



RURAL WORKING GROUP

THORNEY – 3RD FEBRUARY 2010

Present

Richard Astle, Director, GPP (Acting as RWG Chair)
Cllr David Harrington, Newborough ward councillor
Kirsten Bennett, Cambridgeshire ACRE
Graeme Law, Peterborough City Council
Nick Goodman, Environmental Capital Officer, GPP
Cllr David Over, Barnack ward councillor and Chair of Rural Scrutiny Commission
Gerry Kirt, Glinton Parish Council
David Buddle, Thorney Parish Council
John Bartlett, Thorney Parish Council
Leonie McCarthy, Neighbourhood Manager – City Wide, PCC
Frieda Gosling, Ufford Parish Council
Keith Lievesley, Ufford Parish Council
David Sanders, Eye and Thorney ward councillor
Marion Browne, Ufford Parish Council
Bob Johnson, Glinton Parish Council
Gemma Wildman, Peterborough City Council
Chris Cooper, Individual
Rohan Wilson, Bretton Parish Council
Roy Pettit, Peakirk Parish Council
Pat Murphy, Thorney Parish Council
Russ Bevington, Thorney Parish Council
Adam Short, Eye Parish Council

Apologies

Zena Coles, Bainton and Ashton Parish Council
Cllr John Holdich, Glinton and Wittering ward
Cllr Peter Hiller, Northborough Ward Councillor
Sally Jackson, Peakirk Parish Council
Henry Clark, Chair, Peakirk & Rural Working Group
Rob Hilton, Castor Parish Council
Rosemary Morton, Willowbrook Farm
Richard Tindall, Northborough Parish Council
Steve Horner, Peterborough City Council
June Woollard, Barnack Parish Council

1. Welcome and Introductions

Richard Astle (as acting chair) welcomed members to the meeting of the Rural Working Group (RWG), individuals introduced themselves.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

Nick Goodman updated the group that all actions had been followed up. No response had been received from the Homes and Communities Agency regarding the excessive signage but PCC (Nigel Barnes) was either meeting or was planning to meet with them.

Leonie McCarthy to follow up with Nigel Barnes on progress

3. Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) – Rural policies

Graeme Law outlined the role of regional spatial planning and updated the group that the document could be stronger on spatial planning in rural areas. Graeme sits as Peterborough representative on the regional group developing the RSS so we have an opportunity to feed our thoughts through him to inform this regional document. The ownership of the document will transfer to East of England Development Agency (from the regional assembly) this year. It was noted that a change of government in May 2010 could bring a whole new dimension to the idea of regional planning – watch this space.

Discussion included

- Kirsten Bennett – ACRE were concerned about the impact of regional policies on smaller settlements and had done some work on the balance of communities.
- It is vital that we get the right rubric about rural areas into the RSS.
- It is vital that we invest in agriculture. With the onset of peak oil and climate change – agriculture will change.
- EERF (East of England Rural Forum – have produced a white paper on rural issues [http://www.eerf.org.uk/Documents/strategic-documents/Rural-White-Paper/181109/EERF%20RWP%20ITT%20ScopeDoc%20\(%20v1.1\).pdf](http://www.eerf.org.uk/Documents/strategic-documents/Rural-White-Paper/181109/EERF%20RWP%20ITT%20ScopeDoc%20(%20v1.1).pdf)

KB – Send through *balance of communities and impact on Cambridgeshire* to NG

DO, RA, GL and NG – Consider how we capture input and influence the RSS

4. Site Allocations - consultation

Gemma Wildman presented an update on the myriad of documents which comprise the Local Development Framework.

- Core Strategy – Currently out for consultation (closes 4th March)
- Minerals and Waste Plan – Consultation begins 15th February
- Site Allocations – Consultation opens Mid march (then consultation on final submission in September 2010)
- Planning Obligations policy – almost adopted
- Planning policies – no consultation until later in the year.

The site Allocations documents is now publicly available via PCC's democracy pages before it opens for full consultation in March.

