

Issues for Scrutiny to review

I have asked this to be called in for reference to full council as I believe that this is too important to be considered by the one committee, particularly as one of the votes was decided on the casting vote of the chair.

I, like several other councillors, am very concerned that the contents of the Council's Core Strategy are being agreed before there has been a full and thorough debate over all the alternative approaches.

It is certain that the decision making process will be closely scrutinised by Go East, not to mention the Secretary of State, and there are quite a few instances already of Councils that have had Core Strategies rejected as 'unsound', often because there has not been sufficient consideration of all alternatives

I'm thinking specifically of the approval of Growth Options, and many have voiced the opinion that a proper consideration of all new settlement options, not just North East of Elsenham, should be undertaken before proceeding further. There was reference to the site at Boxted Wood, and I believe there should have been the opportunity to look at this alternative in more detail than was presented, if a new settlement, which effectively Elsenham is, is reviewed

I am also concerned with the detail provided for the site at Elsenham that appears not to be able to provide 3000 houses without considerable increase of the footprint or a massive increase in housing density above 65 houses per hectare.

Councillors now have the opportunity to review this process, and I would hope that councillors refer this to full council to ensure that the needs of the local people are assessed before any further consideration is given to Elsenham, which would tend to attract further emigration from London (close link to railway) and not satisfying local needs for affordable housing from the people who already live in Uttlesford.

If you would like to hear more about East of Stebbing, as an alternative to NE of Elsenham, to assist the Council in a full consideration of alternative new settlement growth options, I will be pleased to organise this.

Uttlesford Core Strategy - Policy Choices and Options for Growth Summary of Representations Received and Recommended in July 2007 on Page 66 that there was potential for a joint project with Braintree District Council at Boxted Wood.

Cllr Peter Wilcock
Member for Newport

24th September 2007