

HUNTINGDON TOWN COUNCIL**PLANNING COMMITTEE**

A meeting of the Planning Committee was held in the Medway Centre, Medway Road, Huntingdon on Thursday 15th December 2011.

Present: Councillors S Akthar; A Beevor (Vice Chairman as Chairman); A Blackwell; A Cole; T Forster; W Hensley; C Hyams; P Kadewere; A J Mackender- Lawrence; T D Sanderson and J Skerry.

Absent: Councillors D Ellington and J Sarabia.

In attendance: Gail Anderson, Hunts Post.

22. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A Bish; S Hassell; C Mackender-Lawrence; S Mulcahy; N Pauley & R Subhan.

23. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillors S Akthar; C Hyams; A J Mackender-Lawrence & T Sanderson declared a personal interest in item 5 of the agenda as members of the Huntingdonshire District Council.

24. **PUBLIC ADDRESS**

There was none.

25. **MINUTES**

Copies of the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 24th November 2011 (M3) had been circulated following their informal approval by the Chairman. It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED that these minutes were a correct record and they were duly signed by the Chairman.

26. **HUNTINGDON TOWN CENTRE/ WEST AREA DEVELOPMENT**

Members were asked if they wished to make any comments following the presentation by Mike Huntington, Urban Design, Trees and Landscape Team Leader, of Huntingdonshire District Council on the District's plans for Huntingdon Town Centre / West Area Development, presented to the Planning Committee on 24th November 2011.

Members agreed the information on the re-development plans had been well presented and carefully planned out, particularly the residential development at the northern end of Ermine Street and Ferrars Road, consisting of the terraced town houses.

Members considered that two additional sets of traffic lights on the new link road could have a negative impact on traffic flows and add to congestion problems already experienced by vehicles using the Hinchbrooke and Brampton Roads. The re-development plans could also result in increased traffic on Hartford Road.

A Member also suggested that while consideration had been given to affordable housing, it would also be good to see more top-end value houses closer to the train station, that would appeal to commuters living in Huntingdon.

Councillors W Hensley arrived at 8.20pm and gave apologies for lateness.

27. **JOINTLY FUNDED MINOR IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES**

The Committee had before them a report of the Town Clerk, which gave details of Cambridgeshire County Council's new initiative, inviting Town and Parish Councils to submit bids of up to £10,000, funded from the Local Minor Highways improvement budget. Applicants were expected to provide a contribution of at least 10% of the scheme cost. Bids submitted would be costed by the Highways Department and assessed by an advisory panel of County Councillors.

Members discussed the need for traffic calming schemes locally. A pedestrian crossing outside the Saxongate Centre was considered a requirement and a raised table with a crossing for wheel chair users was suggested.

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED that a safe pedestrian crossing on Hartford Road, together with traffic calming on Desborough Road were suitable schemes for which bids should be submitted for County Council's consideration.

28. **BUDGETS OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE 2012/13**

Members had before them a budget of income and expenditure totalling £2,819 for highways, footpaths & lighting projects in 2012/13. It was

RESOLVED to recommend to the Finance Committee that the estimates of income and expenditure for 2012/13 be approved.

29. **DATE AND AGENDA OF THE NEXT MEETING**

Members heard that this would be confirmed.

CHAIRMAN