

ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES
AGENDA

Monday 16th March 2009
at 6.00pm in the Committee Suite, King's Court, Chapel Street,
King's Lynn, Norfolk

PLEASE NOTE START TIME

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2. MINUTES

To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 9th January 2009 (attached at Appendix 1).

3. CO-OPTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

There is currently one vacancy on the Committee for a Member who is disabled or a representative of a voluntary organisation concerned with people with disabilities.

Any co-opted members would remain on the Committee until the next Annual General Meeting in 2009 when the positions will be up for re-election.

4. MATTERS ARISING AND NOT COVERED ELSEWHERE ON THE AGENDA

5. FUTURE OF THE COMMITTEE

To receive a verbal report on the future of the Committee.

6. KING'S LYNN/WEST LYNN FERRY – DEVELOPMENTS AND IMPROVEMENTS

To receive a verbal report from Andrew Moulds, Mott MacDonald regarding access to the King's Lynn Ferry.

7. LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK CORE STRATEGY – YOUR VIEWS

Claire Churchill, Principal Planner will present this item. A briefing note and background information is attached as Appendix 2.

8. FREEBRIDGE COMMUNITY HOUSING UPDATE

To receive a verbal update from Sylvia Pomeroy on current issues.

9. NEIGHBOURHOOD MANAGEMENT BOARD

To nominate a representative from the members of the Committee with disabilities or representing organisations concerned with people with disabilities to attend the Improving Neighbourhoods Board Meetings.

For information, future meeting dates are as follows:

24th March

26th May

28th July

29th September

24th November

All meetings to start at 5.45pm.

10. ONLINE ACCESS GUIDE

To receive an update on the creation of the online access guide.

11. (a) SECRETARY'S CORRESPONDENCE

(b) DISABILITY ISSUES CORRESPONDENCE

(c) FUTURE PLANS AND ACTIVITIES

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To note that the next meeting of the Advisory Committee for People with Disabilities will take place on Monday 11th May 2009 at 6.00pm (please note start time) in the Committee Suite, King's Court, Chapel Street, King's Lynn.

**BOROUGH COUNCIL OF KING'S LYNN AND WEST NORFOLK
ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES**

Minutes of a Meeting of the Advisory Committee for People with Disabilities held on Thursday 9th January 2009 at 2.30pm in the Committee Suite, King's Court, Chapel Street, King's Lynn

PRESENT:**Representing the Borough Council:**

Councillors D Harwood (Chair), A Clery-Fox, M Langwade, J Legg, J Murphy, G Sandell, S Smeaton

Representing People with Disabilities: J Frary, P French, S Pomeroy, K Warner, S Smith, T Smith

Professional Advisors: A Bingham

Others present: A Chu, P Lusher

Apologies for absence were received from: Councillor G Daniell and K Warner.

1. MINUTES

The minutes from the meeting held on 11th November 2008 were agreed as a correct record. The meeting was inquorate so would therefore be signed by the Chair at the next meeting.

2. IMPROVING NEIGHBOURHOODS BOARD

The Chair welcomed Andy Chu and Paul Lusher, who had recently been appointed as Neighbourhood Support Trainees by the West Norfolk Partnership, to the meeting. Paul Lusher explained that 5 Neighbourhood Support Trainees had been appointed to cover the following areas:

- South Lynn
- North Lynn
- Gaywood
- Fairstead
- Friars and Town Centres.

It was the role of these trainees to empower residents and make sure they had access to and were aware of supporting service agencies.

The 5 Trainees had initially been appointed on eighteen month contracts but it was hoped that if further funding was obtained the contracts could be lengthened.

The Trainees were also in the process of establishing Neighbourhood Partnerships in each of the five areas which would hopefully encourage local residents to become involved in local community groups.

The Chair thanked Andy Chu and Paul Lusher for coming along to the meeting and hoped that they would consult the Committee on any future plans or activities that might affect people with disabilities.

3. CO-OPTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The Chair reminded the Committee that it currently had one vacancy for a Member who was disabled or a representative of a voluntary organisation concerned with people with disabilities.

The Committee were asked to inform the Chair or the Secretary of any potential Committee Members.

4. FREEBRIDGE COMMUNITY HOUSING UPDATE

Sylvia Pomeroy provided the group with an update on activities at Freebridge Community Housing. She informed the group that Freebridge Community Housing was currently undergoing an Audit and Inspection which would highlight any issues. Auditors had also been attending focus groups.

