

**SOUTH WEST AREA PANEL held at GREAT HALLINGBURY VILLAGE HALL on 23 JULY 2007 at 7.00 pm**

Present: Councillor D Jones – Chairman  
Councillors E C Abrahams, J Cheetham, A Dean, J Hudson,  
D Jones, R Lemon, J Loughlin, D Morson, J Salmon, G Sell and  
L Wells

Officers Present: A Clarke, G Bradley, R Harborough, S Hayden, M Jones,  
E O'Malley

**SWAP13 PUBLIC QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION**

Councillor Lemon questioned whether he would receive a reply to his query on the cost of holding an Area Panel.

The Leisure and Community Development Manager, Gaynor Bradley said she would reply to Councillor Lemon's request as soon as possible.

**SWAP14 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors K Artus, C M Dean and E J Godwin.

Councillor J F Cheetham declared a personal non prejudicial interest as a Member of NWEHPA. She declared a personal interest in agenda item 6, as she was married to a member of Takeley Parish Council.

**SWAP15 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 7 JUNE 2007**

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 June 2007 were agreed subject to the amendment of:

- (i) Minute SWAP 6 to read 'M Sullivan, Chair of Hatfield Heath Parish Council questioned when engineering measures would be in place for the pedestrian island'.
- (ii) 'The meeting ended at 9.00 pm'.
- (iii) Minute SWAP 9 to read 'She explained that the G1 Inquiry was now sitting'.
- (iv) Minute SWAP 12 to read 'Councillor A Dean requested that no future panel meetings clash with the respected parish council's meetings'.

SWAP16 **MATTERS ARISING**

**(i) Minute SWAP 8 Local Development Framework**

Members agreed that at the meeting held on 7 June 2007 it was proposed by Councillor Sell and Seconded by Councillor Morson and agreed by all, that an Area Panel workshop would be held in August to include all stakeholders. This had not been noted in the minutes of the previous meeting.

RESOLVED that the Area Panel would note the progress made when the Local Development Framework was discussed in Agenda Item 4, and if it became necessary would convene a further meeting to ensure adequate discussion was available to stakeholders.

SWAP17 **ENERGY EFFICIENCY**

The Energy Efficiency Surveyor, Jake Roos gave a short presentation on climate change and its evidence. He explained the current schemes that Uttlesford District Council was running to encourage residents to act against climate change.

He explained to those present that if they would like to advertise any of the schemes mentioned in the presentation then he would be happy to supply parish councils with energy saving bulbs, questionnaires and DVDs for them to distribute.

Members questioned whether the tight planning rules on listed buildings would be relaxed to accommodate these climate change schemes. Jake Roos replied that the existing rules on listed buildings would still be observed.

Members questioned whether the Uttlesford District Council's climate change activities would undermine the activities planned by Stansted airport. Jake Roos explained that at present aviation at Stansted Airport was producing 5 million tons of CO2 equivalent per annum, which was six times more than the emissions made by the district on the ground. Road transport currently made up nearly 50% of the total emissions from the district, a comparatively high proportion, partly due to the influence of through-traffic on the M11.

Councillor A Dean added that on that note he would like to see as many Councillors as possible attend the Full Council meeting on the 31 July, to measure their carbon footprint, and he suggested they hold a competition between the three area panels.

SWAP18 **UTTLESFORD CORE STRATEGY – AREA PANEL AND PARISH COUNCIL'S WORKSHOP**

Melanie Jones, Principal Planning Officer, updated the Panel on progress in preparing the core strategy. The Panel was reminded that the District would

need to accommodate about 9,000 new homes in total and that new sites would need to be identified for 4,000 of these. A number of options for the allocation of the new homes would be presented to the Environment Committee in September where the Committee would decide on the preferred option.

Members questioned whether the Government document which stated that they aim for more affordable homes across the country by 2008 would affect Uttlesford Core strategy plan. Roger Harborough, the Head of Housing and Planning Policy explained that Uttlesford would receive more funding for the provision of affordable housing sites; however he was unsure where the sites would be at present.

Melanie Jones, Principal Planning Officer, explained to the Panel that officers had factual information on each parish in Uttlesford, and that they had brought this item to this committee to take into account Parish views and thoughts on the Core Strategy.

Patricia Barber, Takeley Parish Council felt that Takeley had seen a large amount of development recently and that Takeley wanted to keep the countryside protection scheme between the village and the airport.

Roger Harborough explained that in the long term the East of England were looking at the long term direction of travel when increasing housing targets. The South West area was under significant pressure due to the Airport and the M11.

Keith Vincett, Great Canfield felt that its residents liked the quietness, and quaintness of the village, and they had moved there for these reasons. They would not like to see this change, building new facilities was not necessary. He felt that if Uttlesford spread the housing throughout the district, then the infrastructure would not be able to cope, as each village's facilities would become overloaded. He supported the option for a single development in Uttlesford.

Members felt that doing nothing was not an option. Some villages would like to see some development, as villages tend to deteriorate without growth.

Little Hallingbury residents felt that they could not support a small development in the village at present, as they were experiencing problems with their infrastructure. They questioned whether a development allocated at Little Hallingbury would be supported by a bus service. Councillor Dean advised that this would be a possibility, as the Rochford Nursery development site in Stansted Mountfitchet was to be supported by a bus service.

