

NORTH & WEST 1 – NEIGHBOURHOOD COUNCIL

(Northborough, Barnack, Glinton & Wittering, Newborough, and Eye & Thorney Wards)

MINUTES of the meeting held on Monday 19 October 2009

Present:

Cllr P Nash (Chairman)
Northborough: Cllr P Hiller
Barnack: Cllr D Over
Glinton & Wittering: Cllr J Holdich & Cllr D Lamb
Newborough: Cllr D Harrington
Eye & Thorney: Cllr R Dobbs

Also present:

Helen Edwards, Solicitor to the Council
Adrian Chapman, Head of Neighbourhood Services
Leonie McCarthy, Neighbourhood Manager (Citywide)
Peter Heath-Brown, Planning Policy Manager
Sally Crawford, Community Governance Manager

29 members of the public attended including representatives from the Glinton, Peakirk, Caster, Wansford, Northborough, Ufford, and Bainton & Ashton Parish Councils, the Police and Fire Service.

1. Apologies

An apology was received from Cllr D Sanders.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest

3. Overview of the Neighbourhood Council Model

- 3.1 The Chairman referred to the information document that had been distributed and presented an overview of the Neighbourhood Council model to elected members and the public.
- 3.2 The neighbourhood manager asked members of the neighbourhood council and public present to put forward suggestions to name the neighbourhood council that would be easily identifiable with the area. A form was provided for suggestions to be brought back to the next meeting for discussion and decision.
- 3.3 Following a recommendation from the neighbourhood manager that the following be given standing invitations to future meetings of this neighbourhood council:

Core Group:

Cambridgeshire Fire & Rescue Service	Station Manager
Cambridgeshire Police	Sector Inspector
Children Services	Locality Manager
Cross Keys Homes	Area Manager
NHS Peterborough	Neighbourhood Lead
PCC Neighbourhood Management Team	Neighbourhood Manager
Community Safety Officer (PCC and Cambs Police)	

It was AGREED that the neighbourhood manager should approach the above. Elected members and members of the public were invited to put forward other suggestions for standing invitations. Suggestions could be made on the sheets at the back of the information that had been distributed to all present.

4. Community Action Planning and Baseline Information for Central and North

Elected members and the public received a presentation from the Neighbourhood Manager on the proposed community action plan and statistical information that related to Northborough, Barnack, Glinton & Wittering, Newborough, and Eye & Thorney Wards including population size, the rural strategy, police priorities, flytipping and young people.

It was explained that the community action plan would provide an opportunity for the community to influence decisions about their area by evidencing need, influencing public services, building community spirit, identifying priorities for local communities and seek to make a difference by focussing upon action. However, objectives would have to be realistic as there was no additional money allocated to support the Neighbourhood Councils but there was an opportunity to use existing resources more effectively through a better targeted approach and the development of strong relationships between the Neighbourhood Management Team and local people.

5. Core Strategy

Elected members and the public received a presentation on the Core Strategy from the Planning Policy Manager. It was explained that the core strategy was an important planning policy document that would identify the proposed areas of development for the city up until 2026. Significant consultation had been undertaken already but the Neighbourhood Council meetings provided a further opportunity for local people to become involved in the process prior to a final decision being taken at the meeting of the full Council on Wednesday, 2 December 2009.

6. Open Session

The Chairman invited members of the public and elected members to raise any matters affecting their communities. The main issues raised during this part of the meeting are summarised as follows:

- The number of proposed houses for villages
- Why expand current villages?
- Why not build new villages?
- Urban and rural character distinctiveness
- Policy on affordable housing, should be a 50/50 split, not 30/70
- Parking and transportation problems
- Roads become rat runs especially at weekends – transportation should be a big issue in the core strategy
- Investment from private sector
- Village design statements
- Protection of the green wedge

The Planning Policy Manager and members responded to the above issues:

The proposed number of housing contained in the core strategy was approximately 600 for Eye, Eye Green and Thorney, 450 across the limited growth villages and 50 across all smaller

villages. The option was open to develop new villages should members want to take that route, however, delivery of the proposals would be easier to achieve from existing villages.

The core strategy clearly defined rural areas and countryside and preserved distinctiveness. Glinton would remain a limited growth village. The core strategy contained a policy and set the criteria for the local authority to grant planning permission for residential schemes of affordable housing. Flexibility was built into the strategy to enable negotiation of the ratio of affordable housing.

Landowners had been invited to suggest sites for development, there had been many put forward around Northborough and not all sites would be required to deliver the 450 houses across the villages. Many sites would not be suitable. There was no particular strategy for any single village including Northborough.

The local authority must make plans and provision for development and investment from the private sector, it was not an option to stand still due to growth, it was estimated that there would be approximately 30,000 births by 2020 and 6,000 deaths.

Village design statements (VDS) although a material planning consideration in planning terms it was difficult to ascertain the precise weight to be attached when considering planning applications. It would be appropriate for the local planning authority to use the VDS to encourage better design, but actually quote planning policies from the Local Plan when making decisions, not the VDS.

The core strategy did not make provision for development in the Werrington/Glinton green wedge, which was still part of the local planning policy.

The Neighbourhood Manager said that she would speak to the resident about the transportation issue after the meeting.

Other issues and questions raised in summary:

- How would the community action plan involve neighbourhood action plans?
- Relationship between parish councils and neighbourhood councils
- Social inclusion and consultation
- Finance and resources for neighbourhood councils
- Policing – lack of officers and patrols
- Delight was expressed at seeing a committee of Peterborough City Council meeting in a rural area
- Review of terms of reference for neighbourhood councils
- Consultation with parish councils on policies

Officers and members responded that all plans would feed into the community action plan to enable priorities to be picked up. Village plans were much more defined and specific, proper engagement and open discussion with the public was needed. The neighbourhood managers should be contacted directly about any emergency issues and the neighbourhood team would use a joined up approach to work to meet the needs of the public.

Neighbourhood councils would not supersede parish councils, they would widen the opportunity for engagement with the public. Neighbourhood managers would work between the quarterly meetings to provide a joined up, cohesive way of working to solve issues.

The Police and the local authority would be able to use the core strategy to gain more resources due to the growth of Peterborough, the new neighbourhood team would work with all agencies to reduce crime.

Neighbourhood councils had direct delegations from cabinet, would link the city council and parish councils and provide an opportunity for parish councillors to meet the city councillors and influence decision-making that had previously taken place in the Town Hall, in the community.

The terms of reference for neighbourhood councils would be reviewed along with all Peterborough City Council's committee terms of reference at annual council. The Leader of the Council was very keen for the neighbourhood councils to work and funding for neighbourhood councils was being explored.

Neighbourhood councils would work closely with parish councils and consult the community on strategic planning matters.

Further questions and issues raised, in summary:

- Could a representative from Highways meet with residents from Thorney to discuss highways, drainage and flooding in Thorney?
- Traffic/commuters coming into city from South Lincolnshire
- Would neighbourhood managers only deal with strategic issues and not smaller issues? Could this be an item on the next agenda?

The neighbourhood manager said she would arrange a meeting with Thorney residents and highways and feed back on the outcome at the next meeting. Neighbourhood managers would link in with the Greater Peterborough Partnership and Highways to ensure a more efficient, joined up approach to working covering all highway issues. Members of the public could approach her after the meeting to discuss future agenda items.

7. Next Meeting

It was suggested that the next meeting Thursday 3 December should be held at Arthur Mellows School.

CHAIRMAN
7.00pm – 9.00pm