She reported that Housing Adaptations were continually increasing.

5. NEIGHBOURHOOD MANAGEMENT BOARD

Sylvia Pomeroy informed the Committee that unfortunately she was unable to attend these meetings and had therefore resigned from the Board.

Sylvia Pomeroy was a representative of people with disabilities on this board and it was agreed that it would be beneficial for a representative from this Committee to replace her.

The Secretary agreed to contact the Neighbourhood Management Board with regards to nominating a replacement.

6. ONLINE ACCESS GUIDE

Allison Bingham informed the Committee that the online access guide was still on target to go live at the beginning of April 2009. All data for the guide had been received and was currently being inputted into the site.

She informed the Committee that at its next meeting in March 2009 she would hopefully be in a position to present mock up pages so that Committee members could view the draft guide.

Allison Bingham explained that the online guide would comprise of the following pages:

- Front page – where news issues and advertisements could feature
- Search page
- Help page
- Business information pages
- Useful links/contact information

Allison Bingham asked that if any members had suggestions on contacts/links which could be published on the site to contact her. Judith Frary requested that a link to Norfolk County Council Adult Social Services be published. Allison Bingham also confirmed that the site would be linked to the Borough Council's website.

The website address for the guide was confirmed as follows:

Westnorfolkaccessguide.com
Westnorfolkaccessguide.co.uk
Westnorfolkaccessguide.org

The timetable for creation of the guide was also confirmed as follows:

- Data inputted into the site and formatted within the next week.
- Testing on the site to take place mid-February.
- Site to be tested by the Council Information Centre so that any glitches could be identified during March

- Site to go live – 1st April 2009.

Allison Bingham hoped that eventually the site could incorporate rural areas. She was currently liaising with the Communications department of the Council to discuss the launch and promotion of the site.

In response to a question, Allison Bingham explained that members of the public who had accessed a service could comment on how accessible the service was. These comments would then be fed back to the service and where appropriate published on the website.

Councillor Mrs Janet Murphy agreed to pass on contact details for Disability Norfolk who could possibly assist with the testing of the site.

The Chair thanked Allison Bingham for the update and looked forward to seeing the draft site displayed at the next meeting.

7. ANNUAL DISABILITIES FORUM – CELEBRATE-ABILITY

The Chair asked the Committee for feedback from the recent Celebrate-ability event held at the Corn Exchange. He explained that due to other commitments and an illness he was regrettably unable to attend the event.

Generally the Committee commented that the event went well and those who attended enjoyed the event. The following feedback was received which would be taken into account when organising next year's event:

- Lack of attendance from the media. The Committee requested that Anglia News, Look North and local/regional newspapers be contacted in advance of next year's event.
- Wider publicity of the event.
- Provision of parking spaces for people attending the event, or use of Community Transport providing a park and ride.
- Consideration of use of other venues.
- Change of time of the event. The Committee agreed that holding the event between 10am and 2pm may increase turnout.

- Date of the event. It was suggested that the time of year may have prevented some people coming into town.
- Holding the event during half term/school holidays to encourage school children to attend/be involved with the event.
- Decoration of the venue, i.e banners.
- Microphone used for speakers.
- Linking the event in with the Opportunity Awards.

The Chair and Secretary agreed to take the above comments into consideration when organising next year's event.

8. SECRETARY'S CORRESPONDENCE

The Secretary had received a letter from Norfolk and Norwich Association for the blind who had indicated that they would be interested in attending a future meeting of the Committee to brief them on the work of the association.

The Secretary agreed to invite them to the meeting in March.

9. FUTURE PLANS AND ACTIVITIES

The Chair reminded the Committee that at its last meeting consideration had been given to visiting attractions as a group to investigate how accessible they were and then pass on suggestions on how they could be improved.

The following additional attractions were suggested by the Committee for possible visits:

- Sandringham House/Woods
- Welney Washes
- Titchwell
- Pensthorpe
- Princess Theatre, Hunstanton
- Sherringham Theatre
- Stow Bardolph Park Farm

The Chair and Secretary agreed to take this forward and keep the group updated on progress. The Chair suggested that a checklist could be completed by the group when visiting attractions.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(i) Planning Applications Working Group

Allison Bingham reminded the Committee that this working group met as necessary to comment on public access planning applications. She asked that if any members of the Committee were interested in sitting on this Committee to inform her.

