

NOTES OF A MEETING OF THE OADBY RESIDENTS' FORUM HELD AT THE BARNABAS CENTRE, HAMBLE ROAD, OADBY ON TUESDAY 28 JANUARY 2014 COMMENCING AT 6.30 P.M.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Councillor D Carter – Chairman

Councillors J Boyce, D Gamble, Mrs R Kanabar & L Darr,

Officers in Attendance: I Dobson & C Forrett

Residents in Attendance: D Bromley, T L Highton, A J Highton, T Deacon, V Deacon, C Deacon, Dr T K Chowdhury, J M Dobney, L Hill, Mr & Mrs Alvey, Mr & Mrs Brown, T Wysch, K J Hier, P Bliss, H Smith, M Cooch, H Thiary, L & D Harrison, Mr & Mrs Haycock, A Dodge, D Needham, M Sansome, L Charlesworth, H Heath, D Kent, G W & M R Orwin, C Bott, R Emmerson, P Emmerson, Y Khan, T Lambourne

Apologies for Absence: G P Sutcliffe, John Vickerstaff, J Kaufman, L Kaufman, P Swift, S Dickinson

Min Ref	Narrative	Officer Resp
20.	<p><u>Planning Application 13/00478/OUT – Land at Cottage Farm (Housing Development) in Oadby</u></p> <p>The Chairman announced that the meeting had been reconvened to continue discussing the above agenda item, following a lack of time remaining at the meeting held on 11 December 2013.</p> <p>He went on to say that Members of the Development Control committee (the committee responsible for determining planning applications) must not fetter their discretion in respect of the application due to the quasi-judicial nature of the decision making process, and so it would not be appropriate to take part in the debate as a Member of that committee. As such, the Leader of the Council had been requested to respond to residents concerns about the application.</p> <p>Councillor John Boyce outlined the Council's position in relation to the application by explaining the Policy framework that informs decision making for planning applications. He</p>	

explained that the Council's Core Strategy identifies areas to be developed until 2026 and it was noted that the land at Cottage Farm has not been designated as an area for development within the Core Strategy. He suggested that this offers protection against unwanted development by controlling development and ensuring that services and infrastructure are adequately contributed towards by developers.

He went on to suggest that there is an appropriate reason to consider rejecting the application, in that it is not consistent with Council Policy. Councillor Boyce informed residents that in recommending a decision, the Planning Officer must give a professional opinion which is informed primarily by legislation and Policy. He went on to say that in this respect, the Council is in a strong position because the Policy is in place.

Residents raised numerous concerns which can be summarised as the below:

- Application should be refused. Developers are trying to circumnavigate the system by building developments that are small enough to not warrant making contributions to Services or Infrastructure.
- Concerns that Leicestershire Highways have not considered access arrangements appropriately.
- The land is liable to flooding and is boggy land that is not fit for development
- Object to the building of 'executive housing'. Should be more social housing proposed.
- That the application will be granted on appeal even if the Council is able to reject it.
- Not able to speak at Development Control meetings unless registered prior to the meeting.
- Petitions do not seem to carry much weight in the decision making process.

Councillor John Boyce addressed residents concerns and reiterated that the Core Strategy offers the best response as it seeks to control development by designating specific areas of the Borough for building homes. He went on to emphasise that work in this vein, such as 5 year land supply and updating the Core Strategy, will continue to offer protection to the Borough.

	<p>Councillor John Boyce responded to a query from a resident about the audit of the Core Strategy. He informed residents that it had been submitted to a planning inspector for examination followed by a public hearing, where it was scrutinised over a number of days.</p> <p>In closing the meeting, Councillor John Boyce informed residents that the decision will be published and that Councillors will work hard to keep residents updated.</p>	
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The Meeting Closed at 7:30 p.m.