Outer North West Area Committee



Matters Arising from Meeting: 9th December 2013

Minute	Action to be taken	By whom	Outcome
No.			
51 (c)	Update on Welfare Benefit changes Shaun Kelly to review figures supplied and make more relevant to the ONW. Also more detailed narrative requested be provided to support the figures	Area Support Team	Information received from Shaun and circulated to members
54 (a)	Annual Community Safety report Request that vegetation covering CCTV cameras be looked into by officers	Area Support Team	Wayne Clamp dealing with. Survey on going following which Forestry will pick up the problem areas. No time scales.

Matters Arising from Meeting: 9th December 2013

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Open forum	Planning Question asked with reference to the 70,000 extra properties due to be built in Leeds over the next 15 years were members aware of a shortage of housing to buy or let. Response required from Planning	Area Support Team	Housing issues were previously discussed at the March 2013 meeting and since then the Core Strategy hearings have taken place (where a number of local groups were given the opportunity to contribute by the Inspector). The Council is currently awaiting a formal response from the Inspector on the scale and distribution of housing.
Open forum	Planning Question regarding the Localism Act and how effective it was. Response required from Planning	Area Support Team	From a neighbourhood planning perspective (only one strand of the Localism Act) it is too early to evaluate effectiveness. The high level of interest in neighbourhood planning in Leeds and nationally is ushering a radical shift in planning but It will be some time before the effectiveness of neighbourhood planning. When evaluation does take place it will include a consideration of the following – how many neighbourhood plans have successfully passed Examination? How many neighbourhood plans have received a YES vote at Referendum? What have neighbourhood plans delivered?
Open forum	Planning Question asked how Highways and Planning worked together in terms of the effects development had in not just in the vicinity but further out. Response required from Planning	Area Support Team	For site allocations work, Highways are closely involved in all stages of the site allocations work, from surveys (sometimes alongside planning officers), attendance at the site allocations steering group and joint attendance at internal and external meetings as required. For planning applications, highways are consulted on all planning applications and closely involved in pre-application discussions. Further joint working takes place at the internal 'Planning Board' meeting, chaired by the Chief Planning Officer.

Open forum	Planning	Area Support	Policies for the protection of greenspace
Open forum	Planning Question asked with as to how green space is being protected from developers. Response required from Planning	Area Support Team	are currently included in the Leeds Unitary Development Plan Review 2006 (RUDP), the statutory development plan for the Leeds district. These policies are both general and site specific and provide for: (i) the protection of existing greenspace (ii) the enhancement of greenspace and to meet additional demands from new housing development (iii) the improvement of existing greenspace Applications for planning approval are assessed alongside these. Further protection is offered by the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) as well as the opportunity for local communities to designate new green spaces (Local Green Space) through Neighbourhood Planning legislation. The Unitary Development Plan will be superseded by the Leeds Core Strategy and Site Allocations documents. The Core Strategy is well advanced and was subject to examination by an independent inspector in October 2013. Once adopted, the Core Strategy will provide the overarching policy framework for greenspace. The Site Allocations Plan will identify the
			areas of greenspace protected by the Core Strategy policies and could set out a framework for addressing deficiencies in the quantity, quality and accessibility.
Open forum	Planning Question asked regarding developers building on flood plains and wetlands with the problems that caused. Response required from Planning	Area Support Team	The Council uses the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) as the policy basis to avoid inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding but also to manage development that does take place by ensuring that it is safe and doesn't increase flood risk elsewhere. The Council has produced a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment for the whole district that defines the risk and gives advice on how to manage it. When development is proposed in a flood risk area, the applicant has to demonstrate that they have passed the 'Sequential Test', this shows that they have looked for other reasonable, alternative sites in a lower flood risk zone and they can only proceed if they have shown that there are no other alternatives. If the site is in a high flood risk zone (zone 3a), they may also have to pass an Exceptions Test, which shows that the development will have sustainability benefits that outweigh the flood risk and

			that it will be safe. The Council also applies this approach to our own plan-making.
			Flood risk policies are included in the Natural Resources and Waste Local Plan (adopted 2013). This plan has a requirement for flood risk to be considered on all development sites, commensurate with the scale of the risk, so for many sites a full Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) is required. It also requires developers to ensure that the development will not lead to an increase in the speed of surface water run off (which could exacerbate surface water flooding).
			Planning officers work closely with colleagues in the Council's Flood Drainage Section in ensuring that FRAs are given thorough scrutiny and we are able to insist on appropriate mitigation to ensure the development will be safe.
67	Leaf clearance Localities Team Manager to provide information regarding the disposal of collected leaves.	Locality Team Manager	Jason Singh to provide update at the area committee meeting.
69	Wellbeing Fund update report Clarification on the rules concerning capital and revenue spend to be brought to the next Area Committee.	Area Support Team	The Area Leader and Councillor Wadsworth will update at the Area Committee.
69	Area update report Horsforth Food Bank – could the adult training centre be utilised.	Area Support Team	No firm answer can be given at this time. Report going to Exec Board in Feb to discuss school expansions which may or may not affect this site. Further discussions with representatives from the foodbank suggest these premises may not be suitable.