

Environmental Services Committee – 11 November 2003

Minutes of the meeting of the **Environmental Services Committee** held on **11 November 2003** when there were present:-

Cllr J E Grey (Chairman)
Cllr R G S Choppen (Vice-Chairman)

Cllr Mrs T J Capon
Cllr Mrs H L A Glynn
Cllr Mrs S A Harper
Cllr Mrs L Hungate

Cllr A J Humphries
Cllr C G Seagers
Cllr Mrs M S Vince
Cllr Mrs M J Webster

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs R A Amner and R A Oatham.

OFFICERS PRESENT

S Scrutton - Head of Planning Services
R Peacey - Safety, Food & Regulation Unit Manager
S Worthington - Committee Administrator

511 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 2 October 2003 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

512 DRAFT CONSULTATION ON NEW PLANNING POLICY STATEMENT 7 (PPS7) – SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN RURAL AREAS

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Planning Services seeking Members' views on the Government's proposals for a revised policy guidance on sustainable development in rural areas.

During debate, Members were firmly supportive of the comments made in the officer's report about the revised policy guidance, particularly with respect to the deletion of local protective countryside designations, about which Members felt great concern.

The following comments were noted:-

- It was a matter of concern that general proposals could result in widespread development in Green Belt areas.
- The proposed policy takes no account of the problems associated with the flood plain in the Rochford District.

- The proposed replacement of existing buildings in villages could lead to development around villages and hamlets, which could contravene Green Belt policy.
- The annex providing policy criteria for new occupational dwellings in the countryside could result in a wide mandate for large, residential dwellings.
- It was perceived that the support for sustainable rural tourism and leisure proposals within the proposed policy was positive, particularly with respect to farms and stables offering riding holidays.

Resolved

That, subject to the above comments from Members, this report forms the basis of the Council's response to the ODPM consultation paper on draft Planning Policy Statement 7 – Sustainable Development in Rural Areas. (HPS)

513 SAFETY ISSUES CONCERNING ABOVE GROUND STORAGE OF LPG AT PETROL FILLING STATIONS

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Housing, Health & Community Care summarising the legislation and guidance associated with bulk LPG storage.

During debate, there was a general consensus that there would be merit in inviting representatives from Essex County Council Trading Standards to attend a meeting of this Committee to give a presentation on the content of the national codes of practice with respect to the bulk storage of LPG.

On a motion moved by Cllr A J Humphries and seconded by Cllr Mrs M S Vince, it was:-

Resolved

That representatives from Essex County Council Trading Standards be invited to make a presentation to a meeting of this Committee and that all Members of the Council be invited to attend. (HHHCC)

The meeting closed at 8.08 pm.

Chairman

Date