Members asked whether age profile would affect the approach that Uttlesford DC took. In order to encourage the 25 – 45 age range, they should be looking at more affordable housing on offer in order to balance Uttlesford's current age profile. Melanie Jones, Principal Planning Officer agreed that age profile

was an issue; however it was very difficult to deliver such large numbers of affordable housing.

Roger Harborough explained that if Uttlesford decided upon a single development in the District then 10,000 houses would be needed in order to make it a sustainable development. Members commented that before it was decided where the houses go, infrastructure must be considered.

Members requested that the Council considered the character of the District throughout its decision process. Developers were about to start work on the Rochford Nurseries site which was adding more pressure to the District's rail network. It was going to be very difficult for the Council to come up with a solution that was agreeable to all. They felt that the solution needed to be set in the context of the other areas around Uttlesford.

Ray Gooding, Essex County Councillor advised that a development of 3,000 homes would not be large enough to provide employment, however 10,000 houses would be far too large development to fit in Uttlesford. He felt it would be more appropriate to have a new settlement on the border which could meet the needs of Braintree as well as Uttlesford.

Members questioned the feasibility of creating employment in Uttlesford, due to so many commuters living in the District; it would be hard to deter people away from London. They suggested creating employment on a small scale, agricultural building conversions was one suggestion made. Members asked officers to look at migrant workers, and where they would require homes. Also the outcome of the two inquiries at the airport would have an effect on employment needs in the District. Roger Harborough explained that the Regional Strategy assumed a two runway airport at Stansted and that the Core Strategy would need to be consistent with this scenario.

## SWAP19 **UPDATE ON STANSTED AIRPORT**

The Panel was informed that Stop Stansted Expansion Campaign was completing its evidence and the Inquiry was still on schedule. After the summer recess, the Inquiry would hear evidence on surface access and it was likely that the programme would slip as BAA had yet to release additional material on this matter.

There would be a report to the Development Control Committee on the obligations and conditions proposed by BAA during the Inquiry. The Committee would be asked to consider if it would have made a different decision if the proposals had been on the table at the meeting in November when it had decided to refuse the application.

The Rail Scheme Consultation was nearly at an end. BA proposed additional car trains, platform lengthening, a three track railway, a tunnel at Stansted airport, and lengthening the current platform.

Councillor Dean asked whether the recent Government announcement regarding West Anglian Line contained anything of substance. Roger Harborough replied that he was not aware of anything significant emerging, but he would chase this further for Members. Councillor Cheetham explained that in regards to the rail line, Uttlesford DC were not the only organisation opposing the three tracks, rail contractors were not pleased with the proposals as it proved a difficult solution to work with.

## SWAP20 **COMMUNITY PROJECT GRANTS**

Gaynor Bradley, Leisure and Community Development Manager, on behalf of Alex Stewart gave a brief presentation on the report which provided Members with details of applications received from organisations requesting grant funding from the Community Project Grant.

Berden Parish Council requested £375 for improvements to the entrance to the village play area.

Members agreed to grant the application.

Councillor Lemon left the room for the consideration of Hatfield Heath's application.

Hatfield Heath Parish Council requested £960 for the clearance and improvements of Barker's Lane. They also requested the grant to buy two benches.

Members agreed to grant the application.

Councillor Cheetham left the room for the consideration of the Takeley Parish Council application.

Takeley Parish Council requested £1,200 for 8 roadside planters for flowers/shrubs which were to be located at the four main entrances into the village.

Members agreed to grant the application.

Takeley Silver Jubilee Hall requested £3,500 for preliminary work on plans for improvement/refurbishment of Takeley Silver Jubilee Hall.

Members agreed to grant the application.

**RESOLVED** that Members endorsed the recommendations set out in the appended document.

**SWAP21      UTTLESFORD PLAY STRATEGY**

Gaynor Bradley gave details of the proposed play strategy for the District Council for 2007-2011. This was part of the countywide strategy and a bid would be made to the big lottery for play initiatives for children and young people between 0 and 19. The strategy had looked at current provision of services and facilities in the district and had consulted widely with young people groups and there was now quite a clear picture of the areas in the district that were lacking facilities. From the consultation findings, an action plan had been prepared. Specific projects for funding had been identified and in the South West area it was proposed to request funding for £70,000 for a multi-use games area in Stansted Mountfitchet.

Gaynor Bradley explained that they were looking at the future, and they would need to organise fundraising and that Uttlesford DC were assisting and encouraging areas and parish councils to develop their own play strategy.

Members asked when Uttlesford DC would know whether their application had been successful. Gaynor Bradley replied that there was no definitive answer, but they hoped that it would be around the January – March period.

RESOLVED that Members endorse the strategy and forward to Community Committee.

**SWAP22      COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT REPORT**

The Panel received a report which outlined related community development activities and schemes.

**SWAP23      ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS TO BE URGENT**

Norman Mead announced that the Stop Stansted Expansion would be discussing the Environmental Impact of the G1 application at the Inquiry on 24 July 2007. He invited everyone to attend, and too encourage others as it was important that as many people as possible attended. He reminded those present that there was plenty of parking and free coffee available.

The next South West Area Panel will be held on Tuesday 16 October at Berden Village Hall.

The meeting ended at 9.30 pm.