

RAUNDS TOWN COUNCIL (EXTRAORDINARY MEETING)

Minutes: 1 November 2016 Time 7.30pm.

PRESENT

Cllr H Howell (Town Mayor) (Chair), Cllr D Jones, Cllr N Beck, Cllr R Levell and Cllr L Wilkes

IN ATTENDANCE

Ms Kate Houlihan, Town Clerk (Minutes)

337.16 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies were received from Cllr S Hughes, Cllr Davidson-Jeffs, Cllr R Jeffs, Cllr Beattie, Cllr Tirebuck, Cllr D Hughes and Cllr Tyman.

RESOLVED to note the apologies

338.16 NOTIFICATION OF REQUESTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE MEETING IN COMPLIANCE WITH ADOPTED PROTOCOL.

NONE RECEIVED

339.16 NOTIFICATION OF MEMBERS QUESTIONS IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE COUNCIL'S STANDING ORDERS.

NONE RECEIVED

340.16 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

COUNCILLORS ARE REMINDED THAT IF THEY HAVE EITHER A DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTEREST OR OTHER INTEREST IN ANY ITEM THEN THEY SHOULD DECLARE THE INTEREST AND LEAVE THE MEETING FOR THAT ITEM

The Mayor noted that the Neighbourhood Plan affects all members of the Council but no more so than for all the residents of Raunds.

341.16 RAUNDS NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN: To agree minor changes, including typographical amendments, to the Neighbourhood Plan following the Habitats Regulations Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment screening. And to approve the Raunds Neighbourhood Development Plan for submission to East Northamptonshire Council.(copy herewith)

Members reviewed the report of the clerk as shown in Appendix 1. In addition the clerk explained that Cllr Levell had proofed the document and there were minor editorial and typographical changes to be made.

Following discussion it was..

RESOLVED to submit the Neighbourhood Plan to East Northamptonshire Council.

Approved: (Town Mayor)

Meeting date: 8 November 2016(Council)

Summary:	
A report on: The Neighbourhood Plan for Raunds	
Attachments: The Neighbourhood Plan	
1.0	<p><u>Overview</u></p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan was born out of the Vision for Raunds and has been in development for approximately 2 years.</p> <p>The statutory local consultation was carried out from 19 October to 1 December 2015. Following this a number of amendments were made to the plan and further targeted consultation work took place around protecting green space in Raunds.</p> <p>Unfortunately it came to light that the Habitats Regulations Assessments and the Strategic Environmental Assessments had not taken place. This work was carried out and a formal consultation took place with the three statutory consultees being:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural England • The Environment Agency • And Historic England <p>This consultation closed on October 13th 2016 and the Council must take account of the comments raised.</p>
2.0	<p><u>Responses to consultation</u></p> <p>No comments were received from Historic England or the Environment Agency.</p> <p>Natural England has made a small number of comments on the plan, these must be reviewed by the Council. The comments made by Natural England (shown below) should be considered carefully as not incorporating these proposed amendments would be likely to affect the examiner’s report on the plan.</p>

(It is worth noting that some of the points raised by Natural England have already been incorporated into the plan, but they have raised all issues that they raised in their regulation 14 consultation.)

Response from Natural England

Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA)

Natural England notes that the plan does not allocate any sites for development. We agree with the report's conclusions that the Raunds Neighbourhood Plan would not be likely to result in a significant effect on any European Site, either alone or in combination provided that:

- a) the proposed mitigation measures outlined in the HRA regarding the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA and Ramsar site are reflected in the relevant policies of the neighbourhood plan.
- b) Policies R1, R16, R20 and R21 are reworded to meet the requirements of the Habitats Regulations.

We therefore advise the following amendments to the HRA and the neighbourhood plan:

Policy R1 needs to be reworded to ensure the required mitigation measure identified in the HRA (in relation to new dwellings) is reflected in policy. We therefore advise that an additional paragraph is added to policy R1 as follows:

"Any future proposals for infill or urban housing developments, within 3km of the Upper Nene Valley SPA/Ramsar, will be required to make a financial payment in line with the SPA Mitigation Strategy". (clerks note this is currently a roof tax of £270 per property).

In accordance with Schedule 2 of The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, a neighbourhood plan cannot be made if the likelihood of significant effects on any European Site, either alone (or in combination with other plans and projects) cannot be ruled out. It is therefore not possible for a neighbourhood plan to be subjected to the appropriate assessment stage of a HRA. The HRA therefore needs to be amended to reflect this.

We would advise that the screening table in the HRA report identifies significant effects rather than positive or negative impacts.

As currently written we disagree with the conclusion of the HRA which states that policy R21 would not have a likely significant effect. As currently worded Policy R21 does not contain wording to ensure proposals connecting Raunds to Stanwick Lakes would only be permitted "subject to no adverse impact on the inherent value of the SPA/SSSI" We therefore suggest Policy R21 is reworded as follows:

"Proposals for the enhancement and improvement of the existing road, footpath and cycleway network within the designated area will be supported, and improved links to Raunds and other areas will be supported, provided they do not have an adverse impact on the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA/Ramsar. "

Policy R20 - STANWICK LAKES SPECIAL PROTECTION AREA (SPA)/SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST (SSSI) – This is factually incorrect. The name of the SPA / Ramsar and SSSI is the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits. The title and text of the policy therefore needs to be amended. This is also listed incorrectly at point 3.10 and within the

<p><i>Page 3 of 3</i></p> <p><i>SEA screening conclusion on page 63.</i></p> <p><i>In addition the Neighbourhood Plan is promoting access (R21) and promoting the area as a destination town (Policy R16). There is therefore the potential for such policies to have a significant effect on the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA. We would therefore advise that Policy R20 needs to be strengthened to recognise this. We suggest something along the following lines:.</i></p> <p><i>“Development proposals including improvements to the footpath and cycle network will not be permitted when they :</i></p> <p><i>a) have an adverse impact (either alone or in combination) on the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA, Ramsar and SSSI</i></p> <p><i>b) harm local wildlife, landscape, damage views or the public enjoyment of this area.</i></p> <p><i>Any proposals which may impact on the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA / Ramsar will need to be subject to a project level Habitats Regulations Assessment”.</i></p> <p><i>Provided the neighbourhood plan policies are amended to reflect our advice as outlined above we advise that the requirements of the Habitats Regulations will have been met.</i></p> <p><u>Recommendation</u></p> <p>That the Council agree to the amendments proposed to the Neighbourhood Plan. (Note these are already incorporated in the hard copy supplied)</p> <p>That the plan be submitted to East Northamptonshire Council.</p>		
Implications:		
Council objectives:	To prepare a Neighbourhood Plan	x
Good Governance		x
Equalities & Human Rights	There are no equalities and human rights issues	x
Financial	There are no financial implications at this stage	x
	There will be financial implications –	
	There is provision within the budget	
	Decisions may give rise to additional expenditure	x

	Decisions may have potential for income generation	x
Legal	Localism Act 2011: Neighbourhood Planning	
	Other considerations: None	
Risk Management	There are no material risks	x
Person originating this report: Kate Houlihan, Clerk to the Council		
Date: 25 October 2016		