David Sanders raised a number of concerns – PCC were planning to take away Parish Councils powers to refer planning applications, the provision of traveller sites in the city, poor communication from PCC and that we must ensure that PCC listens to Parish Councils.

Graeme Law emphasised that PCC were the planning authority and that planning had a Statement of Community Involvement. A number of other members raised the issue that PCC might be trying to remove some of parishes planning powers – this issue needs to be clarified.

John Bartlett – Send through a letter referring to planning powers to Richard Astle

Leonie/NG – Clarify situation with Simon Machen (planning)

David Over asked about the process behind Wothorpe and Ashton being designated as conservation areas

Gemma Wildman – Seek clarification on conservation areas

The planning team had used Flood Maps and Planning Policy Statement PPS 25 (national guidance) to identify sites at risk of flooding.

Russ Bevington asked what happens if an application doesn't come forward for an identified site. Gemma explained that part of the assessment criteria for allocating sites was the deliverability of development on the site within the next 15 years. If development was unlikely then the site would have failed on that criteria.

Gemma outlined the allocation to each village

Village	Committed Sites	New Allocations	Total
Key Service Centres			
Eye	193	305	498
Thorney	0	141	141
Total			539

Limited Growth Villages			
Ailsworth	0	11	11
Barnack	41	0	41
Castor	0	42	42
Glington	11	28	39
Helpston	42	61	103
Newborough	23	48	71
Northborough	0	0	0
Wittering	0	101	101
Total			408

The committed sites are based on Housing Monitoring Report (31st March 2009) and only includes houses with 10 or more dwellings

Core Strategy requires:

Key Service Centres – 600
Limited Growth – 450

David Over raised an important issue, what is PCC's vision for the future for rural communities – could they be invited to present it?

Gemma was thanked.

5. Community Engagement – testing the outputs of the Solution Centre

Nick Goodman gave a short presentation on the Community engagement solutions centre – and invited comments. The presentation can be found at <http://www.gpp-peterborough.org.uk/partners-rural.php>.

The group were generally critical, particularly given the previous agenda item. Comments included...

- Whilst all very noble an aim – engagement and empowerment is undermined by the “big issues” such as neighbourhood councils and planning processes.
- One member of the group has developed a contact list of 30 people within council and various agencies, she knows who, when and how to influence decisions and get results.
- There was a feeling that partners are a long way from working together – as they are expected to do in the Involve Peterborough team
- Data Observatory – what would the front end actually look like? Would it be a website? A person?
- Accountability and Standards - Sally Crawford did a piece of work a few years ago mapping when and how peoples issues were followed up. This might be interesting to explore with regards to a communications standard/protocol, particularly considering how undermining a negative experience can be.
- There needs to be an engagement framework to give clarity

6. Rural Businesses – developing contacts

Nick Goodman asked for the support of the group in getting useful rural business contacts who could start to shape our rural economy agenda (rural businesses, people who work from home, rural enterprise, agriculture, rural skills)

NG to email RWG for ideas on rural economy

7. AOB

Sunday Stamford bus service = Chris Cooper asked the group to consider making a representation to Cathy Summers and Teresa Wood about the routes for Sunday services. There were opportunities for better routing out of the city.

NG to raise with Cathy Summers

Next meeting Tuesday 13th April 2010 – Eye – 7-9pm

RESPONSIBLE	ACTION	DEADLINE
NG	Raise Bus service with Cathy Summers	ASAP
NG	Email RWG for ideas on rural economy.	ASAP
GW	Seek clarification on conservation areas	ASAP
John Bartlett	Send through a letter referring to planning powers to Richard Astle	ASAP
LM/NG	Clarify situation with Simon Machen (planning)	ASAP
KB	Send through balance of communities and impact on Cambridgeshire to NG	ASAP
DO, RA, GL and NG	Consider how we capture input and influence the RSS	ASAP
Leonie McCarthy	Follow up with Nigel Barnes on progress with HCA signage issues	ASAP