

PLACE SHAPING POLICY DEVELOPMENT PANEL

Minutes of a meeting of the Place Shaping Policy Development Panel of Broadland District Council, held at Thorpe Lodge, 1 Yarmouth Road, Thorpe St Andrew, Norwich on Monday 11 July 2022 at 6pm.

Committee Members Present: Councillors: J M Ward (Chairman), N Brennan, E Laming, R Potter, D Thomas, J Thomas

Other Members Present: Councillor: J Leggett

Officers in Attendance: The Assistant Director of Planning, the Principal Policy Planning Officer (A Banham) and the Democratic Services Officer (DM)

4 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr N Harpley, Cllr D Harrison, Cllr S Lawn and Cllr K Leggett.

5 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 June 2022 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

6 GREATER NORWICH LOCAL PLAN GYPSY AND TRAVELLER FOCUSED CONSULTATION

The Assistant Director of Planning introduced the report which was seeking approval to undertake a public consultation on the possible allocation of Gypsy and Traveller sites in the Greater Norwich Local Plan (GNLP). The Gypsy and Traveller Focused Consultation contained three possible sites in Greater Norwich, one of which was in Broadland, for allocation and created another opportunity for landowners to put forward land for use as Gypsy and Traveller pitches only. The Assistant Director Planning reported that recently updated evidence of need had now been received. She went on to outline the requirement (as shown at page 19 of the papers) for 50 pitches as a whole for the Greater Norwich area for the period 2022/23 to 2037/38 in addition to already approved allocations yet to be constructed. Of this 50 pitches, it was anticipated that at least 18 needed to be identified through the local plan for the first 10 years from 2022/23 to 2031/32 to meet the requirements of the Government's Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (PPTS).

The Assistant Director of Planning advised that the recommendations in the report included the proposal to make the submission to the Inspectorate following the consultation but that it was now deemed appropriate to refer the

matter back to Cabinet in September after the consultation to allow for consideration of any issues or additional sites which could arise from the consultation.

The second recommendation was therefore replaced with the following proposal:

“Agree to refer the matter back to Cabinet on 27 September 2022 after consultation to agree the final submission to the Independent Inspectors.”

The Assistant Director of Planning drew members’ attention to the appendix relating to the Habitats Regulations Assessment and its references to Nutrient Neutrality issues and that these references would be updated as the Nutrient Neutrality issue progressed.

The Assistant Director of Planning then advised members that, consent of all three partner authorities was required to be able to proceed to consultation. A decision had that week been taken by Cabinet at South Norfolk Council to not undertake the consultation and instead to recommend the GNDP to proceed with a single issue review, which was one of the potential options contained within the report. Effectively, without the consent of all three councils, the consultation could not take place but in any event the Assistant Director of Planning invited the Panel to consider the amended recommendations and formulate a view on the proposals for Cabinet.

Officers then answered questions from members. They confirmed that the search for sites would be ongoing and any sites put forward would be considered. They explained that the two main sources of site provision were private owned sites and public managed sites. No sites had come forward for potential use following the previous call for sites, hence why the current proposals were being promoted in an attempt to identify sites to fulfil the need. Members noted that planning policy required provision to be made for Gypsy and Traveller families who continued to travel, as opposed to those who had permanently ceased travelling who were instead regarded as part of the settled community. Following a suggestion, it was agreed to replace references to “should” with “must” in respect of proposals for tree retention and archaeological protection in relation to all identified sites.

Members then voted on the recommendations subject to the following amendments/comments:

- To amend the second bullet point to read: “Agree to refer the matter back to Cabinet on 27 September 2022 after consultation to agree the final submission to the Independent Inspectors”;
- any references to Nutrient Neutrality issues would be updated as the Nutrient Neutrality issue progressed;
- replace references to “should” with “must” in respect of proposals for tree retention and archaeological protection in relation to all identified sites.

RESOLVED to RECOMMEND Cabinet to:

- 1 approve a Focused Consultation on the Greater Norwich Local Plan(GNLP) proposed Gypsy and Traveller sites; and
- 2 Agree to refer the matter back to Cabinet on 27 September 2022 after consultation to agree the final submission to the Independent Inspectors

(The meeting concluded at 6.25pm)

Chairman