

Minutes of a meeting Neighbourhood Council – South 1 (Stanground, Fletton and Woodston) held on Monday, 12 October, 2009 at 7.00pm at the Stanground Sports Centre, Stanground College, Peterborough.

Present: Councillors Goodwin (Chairman), Benton, Cereste, Croft, Lee, Rush and Wilkinson.

Officers Present: John Harrison – Executive Director – Resources
Helen Edwards – Solicitor to the Council
Adrian Chapman - Head of Neighbourhoods
Julie Rivett – Neighbourhoods and Empowerment Manager
Lisa Emmanuel – Neighbourhood Manager
Shahin Ismail – Head of Delivery
David Blackburn – Principal Democratic Services Officer (Clerk)

There were 35 persons present in the audience.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Walsh.

1. Commencement of Meeting

The Chair of the Neighbourhood Council, Councillor Goodwin, delayed the start of the meeting for 15 minutes to enable all persons who wished to attend the meeting to have adequate time to arrive.

After 15 minutes had elapsed, Councillor Goodwin began by inviting all elected Members of the Neighbourhood Council, officers of Peterborough City Council who were supporting the meeting and representatives of the Neighbourhood Management Team to introduce themselves.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Overview of the Neighbourhood Management Council Model

The Chair, Councillor Goodwin, introduced items on:

1. The role of the Neighbourhood Council including its terms of reference

The Chair referred to background information that had been circulated to everyone in the room about Neighbourhood Councils. It was explained that this was a new concept and in order for it to be successful, it relied upon everyone working together for the benefit of the local area.

2. The naming of the Neighbourhood Council

The Chair asked everyone present to submit their ideas for the name of the Neighbourhood Council and leave their suggestions on the comments forms provided. Proposals were discussed to give the

Neighbourhood Council a distinctive identity by giving it a name that reflected the geographical area it covered as well as a colour that could be used for all promotional materials.

3. Standing invitations to meetings of the Neighbourhood Council

The Neighbourhood Manager proposed bodies and individuals who might receive standing invitations to attend meetings of the Neighbourhood Council.

It was agreed that:

1. The terms of reference of the Neighbourhood Council be noted;
2. The naming of the Neighbourhood Council be deferred to the next meeting to enable suggestions from the public to be considered; and
3. Standing invitations to attend meetings be extended to:

Core Group:

Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service
Cambridgeshire Police
Children's Services (City Council)
Community Safety Officer (City Council and Cambridgeshire Police)
Cross Keys Homes
NHS Peterborough
Parish Council(s)
Peterborough Council for Voluntary Services
Peterborough Youth Council

Further Invitations (subject to confirmation with parties below):

Park Farm Residents
Phoenix Residents Association
Street Leader/NHW/Panel Chair
Vicar of Hampton
Woodston Community Centre

Public Invitations (subject to development of a process for appointment)

3- 4 Members of the Public who could add value to the Neighbourhood Councils and provide a voice on behalf of their communities.

4. Community Action Planning

The Neighbourhood Manager delivered a presentation on the community planning process which incorporated baseline statistical information for Stanground Central, Stanground East and Fletton. It was explained that the plan would provide an opportunity to identify 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.

Observations made by members of the public at this point in the meeting included:

- Disappointment at the perceived lack of communications in launching the Neighbourhood Councils.
- Support for the creation of the Neighbourhood Councils in seeking to engage more closely and effectively with local communities.

It was agreed that:

1. The feedback received regarding advance publicity for the meeting be noted and proposed future methods of communication be reviewed; and
2. Updates on the community action planning process be submitted to future meetings.

5. Core Strategy

The Council's Head of Delivery gave a presentation on the development of the Core Strategy with particular reference to Stanground, Fletton and Woodston. 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.

The primary areas for growth for the city were Great Haddon, the City Centre, Norwood/Paston and Stanground with some additional limited growth in rural areas. The proposal in respect of the Rail Freight Interchange at Magna Park was explained in particular detail as it was within the area of the Neighbourhood Council.

A number of comments arose out of the discussion of the Core Strategy as follows:

1. Councillor Rush identified his opposition to Magna Park on the grounds of its potential size, location on a flood plain, likely round the clock operation, unacceptable closeness to local people, impact on bio-diversity and the concentration of development in the south of the city. Therefore, he urged that Magna Park should be removed from the Core Strategy.
2. Councillor Lee said that he could not endorse the removal of Magna Park from the strategy and as confirmed by the Solicitor to the Council who was present at the meeting, suggested that the removal of the scheme would not prevent a developer coming forward with a planning application. Local concerns had to be considered along with the potential for in excess of 5,000 new jobs for the city. Overall however, he stressed that he had not made up his mind regarding the proposals for the Gazeley's site.

