

**LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK WORKING GROUP held at
COUNCIL OFFICES LONDON ROAD SAFFRON WALDEN at 9.30 pmon14
DECEMBER 2012**

Present: Councillor J Ketteridge –Chairman.
Councillors S Barker, J Cheetham, E Godwin, K Eden, K
Mackman, J Menell, E Oliver, V Ranger and J Rose.

Officers in attendance: M Cox (Democratic Services Officer), R Harborough
(Director of Public Services), H Haydon (Planning Officer) and A
Taylor (Assistant Director Planning and Building Control).

LDF45 WELCOME

The Chairman reported that following the resignation of the Councillors Cant and Loughlin from the Working Group, Councillor Mackman and Rose had been appointed to the Group in order to ensure a full complement of members.

LDF46 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Watson.

LDF47 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 November 2012 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

LDF48 GYPSY AND TRAVELLER LAND AVAILABILITY – CALL FOR SITES

The meeting was informed that in response to the recent call for Gypsy and Traveller sites, 10 sites had been put forward. The location and brief description of the sites were set out in the appendix to the report and the information was available on the Council's website. It was emphasised that these were only suggested sites and had not yet been assessed for suitability.

The next stage was to conduct the Gypsy and Traveller needs survey as the Council had to set a target for the provision of sites based on robust evidence of local need. A study is being commissioned by the Essex Planning Officers Association to establish the need for each of the districts in Essex up to 2026. This would replace the previous study that had been commissioned in 2009. The Assistant Director Planning and Building Control confirmed that Uttlesford would be the lead authority for this work, which was expected to commence in the New Year.

The results of the study would be used to inform the allocation of sites/pitches in Uttlesford and used as part of the evidence base for policy development. Once the scale of need had been established the sites would be assessed for their suitability against the criteria set out in the draft policy HO1.

Councillor Cheetham requested that the assessments of the sites should take into account the points raised at the recent Gypsy and Traveller seminar where a preference had been expressed for only up to 5/6 caravans on a pitch and for this to be located away from the settled community.

Councillor Rolfe suggested that the council should issue a press statement to advise of the current position and to inform the public of the of the councils' obligations in relation to the allocation of sites. It was agreed that this could be considered in the New Year once the needs assessment study had been commissioned.

LDF49

STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET EMPLOYMENT ALLOCATION

The working group had previously recommended including an employment land allocation at Stansted Mountfitchet (land North East of Bury Lane) in the pre-submission consultation draft. East Herts District Council had requested that the Council consider the impact of this allocation on Bishops Stortford. In order to respond to these concerns a study had been commissioned to assess the commercial viability of the site and assess the impact on Bishop Stortford. The assessment was attached to the report and would form part of the evidence base in the local plan submission.

LDF50

DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

A further meeting of the working group, to consider the draft allocations, would be arranged in the New Year once the final stage of the highway study had been received.

The meeting ended at 10:30 am.