Pat French and Councillor Stephanie Smeaton volunteered to join this group.

(ii) Signage Contract

Allison Bingham informed the Committee that she was currently progressing a signage contract for Council buildings. She explained that to ensure that the signage was appropriate for all users she would like feedback from Members of this group on the proposed signage.

Trevor Smith, Susan Smith and Councillor Stephanie Smeaton volunteered to assist Allison Bingham with signage issues.

(iii) Nando's Restaurant

Concerns were raised by members of the Committee regarding access to the above restaurant in the Town Centre. There was currently no wheelchair access at the main entrance of the building.

Allison Bingham informed the Committee that it was likely that the building was listed therefore permission would not have been granted to modify the building.

(iv) Obstructions on the Highways

Trevor Smith informed the Committee that he felt the number of obstructions on the street within the Town Centre was increasing.

The Chair explained that the Council was currently in the process of agreeing a street furniture policy which would mean that licences would have to be granted for street furniture on Council owned premises. He agreed to keep the Committee updated on progress.

(v) The Walks

The Committee were informed that bollards were to be constructed in the Walks to prevent vehicular access. Access would be maintained for Maintenance and Emergency vehicles.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Advisory Committee for People with Disabilities would take place on Monday 16th March 2009 at 2.30pm in the Committee Suite, King's Court, Chapel Street, King's Lynn.

The meeting closed at 3.35pm

Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk**LDF Core Strategy – Tell us your views**

The Borough Council's planning team has prepared a document that will guide future development across the whole of the area up to 2025. The document, referred to as the Core Strategy (part of the Local Development Framework - LDF), is the subject of a public consultation running from 23 February to 6 April.

The draft Core Strategy shares the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) vision and objectives for the Borough. In particular it will aim to deliver the spatial elements of the SCS. The Council are working closely alongside the West Norfolk Partnership to preserve, protect and enhance the qualities that make West Norfolk a great place to live.

It is important that the Core Strategy document reflects the views of the communities within West Norfolk. To date the Council has undergone widespread consultation with exhibitions and workshops accessible by all residents. We have considered all the views and evidence collected so far and used these to inform our suggested approach outlined in this draft document.

It is important we now speak to all sections of our community, in some cases targeting groups we have had little involvement with so far. To start this discussion process I would like to:

- Bring the Core Strategy Regulation 25 Document to your attention, and ask for any comments you may have to be submitted online at our website. www.west-norfolk.gov.uk A summary leaflet of the document is attached.
- Would it be appropriate to arrange a special meeting of this group to discuss specifically the content of the draft Core Strategy?
- Are there any suggestions as to how we could better engage with particular groups within our community on this document?

Contact:

Claire Churchill - Principal Planner, LDF Team. 01553 616236 or claire.churchill@west-norfolk.gov.uk

Core Strategy Regulation 25 Summary Leaflet

Local Development Framework - February 2009

King's Lynn & West Norfolk

What is the purpose of the Core Strategy?

Planning for the future of the Borough is not easy. On the one hand we want to make opportunities for the area to regenerate and prosper economically and to have enough decent homes for people to live in. At the same time however we need to protect and enhance the qualities that make West Norfolk a great place to live and work – the coast, the countryside, and communities. This document and the draft proposals it contains try to strike that balance. A lot of previous work (evidence gathering and consultation) has been undertaken and this document captures this and shows how it has influenced our current thinking. The Core Strategy is a very important document as it will set the pattern for development for the next 15 years or more.

Where are we now?

Although we are at an early stage in the preparation of our Core Strategy, we are keen to understand how practical the proposals are and what the impact may be on service providers and any additional facilities that might be needed. Whilst we appreciate that communities, businesses and residents are interested in the detail of our new development, this document seeks to give the broad scale and roles for places rather than detailed sites. We will move onto specific sites and locations later in the year.

The Vision

Our vision for the Borough is shared with the Sustainable Community Strategy ...

“People will want to be part of the success story that is West Norfolk, drawn here to live, work, invest and visit”

More specific objectives relate to three overarching themes. These are:

- The Economy
- The Environment
- Social issues

This Vision shapes our Policies for Places and Area-wide policies:

Policies for Places

The general pattern of future development will be shaped by the Settlement Hierarchy, (which categorises each town and village according to sustainability criteria) and these policies for places.

