

COUNCIL held at COUNCIL CHAMBER - COUNCIL OFFICES, LONDON ROAD, SAFFRON WALDEN, CB11 4ER, on THURSDAY, 2 FEBRUARY 2023 at 7.00 pm

Present: Councillor G Driscoll (Vice-Chair),
Councillors J Emanuel, J Evans, R Freeman, N Gregory,
V Isham, R Jones, P Lees, B Light, S Merifield, R Pavitt,
N Reeve and G Smith

Officers in attendance: P Holt (Chief Executive), B Ferguson (Democratic Services Manager) and D Hermitage (Director of Planning)

C71 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Driscoll took the chair in the absence of Councillor Asker.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Armstrong, Asker, Bagnall, Barker, Caton, Coote, Criscione, Dean, Eke, Fairhurst, Foley, Hargreaves, Khan, Lavelle, Loveday, LeCount, Lemon, Lodge, Loughlin, Luck, Oliver, Pepper, Sell, Sutton, Tayler and de Vries.

There were no declarations of interest.

C72 GREAT AND LITTLE CHESTERFORD NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Councillor Evans presented the report regarding the Great and Little Chesterford Neighbourhood Plan. He said the number of members attending the meeting had been managed in agreement with Group Leaders due to the overwhelming cross-party support for neighbourhood plans and to save on unnecessary travel time. He said there were now eight neighbourhood plans in the district, with a further nine in the making, and he encouraged parishes and local communities to adopt such plans due to the weight they carried in the planning process. He said this Plan was approved resoundingly at referendum and he was delighted to propose adoption of the Great and Little Chesterford Neighbourhood Plan.

Councillor Gregory seconded the proposal. He thanked officers and members for their work but reserved special praise for members of the Steering Group who had worked extremely hard to deliver the Plan. He asked Council to join him in a round of applause for Councillor Wilkinson and Mr Hall, who were present in the Chamber, who had played pivotal roles in getting the Plan made.

Councillor Pavitt concurred with Councillor Gregory and said he had every respect for those involved in the Plan and thanked them for their efforts.

In response to a question from Councillor Light regarding the 2011 Census, Councillor Evans said neighbourhood plans could take years and the data referred to in the Plan would have been what was available at the time of writing.

He added that the Neighbourhood Plan taken to referendum had been approved by the Inspector.

In response to a question from Councillor Reeve regarding a Saffron Walden to Cambridge cycle-way, Councillor Evans said representations had been made regarding cycle-ways and future policies were anticipated.

Councillor Emanuel congratulated the Steering Group and said these Plans were worthwhile and carried real weight in the planning process. She said six inappropriate developments had been won at appeal following the adoption of the Newport, Quendon and Rickling Neighbourhood Plan in her ward. There were discussions ongoing in regards to creating a space where parishes and steering groups from across the district could share knowledge and learning on the neighbourhood planning process.

The Chair took the proposal to a vote.

The proposal was carried with twelve votes for and none against. The Chair abstained from the vote.

RESOLVED that the Great and Little Chesterford Neighbourhood Plan (Appendix 1) be formally made as part of the statutory development plan for the District in accordance with Regulation 18A of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 as amended and under section 38A (4) of the 2004 Act.

The Chair closed the meeting at 7.30pm.