

**BOROUGH COUNCIL OF KING'S LYNN & WEST NORFOLK**

**LOCAL PLAN TASK GROUP**

**Minutes from the Meeting of the Local Plan Task Group held on Thursday,  
13th February, 2020 at 10.00 am in the Council Chamber, Town Hall,  
Saturday Market Place, King's Lynn PE30 5DQ**

**PRESENT:**

Councillors R Blunt (Chair), F Bone, A Bubb, C J Crofts, J Moriarty, T Parish  
(Vice-Chair), A Ryves (substitute), S Sandell and D Tyler

**Officers:**

Alex Fradley, Principal Planner (Planning Policy)  
Alan Gomm, Planning Policy Manager  
Peter Jermay, Principal Planner (Policy) and Water Management  
Officer

1 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M de Whalley  
and C Joyce.

2 **NOTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The notes of the previous meeting held on 4 December 2019 were  
agreed as a correct record.

3 **MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising.

4 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

5 **URGENT BUSINESS**

There was no urgent business.

6 **MEMBERS PRESENT PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 34**

There were no Members present under Standing Order 34.

7 **CHAIR'S CORRESPONDENCE**

There was no Chair's correspondence.

## 8 **DRAFT POLICY LP11 - DISUSED RAILWAY TRACKWAYS**

The Principal Planner (Policy) and Water Management Officer presented the draft Policy LP11.

The Task Group discussed the draft policy and officers responded to questions and comments, a summary of which is set out below:

- Recent Government announcement to re-use old railway tracks. Officers advised that Norfolk County Council was the transport authority and were therefore best placed to carry out any required investigation.
- King's Lynn to Hunstanton disused track was in a variety of ownerships.
- Clarification given on the comments received from CPRE (page 14). It was noted that provision was being made potential uses such as new rail facilities.
- Some disused railway tracks were used for walkways or cycleways.
- Upwell tramway – consideration to be given to protecting the route of the former tramway if possible.

**AGREED:** 1) The Task Group approved the recommendation.

2) Officers to send an email update to Members of the Task Group to let inform them if it was possible to protect the route of the former tramway in Upwell.

## 9 **DRAFT POLICY LP12 - TRANSPORTATION POLICY**

The Principal Planner (Policy) and Water Management Officer presented the draft Policy LP12 and outlined the issues raised from consultees.

With regard to the Norfolk Local Transport Plan consultation, the Chair asked officers if the information could be obtained and published in order to raise public awareness.

Officers responded to questions/comments relating to:

- Encouraging wider use of public transport. It was noted that this important point had been included in the Environment Policy. Reference to the King's Lynn Transport Strategy was detailed in Section 2 of the draft policy.
- Development in smaller villages and relevant infrastructure not being in place. Reference was made to the recent Government announcement on funding for infrastructure to connect rural

villages to public transport services, etc. It was noted that the Norfolk County Council would be the authority to apply for funding.

- Work being undertaken by the Council's officers in relation to housing and climate change.
- Impact of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and the work currently being undertaken by the CIL Task Group.
- Importance of a good public transport network for new housing development within the borough.
- Reliance on the car in rural areas.
- Electric vehicles.
- Renewable energy.

**AGREED:** 1) Officers to include a clear reference to the King's Lynn Transport Strategy objectives to consider whether these could be applied borough-wide and also consider the promotion of public transport to be presented at a future meeting.

2) Consideration of how to promote public transport better through the Local Plan and also to consider the role of the private car in the Local Plan to 2036.

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### **DRAFT POLICY LP13 - PARKING PROVISION IN NEW DEVELOPMENT**

The Principal Planner (Policy) and Water Management Officer explained that it was proposed to amend clause 2.

Officers responded to questions and comments in relation to:

- Conversion of garages.
- Requirement for provision of car parking space for each new dwelling.
- Height and width of garages required for planning consent.
- Role of the Neighbourhood Plan.
- Provision of affordable housing.

Following comments made by the Task Group, the Planning Policy Manager explained that the text could reflect the type of car parking spaces to be provided. The Planning Policy Manager undertook to liaise with the Assistant Director, Environment and Planning regarding the requirements for a garage (and conversion of)/parking space.

**AGREED:** The Task Group approved the recommendation.

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### **DRAFT POLICY LP14 - COASTAL AREAS**

The Principal Planner (Policy) and Water Management Officer outlined the main issues raised by the consultees.

A discussion took place on the Hunstanton Sea defences and the proposed works to repair the groynes and the shifting of sand at Heacham. The Principal Planner (Policy) and Water Management Officer explained that the coastal management plan was within the remit of the Environment Agency.

**AGREED:** The Task Group approved the recommendation.

12 **DRAFT POLICY LP18 - ENVIRONMENT, DESIGN AND AMENITY**

The Principal Planner (Policy) and Water Management Officer outlined the main issues raised by the consultees.

Officers responded to comments and questions in relating to:

- Guidance on light pollution. It was noted that there was a website available on light pollution. The Task Group was advised that details of the policy approach regarding light pollution was set out on page 65 of the draft policy.
- Low level footway lighting provided by a developer for a housing scheme in a rural village.
- Proposed development in context of the setting.
- How to discourage fast food outlets in the vicinity of local schools. It was noted that each planning permission was determined on its own merits and the health of children could be considered as a material planning reason.

**AGREED:** The Task Group approved the recommendation.

13 **DRAFT POLICY LP23 - PROTECTION OF LOCAL OPEN SPACE (PREVIOUSLY DM22)**

Members were advised that no adverse comments had been received in relation to this policy, therefore no changes were therefore needed to the policy.

**AGREED:** The Task Group approved the recommendation.

14 **DRAFT POLICY LP24 - HABITATS REGULATION ASSESSMENT (HRA) (FORMERLY PART OF DM19)**

The Principal Planner (Policy) and Water Management Officer outlined the main issues raised by consultees.

In response to questions regarding the Council's £50 Habitats Monitoring and Mitigation (HM) payment, it was explained that some councils in the country had a higher level than £50. A seminar was scheduled in March 2020, which would consider the proposal of an

increased levy following on from work carried out on a Norfolk-wide green Infrastructure (GI) and Recreational Impact Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy (RAMS).

The Planning Policy Manager provided an overview of the mechanism as to how the HMM levy was allocated.

**AGREED:** The Task Group approved the recommendation.

15 **LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME 2020**

The Principal Planner (Planning Policy) reminded the Task Group of the requirement for local planning authorities to prepare, publish and maintain a Local Development Scheme (LDS). The main document covered the Local Plan review 2016 – 2036 from preparation to adoption.

It was noted that this latest version of the LDS provided a timetable for which documents were proposed to be prepared and when. It also set out the stages at which the public could be involved in the process.

The remaining work to be completed was outlined.

16 **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE**

The Principal Planner (Planning Policy) provided an update which was circulated with the Agenda.

Reference was made to the email received from Councillor M deWhalley regarding Leziate and Bawsey not wishing to be a single identity. It was confirmed that Leziate and Bawsey were two separate parishes.

17 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Task Group will take place on Wednesday 4 March 2020 at 11.15 am in the Kempe Room, Town Hall, Saturday Market Place, King's Lynn.

**The meeting closed at 1.00 pm**