Broad potential development locations are identified at King's Lynn, Downham Market, Hunstanton, and also near Wisbech. The general options offered by each are as follows...

King's Lynn

The main goals for the town include:

- Regeneration and growth – provision of new homes and jobs in line with designations as both a Growth Point and a Key Centre for Development and Change within the East of England Plan
- Fostering economic growth and inward investment
- Improved accessibility for all

**your views, your vision...
help us to plan your future.**

Your views, your vision...

The development options offered in order for King's Lynn to achieve these goals include:

1. Developing mainly within the built up area – regeneration and intensification of brownfield sites and limited greenfield sites within the existing settlement boundary
2. New development sited mainly on greenfield sites (urban expansion)
3. A combination of the two – a significant emphasis on brownfield redevelopment within the town, together with limited urban expansion

Option 3 is currently considered the most sustainable approach.

Downham Market

The focus for here continues

- its role as a key local centre serving the Fens and the southern part of the Borough, with the services necessary to meet the demands of a growing population
- to provide employment land to meet the needs of existing and potential new businesses
- to seek a balance between service provision and residential expansion before significant further housing growth

Hunstanton

The town will continue to

- develop as an important service centre supporting retail, cultural and social needs for its residents and those living in the surrounding rural areas
- strengthen its role as a seaside visitor destination
- Build on and improve the links with King's Lynn to benefit from growth proposals there

Rural and Coastal Areas

The strategy for rural areas is

- to promote sustainable communities and sustainable patterns of development ensuring strong, diverse economic activity,

whilst maintaining local character and a high quality environment.

- give priority to retaining local employment and a healthy local economy
- to manage visitor demands, particularly in the coastal areas to maintain the tourism economy whilst protecting sensitive areas

Area-wide Policies

The document contains area-wide topics which, although listed individually here, share many common issues and should therefore be read together. The themes discussed here will also be applied to individual policies for places when proposals are considered.

Sustainable Development

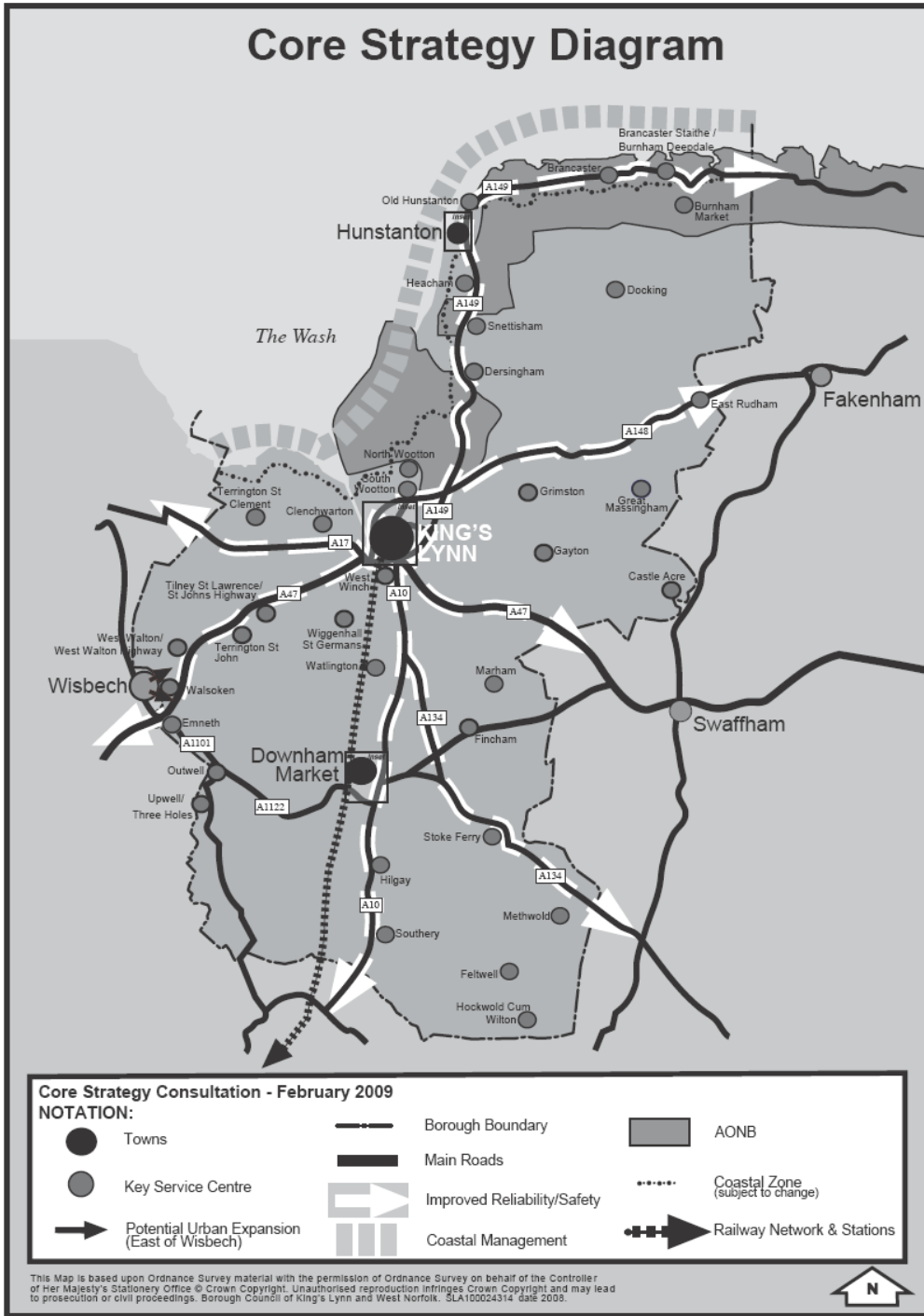
- Avoidance of development in areas with an increased vulnerability to climate change notably areas at risk of tidal or fluvial flooding or coastal erosion.
- Promote and encourage opportunities to achieve high standards of sustainable design and energy efficiency.
- The Council will encourage generation of renewable energy, as a contribution towards Government objectives in cutting carbon emissions.

