

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SCRUTINY COMMISSION FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES  
HELD ON  
TUESDAY 8 JUNE 2010 AT THE FORLI ROOM - TOWN HALL**

**Present:** Councillors D Over (Chairman), G Nawaz (Vice-Chairman), R Dobbs, D Sanders, D Harrington and A Shaheed

**Officers Present:** Mike Heath, Commercial Services Director  
Ruth Lea, Lawyer  
Alana Hair, Governance Officer

**1. Apologies for Absence**

There were no apologies for absence.

**2. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 March 2010 were approved.

**4. Review of work undertaken in 2009-2010**

The Commission received a report from the Governance officer which provided the Commission with a brief review of the scrutiny work undertaken, and the outcomes of this work, in the 2009-2010 municipal year.

The Commission also received the following responses in relation to recommendations from the previous meeting:

**Play Provision:** A play strategy is being written by the Open Spaces Team who will work with the Neighbourhood Managers to ensure the Community Action Planning process is taken in to account when the strategy is developed.

The Neighbourhood Manager (Citywide) intends to liaise between the Recreation Manager and the Greater Peterborough Partnership and the Parishes on the strategy to ensure the Villages' needs, aspirations and vision, are incorporated where possible.

**Business, Employment and Training:** The Greater Peterborough Partnership have been working with the Council to design a questionnaire for residents and businesses in the rural areas. This is currently out for consultation with the Parishes, and it is anticipated that the outcome of the questionnaire and accompanying report will be the subject of a future report to the Commission later in the year.

Following discussion, it was agreed that the Women's Enterprise Centre and the Rural Housing Strategy be included on the agenda for the next meeting.

**5. Priorities and Scrutiny Programme for the 2010-2011 year**

The Commission received a presentation from the Chairman which sought to inform the Commission's work programme for the forthcoming year.

In response to questions raised by Councillors, the Lawyer (Education Children Services and Adult Social Care) agreed to investigate the process by which people were allocated affordable housing.

The Commission agreed to include the following in its Work Programme for the 2010-2011 year:

<b>PRIORITY</b>	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>SUCCESS CRITERIA</b>
<b>Creating Strong and Supportive Communities</b>	<i>Making villages safe</i>	To continue to reduce car speeds down to 50 mph along rural roads  To develop cycleways and quiet roads
	<i>Empowering local communities</i>	To continue to support the work of the Neighbourhood Councils
	<i>Building pride in Peterborough</i>	A visible presence in the rural areas
<b>Substantial and Truly Sustainable Growth</b>	<i>Increasing economic prosperity</i>	To plan for rural economic development, eg. farmers' markets, leisure events such as the Bainton Literary Festival which kickstart other development
	<i>Creating better places to live</i>	To encourage 'affordable' housing to meet the needs of villagers  End to speculative tacked-on estates
	<i>Infrastructure of the future</i>	An imaginative vision of what the villages could be like in ten years time
	<i>Safe and vibrant city and other centres</i>	To work closely with the Cambridgeshire Constabulary to encourage patrolling and a visible police presence in rural areas
<b>Creating the UK's Environment Capital</b>	<i>Conserving natural resources</i>	To encourage the enhancing of the rural environment and opening it up for leisure and tourism
	<i>Increasing the use of sustainable transport</i>	To encourage cycling or use of busses, call connect and other sustainable transport provision

	<i>Growing the Environmental Business Sector</i>	To encourage rural business  To support the 'Women's Business Centre' to work in rural areas
<b>Creating Opportunities and Tackling Inequalities</b>	<i>Regenerating neighbourhoods</i>	Investment in rural infrastructure
	<i>Improved health</i>	To recognise what health provision there is in the rural areas
	<i>Improving education and skills</i>	To review education and training for rural business

## 6. Forward Plan

The Commission received the latest version of the Forward Plan of Key Decisions (1 June to 30 September 2010) and was asked to identify any items it wished to consider at a future meeting.

The Commission identified the following items for inclusion in its work programme:

- Passenger Transport Framework Tender requirements for special educational needs and mainstream school contract
- Floating support Contract: Cross Keys Homes Extension of Contract

## 7. Date of the next Meeting

The next meeting of the Scrutiny Commission for Rural Communities was scheduled to be held on 13 July 2010.

The meeting began at 7.00 pm and ended at 7.53 pm

CHAIRMAN

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