3. In response to comments made at the meeting about the value of the Core Strategy, the Head of Delivery suggested that the benefit of having major areas of development in the Core Strategy was that it would be easier to define the parameters for development and seek Section 106 funding for infrastructural development.
4. A member of the public commented upon the lack of progress with proposals for development of the city for example, the Elliotts site behind the football ground which had been identified as a low energy site over 5 years ago but no development had taken place and similarly, it was understood that 3 planning applications in respect of Magna Park had all been withdrawn. Councillor Lee suggested that this had been frustrating but that it was in part due to government requirements for meeting high environmental standards for new development. A full written response would be provided to the questioner about these matters (Mr Kirby).
5. A member of the public commented upon the need for schools, GP surgeries, health care services for the elderly and education facilities to accompany large scale commercial development.
6. In response to points made by members of the public about the timescale for receiving representations, the Head of Delivery replied that by law, the Council had to develop a planning policy on how the city would grow. The Core Strategy would not have the affect of setting the areas for growth without possibility for modification or change and certainly would not commit the Council to approving particular planning applications. Any further delay in the process would cause problems for the Council and developers. Further details about the Core Strategy could be found on the Council's website at www.peterborough.gov.uk/democracy and further representations could be received after the Neighbourhood Council meeting if people wished to comment.
7. In response to some confusion over the Core Strategy and Fletton study, Councillor Cereste clarified that the draft Core Strategy had been reported to Cabinet that morning and needed to be approved by Council in December but that he had indeed, given an undertaking that there would be ample opportunity to consider fully the representations about the Fletton study, which was separate from the Core Strategy and modify the proposals if there was strong public support for doing so.
8. In response to a question, the Head of Delivery responded that the anticipated 5,500 jobs to be created at Magna Park would be across a wide range of employment sectors (and details could be provided after the meeting). It was also suggested by the questioner that once noise and traffic pollution became apparent there was little that could be done about it. Councillor Cereste stated that development did have potential challenges that had to be addressed but that it also brought major opportunities for the area such as the £40 million contract that was about to go out to tender for the erection of a new Stanground College by 2014.

9. A member of the public spoke in support of the earlier comments made by Councillor Rush and sought confirmation that all representations made about the Core Strategy would be considered. The Head of Delivery stated that all the representations from the 7 Neighbourhood Council meetings would be submitted to the full Council.

In concluding the discussion, the Chair thanked everyone for their views about the Core Strategy.

It was agreed that all the views expressed at the meeting be submitted to the full Council meeting on Wednesday, 2 December, 2009 as part of the item on the Core Strategy.

6. Open Session

The Chair invited members of the public to raise any matters affecting their communities. The main issues raised during this part of the meeting were as follows:

Fairfield Road

- Car parking problems in the vicinity of Fairfield Road, Glebe Road and Queen's Walk which were particularly difficult on the days of football matches.
- The absence of PCSOs in the area.
- A suggestion that car parking be provided at Elliotts for a nominal charge on football match days.

In response, Councillor Lee identified that the local residents had opposed a residents parking scheme in the past but that consultation would commence again shortly on the introduction of such a scheme. He did not believe that paid parking was the answer whilst there was free roadside parking available on match days. Debbie Sampson gave an undertaking that she would ensure that the PCSOs would be asked to introduce themselves to local residents.

Further points raised by residents of Fairfield Road related to:

- The 3 minute delay on the traffic lights at the Glebe Road junction
- The lack of communications about the recent roadworks
- Green wheelie bins

In response, Councillor Lee outlined the reasons for the long delay at Glebe Road traffic lights which had been phased in this manner to deter motorists from using minor roads as through routes. The recent roadworks had been caused by the need to undertake repairs on a collapsed sewer and in these urgent circumstances, the relevant statutory body had been able to give little notice of their need to undertake the works.

Park Farm/Kedleston Road

- The lack of a police presence in dealing with motorised scooters which were being raced on Park Farm/Kedleston Road and had the potential to cause serious injury to the public

In response, Debbie Sampson said that this matter would be referred to the Community Safety Team and should be addressed through the Neighbourhood Panel. The public were encouraged to compile as much as evidence as possible about the problems that were being encountered.

High Street

- Concerns about anti-social activities on High Street and the need for more Police in the area

In response, it was noted that whilst the local MP, the Leader of the Council and Ward Councillors were aware of the difficulties it would be useful if the Neighbourhood Manager and all members of the Neighbourhood Council could be brought up to date with the situation.

7. Next Meeting

The Chair identified that meetings would be held 4 times per year and in addition, there would be an Annual Forum which would be a joint meeting between both Neighbourhood Councils covering the south of the city. There was a discussion about possible venues for future meetings.

It was agreed:

1. That the next meeting be held on Thursday, 10 December, 2009 at 7.00pm;
2. That, subject to availability, it be held at the Fleet; and
3. That future meetings be rotated between Stanground, Fletton and Woodston.

CHAIRMAN
7.15 – 9.12PM