards to the impact of any snowfall. 	<p>Julie Rivett</p> <p>Councillor Peter Hiller</p>	<p>Next meeting</p> <p>Next meeting</p>
1. Matters for Committee Decision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To bring a report outlining further budget proposals. 	Julie Rivett	Next meeting

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