

**HUNTINGDON TOWN COUNCIL**

**PLANNING WORKING PARTY**

A meeting of the Planning Working Party was held at 1 Trinity Place, Hartford Road, Huntingdon on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2010 at 7.00pm.

Present: Councillors C G Doyle (Mayor); C Osborn & T D Sanderson.

In attendance: Karen Cameron, Huntingdon Town Council, Town Clerk; Malcolm Haynes (Constain Skanska.); Public Liaison Officer, Tim Hughes (Highways Agency), Senior Project Manager & Rob Harrison (Costain Skanska).

1. **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

It was proposed, seconded and unanimously

**RESOLVED** that Councillor B J Luckham be elected Chairman to the Panel for the local government year 2010-11.

2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor B J Luckham.

3. **APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN**

It was proposed, seconded and unanimously

**RESOLVED** that Councillor C G Doyle be appointed Vice Chairman to the Panel for the local government year 2010-11.

*Councillor Doyle then took the Chair in the absence of Councillor B J Luckham.*

4. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor T D Sanderson declared a personal interest as a member of the District Council.

5. **PUBLIC ADDRESS/ADDRESS BY OTHER TOWN COUNCILLORS TO PANEL**

None were declared.

6. **MINUTES**

Copies of the minutes of the Planning Working Party meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2010 (M5) had been circulated following their informal approval by the Chairman. It was therefore

**RESOLVED** that the minutes (M5) were a correct record and they were duly signed by the Chairman.

7. **A14 ELLINGTON TO FEN DITTON IMPROVEMENTS**

Mr Haynes, Mr Hughes and Mr Harrison were present at the meeting as they wished to discuss with Members the A14 Ellington to Fen Ditton Improvements and it was

**RESOLVED** to adjourn the meeting.

Members had before them a drawing of the alternative Views Commons route proposed by the Council, which had been created by Costain Skanska. Mr Harris advised Members that he would like to discuss the advantages and disadvantages of the proposed route and he hoped to receive a signed drawing of the alternative view commons route at the end of the meeting.

Karen Cameron advised Mr Harris that as the meeting was a working party group, Members did not have the authority to sign any documentation on behalf of the Council.

Mr Hughes informed Members that the Council's alternative route had been looked at in detail and it was felt that the Town Council's proposals would attract a higher volume of traffic on Brampton Road.

Members expressed concern about the resulting adverse impact of the proposed road layout on traffic flows in the Brampton Road and Hinchingsbrooke area and felt this offered no improvement in current congestion problems experienced by vehicles in this area. The routes around Views Common could result in opportunities for access roads to Hinchingsbrooke and future potential development on the site formerly intended for the Huntingdonshire Regional College.

Loss of the trees situated east of the Hospital was considered grounds for objection to the Town Council's proposed route. Members did not consider this a valid argument against their preferred route, when the route proposed by the local authority would remove a total of 480 trees near Brampton Road.

Locations of the link roads off the A14 proposed by the Highways Agency were discussed and Members voiced their concern that this would lead to an unacceptable loss of green open space as the new roads were to be constructed over Mill and Views Commons (which a Member highlighted were protected by a High Court Order.) The positioning of the proposed roundabout onto Mill Common was also discussed and Members again stated that they felt that this would offer no improvement in current congestion problems experienced by vehicles using the Hinchingsbrooke / Brampton Roads.

Members spoke of a proposal that had been offered to the Council by a member of the public, Mrs Ritchie, which showed a relocation of the proposed Mill Common roundabout to a point above and to which access could be gained directly to Mill Common Lane. By reducing the number of lanes and the speed limit east of this point from the Godmanchester

Allotments' access, the approach to such a relocated roundabout and altered exit would be suitably safe.

Members stated that they felt that their local knowledge regarding congestion problems at peak traffic times was being largely ignored and asked if the traffic predictions quoted in a letter from the Highway's agency dated 5<sup>th</sup> May 2010 were based on the existence of a route through the Alconbury Airfield, as referred to in the Council Comments in response to the Huntingdon West Area Action Plan, since any traffic analysis relying on this access to the town, which did not exist, would require re-testing.

Members emphasised the Council's support in any case for a link between the existing A14 and the junction of Hinchingsbrooke Park Road and Parkway and reiterated their objection to the proposed scheme, in particular the de-trunking of the A14 at Views and Mill Commons.

Members thanked Mr Haynes, Mr Hughes and Mr Harrison and it was

**RESOLVED** to reconvene.

Members then considered comments for a Statement of Case for submission to the A14 Improvements Public Enquiry, the deadline for receipt of which was 7<sup>th</sup> June 2010. In summary it was

**RESOLVED** to continue to object to the proposed roundabouts and sliproads on the grounds that these would result in increased congestion and an unacceptable loss of green space and to continue to promote an alternative route around the Views Common. Further to emphasise the Council's strong support for a link between the existing A14 and the junction of Hinchingsbrooke Park Road and Parkway. And finally to support a relocation of the proposed Mill Common Roundabout eastwards to a point affording access to Mill Common Lane.

8. **HUNTINGDON AREA WEST ACTION PLAN**

Members were asked to consider comments in addition to those already made for presentation in a Statement to the Independent Examination, the deadline for receipt of which was Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2010. It was

**RESOLVED** to make no additional comments.

9. **A14 TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDERS**

Members had before them proposed traffic regulation orders in connection with the de-trunking of the A14 and proposed links over the Views and Mills Commons and it was

**RESOLVED** to note these with thanks, but to make no further comment.

**CHAIRMAN**