Housing

- Provision of a range of housing to 2025; a proportion of which will be affordable, particularly in rural areas. This housing will be broadly allocated as follows:
 - King's Lynn - 7,100
 - Downham Market - 3,000
 - Hunstanton - 530
 - Rural areas - 5,600 (of which 3,800 will be within the Key Service Centres and 500 in the Wisbech fringe).

Economy

- There is a need for new employment opportunities, particularly in King's Lynn, but also in Downham Market and Hunstanton – there is a need to identify new



Your views, your vision...

sites to bring forward whilst retaining existing premises

- Brownfield development will be the principal approach to development of employment land, however we will take a more flexible approach to development in rural areas.
- Retail development will be considered using a hierarchical approach, in line with the settlement hierarchy using sustainability principles.
- Tourism, leisure and culture industries are important elements of the economic and social vibrancy of the Borough. These will be key in contributing to regeneration and growth in the area.

Transport

- Key issues are connection and accessibility – need for improvements to roads and rail in order to deliver a sustainable and improved transport network within and beyond the Borough.
- The Council supports a change to more sustainable modes of transport; however rural areas are car dependant and a change may not always be practical.

Environmental Assets

- High quality environment and unique natural assets will be protected and enhanced.
- Quality of environment and open space impacts upon quality of life of residents.
- Approach needed that will balance the challenges of social and economic development with environmental protection.

Community, Social and Culture

- This chapter ties together elements of other area wide policies and the impacts that the factors described in each section have on community cohesion and well-being.
- Recommendations are made to build on enhancing all round 'quality of life' for residents, with the aim to achieve sustainable communities. The policy approach focuses in particular on good design, open space, leisure and recreation, and, tourism and culture in contributing

towards factors such as health, education, the economy and the environment.

Implementing the growth

Without the proper and timely provision of infrastructure to support development it will not function as anticipated. This can be at a simple level of a footpath to link a housing development to facilities, or possibly more significantly the provision of a primary school. The intention of the Borough Council is to create communities which have the best chance of success, environmentally, economically and socially, and not ones which lack basic facilities from the outset.

What next? How can you get involved?

We welcome your views on this document - there is a consultation period from the 23rd February to the 6th April. If you have any questions or comments regarding the future Core Strategy, or about this publication, please visit our website for further information where the document is available in full, or email us at the address below and we will do our best to help.

Website: www.west-norfolk.gov.uk

Email: ldf@west-norfolk.gov.uk

If you would like this document in large print, audio, Braille, alternative format or in a different language please contact us at the address below and we will do our best to help.

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February 2009

Borough Council of
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