

LOCAL PLAN SUB-COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Of a virtual/remote meeting held on Monday 18 January 2021 from 7.00pm to 9.00pm

Members of the Local Plan Sub-Committee:

Councillors

Sarah Nelmes (Chair)
Steve Drury (Vice-Chair)
Matthew Bedford
Stephen Cox
Stephen Giles-Medhurst
Chris Lloyd
Reena Ranger
Alison Wall
Phil Williams

Also in attendance: Councillors Marilyn Butler, Donna Duncan, Andrew Scarth, and Alison Scarth.

Officers Present: Claire May, Head of Planning Policy and Projects
Marko Kalik, Senior Planning Officer
Lauren McCullagh, Planning & Conservation Officer
Tori Elliott, Planning Officer
Sarah Haythorpe, Principal Committee Manager
Jo Welton, Committee Manager

LPSC 98/20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None received.

LPSC 99/20 MINUTES

To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the Local Plan Sub-Committee meeting held on 11 January 2021.

LPSC 100/20 NOTICE OF OTHER BUSINESS

The Chair ruled that the following item of business had not been available 5 clear working days before the meeting but were of sufficient urgency for the following reasons:

5. STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

So that progress of the local plan can be made.

LPSC 101/20 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None received.

LPSC 102/20 STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

This report summaries the temporary changes to the Statement of Community Involvement which was provided in appendix 2 of the report. Due to the current Covid legislation and guidance the Council would not be able to comply with some of the commitments set out in the current Statement of Community Involvement. To address that the addendum had been prepared to ensure compliance so long as Covid related guidance and restrictions were in place. The main change was in relation to Planning Policy where the physical consultation documents would no longer be available for inspection at local Libraries or at Three Rivers House they would only be available to view online.

In relation to Planning the only change was how site notices were to be displayed. Since March 2020 this had been the responsibility of the Applicant to display site notices, although Planning Officers still notify neighbours and post adverts in the Watford Observer. Face to face meetings would continue to be held virtually as long as the Covid 19 measures were in place. All the amendments in the addendum were only temporary and would only apply until the Council could revert back to the original Statement of Community Involvement. Any update or suspension of the addendum would be reported back to the Local Plan sub-committee and the Policy and Resources Committee.

Members noted that the regulations had been extended until December 2021. Any Government further changes that may arise between now and December 2021 may require the Statement of Community Involvement to be updated.

Members asked if there were relaxations in the regulations and Libraries were open can the public still view the document via the Libraries computers.

The Head of Planning Policy and Projects said all documents would be available online and there were plans to put notices up at the Libraries.

On being put to the sub-committee the recommendation was declared CARRIED by the Chair the voting being unanimous.

RECOMMEND:

That the Local Plan Sub Committee note the contents of this report and recommend to the Policy and Resources Committee the adoption of the Addendum to the Statement of Community Involvement as set out in Appendix 2.

LPSC 103/20 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

If the Sub-Committee wishes to consider the remaining items in private, it will be appropriate for a resolution to be passed in the following terms:-

“that under Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item(s) of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined under Paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A to the Act. It has been decided by the Council that in all the circumstances, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.”

The Livestreaming of the meeting was stopped and the sub-committee moved into Part II business.

LPSC 104/20 LOCAL PLAN: SITES FOR POTENTIAL ALLOCATION

To receive a report.

RECOMMEND:

- That public access to the report be denied until Council agenda publication (May 2021)
- That public access to the decision be denied until Council agenda publication (May 2021)

LPSC 105/20 SITES FOR CONSIDERATION

The sub-committee received a presentation on the potential Local Plan sites.

RECOMMEND:

- That public access to the report be denied until Council agenda publication (May 2021)
- That public access to the decision be denied until Council agenda publication (May 2021)

CHAIR