



RURAL, ECONOMIC & ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

12th July 2017

Present:

Councillors M. Sheldon (Chair), E Hutchison (Vice Chair),
M Blasé, J. Illingworth, R. de Burle,
Councillor M Glancy, Councillor M C R Graham,
L. Higgins, J B Rhodes, J. Orson, P Chandler

Head of Regulatory Services, Planning Policy Officer.

R10. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Beaken, with Councillor Illingworth as substitute.

R11. MINUTES

Minutes of previous meeting were not discussed.

R12. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor R. de Burle declared an interest as chair of Asfordby Parish Council and whilst this alone wouldn't prevent him from taking part, he opted still to declare his interest and leave the room due to personal involvement and bias on the recommendation.

Councillor Sheldon declared an interest as a County Councillor for Asfordby, Cllr Rhodes and Cllr Orson declared a more general interest as County Councillors elsewhere in the Borough.

R13. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM OTHER COMMITTEES

There were no recommendations from other committees

R14. UPDATE ON DECISIONS

There was no update on decisions.

R15. ASFORDBY NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The Head of Regulatory Services submitted a report to invite Members to consider and approve the Asfordby Neighbourhood Plan (2017) to move forward to referendum. He explained that governance runs with REEA committee, after previously being endorsed by the Melton Local Plan Working Group.

Furthermore he explained that this was the Councils primary opportunity to make an intervention, as for the most part the Council has only been consultee to this point. He explained that the Referendum, if approved would be ran in the same was as a general election or the recently held Brexit vote, with proper democratic mechanisms such as poling cards, poling station and a secret vote.

After this introduction, The Head of Regulatory Services explained the context of the Neighbourhood Plan, and its implications if passed on decision making and on the development of the emerging local plan. He explained that despite a good working relationship between the Borough Council and the Neighbourhood Plan Group, there were outstanding issues of conformity which must be considered by the group. It was explained that as the Melton Local Plan was not adopted, the Neighbourhood Plan Group was justified in its differing approach legally, albeit with risks. The mains issues of contention were differing approach to housing allocations and the allocation of housing and land earmarked form employment use in the emerging Local Plan. The Head Of Regulatory Services also explained that legal advice had been sought on the matter and the recommendation was based on the advice received.

Many of the members then took this opportunity to congratulate the Neighbourhood Plan Group on the hard work that had gone into involving the community, preparing the plan and the end product. Another member stated that other neighbourhood plans in the borough are not as advanced as Asfordby and could look at the work completed to aid their own efforts in creating a Neighbourhood Plan. Furthermore, a member stated that despite the good intentions of the Localism Act, there was still difficulties and bureaucracy that is needed to be overcome to get a plan in place. The Parish Council were commended for handling the plan in a very objective manner. One member stated that other plans hadn't had the same financial backing as Asfordby.

Resolved that the Asfordby Neighbourhood Plan progress to Referendum unanimously.

The meeting that started at 6:30pm finished at 6:45pm.