

Place Shaping Working Group Minutes

Oadby and Wigston Borough Council

Thursday 8th May 2014

Councillors:

Councillor J W Boyce (Chair)
Councillor L A Bentley
Councillor L Darr
Councillor Mrs JM Gore

Officers:

Adrian Thorpe	(Planning Policy and Regeneration Manager)
Anita Pathak-Mould	(Head of Community)
Ed Morgan	(Planning Policy Officer)
Jamie Carr	(Planning Policy Officer)
Kirstie Rea	(Senior Planning Policy Officer)
Stuart Longbottom	(Economic Regeneration Officer)

Guest Speaker:

Robin Thompson RPT Consulting (Item 4)

1. Apologies:

Councillor G A Boulter
Councillor M Charlesworth
Councillor J Kaufman
Councillor Mrs L Kaufman
Councillor Mrs S B Morris
Councillor R Thakor
Anne Court (Director of Services)
Daniel Britton (Economic Regeneration Officer)
John Dickson (Section 151 Officer)
Judith Sturley (Senior Economic Regeneration Officer)
Mark Hryniw (Town Centre Manager)

2. Minutes and Matters Arising

2.1 None

3. Declarations of Interest

3.1 None

4. Draft Playing Pitch Strategy – Presentation

4.1 Robin Thompson, RPT Consulting, presented to Members on his findings thus far in relation the work that he and his team have been procured to undertake by the

Council on the Playing Pitch Strategy. He explained that the work had been carried out in-line with the latest guidance and procedures as set out by Sport England. It is important that the Council's Playing Pitch Strategy is carried out in line with this guidance, because, should the Council come to apply for any funding in the future to support the delivery of projects on its Playing Pitches, it must be able to clearly demonstrate that these National standards have been adhered to, when assessing supply and demand in the Borough.

- 4.2 Robin Thompson explained to Members what he envisaged to be the next steps and stand-out milestones for further progress on this Strategy.
- 4.3 Members were content with the approach suggested and therefore were supportive of Robin Thompson's proposal to consult with the Horsewell Lane Steering Group on Thursday 12th June 2014.

5. Draft Strategic Housing Market Assessment - Update

- 5.1 Adrian Thorpe apologised to Members for the late circulation of his report, but explained that this is a 'live' project and therefore the update was a reflection of the situation as it stands today.
- 5.2 At this stage, all content on this paper must remain confidential due to the sensitivity of the work.
- 5.3 Adrian Thorpe updated Members regarding the latest position for all authorities in Leicestershire having now received a draft report from the consultant, GL Hearn, who have been jointly procured to undertake this work.
- 5.4 Members discussed the reports draft findings and asked several questions of Officers. However, in principle, Members agreed on the approach that has been suggested in the draft report and by Officers.

6. Draft Local Development Scheme

- 6.1 Jamie Carr gave an overview of what the Local Development Scheme is and what its objectives are. He drew particular reference to p.24 of the document, Local Plan Review, for it will be at the forefront of Planning Policy and Regeneration's workload for the next two years.
- 6.2 Councillor Boyce sought clarification over whether Officers deemed the timetable for the Local Plan Review to be deliverable, particularly when considering the likely key dates for the delivery of the emerging Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) covering the Leicester and Leicestershire Housing Market Area (which incorporates the Borough of Oadby and Wigston). Both Adrian Thorpe and Jamie Carr agreed that the timetable is realistic and deliverable, with Adrian Thorpe adding that it is crucial that the Borough Council is in a position to push forward with the Local Plan Review as soon as the SHMA is published, and therefore, the evidence base supporting the delivery of the Local Plan Review should begin as soon as possible, as illustrated in the Draft Local Development Scheme.

7. Draft Statement of Community Involvement

- 7.1 Ed Morgan gave a summary of the Draft Statement of Community Involvement. Due to changes in National Planning Policy, the document needs to be reviewed to update the Council's approach to consulting with the community on Planning Policy Documents and Planning Applications.
- 7.2 The anticipated key dates were agreed by Members as a suitable course of action.

8. National Planning Policy Guidance – Update

- 8.1 Adrian Thorpe summarised the stand-out categories of the recently published and updated National Planning Policy Guidance (NPPG) that are likely to have an impact upon the Borough Council.
- 8.2 in response to the subjects raised by Adrian Thorpe in relation to the NPPG, Councillor Boyce requested that Planning Policy and Regeneration look into two issues that require more information and / or a piece of written work:
- To decide whether the Council should develop and publish a register of agricultural structures in the Borough;
 - To discover who / which organisation has statutory responsibility for the maintenance of 'Culverts' in the Borough.

9. Town Centre Managers Update

- 9.1 Adrian Thorpe updated Members on a series of key issues that had been set out by the Council's Town Centre Manager within the report.

10. Town Centre Public Realm Improvements Update

- 10.1 Jamie Carr updated Members on the key dates over the coming months in relation to the Public Realm improvements in both Oadby district centre and Wigston town centres.
- 10.2 Work in Oadby will commence on Friday 9th May 2014.
- 10.3 Leicestershire County Council will set up a site compound on Sandhurst Street Car Park, the week commencing Monday 12th May 2014.
- 10.4 A full road closure for approximately 2-3 weeks is due to take place in the July fortnight in Oadby.
- 10.5 The Council is finalising work on the digital signage boards that are due to be installed in both Oadby district centre and Wigston town centre.

11. Any Other Business

- 11.1 None.

12. Date of Next Meeting

- 12.1 Wednesday 16th July 2014