

Haverhill Town Council

Minutes of a Meeting of Haverhill Town Council's

PLANNING WORKING PARTY

Held remotely on Tuesday 11^h April 2022 at 7.00pm



Present: Councillor P Hanlon (Chairman)
Councillor A Brown (Vice Chairman)
Councillor B Davidson
Councillor A Luccarini
Councillor E McManus
Councillor D Smith
Councillor L Smith
Councillor A Stinchcombe

Apologies: Councillor J Burns
Vicky Phillips, Assistant Town Clerk

In Attendance: County Councillor J Mason
District Councillor J Crooks
Colin Poole, Town Clerk

There were ten members of the public present.

Welcome:

Councillor P Hanlon welcomed everyone to the meeting and advised that the meeting was being recorded. **To note that this Working Party has no delegated authority and may only make recommendations to Full Council. Urgent actions may be taken under delegated authority given to the Clerk and Chair.**

P22 Apologies for Absence

/056 The above apologies were noted

P22 Declarations of Interest and requests for Dispensation

/057 None

P22 Public Forum on the application before the committee

/058 See attached appendix (i)

P22 Planning Applications currently before West Suffolk District Council and received by publication of agenda (List B attached)

/059 DC/20/0614/RM, Application for Reserved Matters pursuant to hybrid planning permission SE/09/1283 for Infrastructure comprising of; the internal estate roads, drainage, POS, landscaping and allotments for Land at North West Haverhill.

The meeting considered the comments of the public and their own response as consultee. It was proposed by Councillor A Brown, seconded by Mayor L Smith, that the council **OBJECTS** to the application:

- 1) The Town Council reasserts the objections made 14th September 2021 in that a drop-off point for school should be incorporated in the relevant layout for the school at the appropriate moment, but that a working assumption that such a drop off area must be needed is taken into account when considering the safety of the road layout under consideration in this application.
- 2) The proposed road layout is not in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework, as it fails both to take into account the sustainability of the use of Ann Suckling Road, and to include opportunities to avoid or mitigate adverse effects on the road and residents.

RESOLVED

In addition to the above objections the council agreed to submit the following observations:

- a) That the trees scheduled for destruction to make way for the relief road are likely to be significant nesting sites and that Persimmon do not remove any trees during the nesting season. It is our understanding that there is on-site monitoring and our expectation that all environmental obligations will be strictly observed.
- b) The examples of the Sulphur Clover that have been identified must be properly transplanted to a safe location.
- c) The council is concerned there has not previously been a site meeting to consider the concerns voiced by elected Members and the residents they represent. We understand from Councillor Mason that, belatedly, such a meeting is now planned to take place and whilst we very much welcome that, it is important that any determination of this application should be deferred until the implications of any new information arising from this meeting have been considered. Within that consideration, due weight should be placed on the passage of time, in respect of the date of the traffic surveys underpinning assumptions in this application, the growth of the town and, importantly, the cumulative impact on the road network through the evolution of the approved plans away from the original Masterplan.

P22 Date of next Meeting

/060 The next meeting of the Planning Working Party will be 19th April 2022

P22 Closure

/061 The meeting was closed at 19.52pm

Signed
Chairman

Date.....

**Appendix (i) - Mr and Mrs Ford, Ms K Stockwell, Mr and Mrs Strachan, District Councillor Crooks
County Councillor Mason**

Mike Ford – Comments from Suffolk highways believe the relief road provides mitigation, but this hasn't been built yet. Phase 3b and phase 6 are being built next.

Karen Stockwell – There are objections by residents and a petition that have been submitted to the WSC portal. SCC / WSC suggested that they need to come and do a site visit ASR to see the affect that the development will have on the road. Karen outlined her concerns over safety due to the additional traffic, school and existing parked cars along ASR.

Brad & Anne – Never have received any feedback to their well-documented comments and that nobody have visited and spoken to them from Highways. There will be 800 additional houses feeding into ASR. At the meeting held 10th August the initial proposal for this road layout was discussed and all the matters of concern raised remain unanswered. There needs to be some mitigation to take traffic away from ASR needs to be in place.

Brad & Anne – ASR wasn't intended to be a main road, although maybe an access road, but now clearly is intended to be. There is no drop off points for school, lack of consultation, community engagement and no opportunity for the public to meeting with Highways and Persimmon. HTC has been really helpful. Councillor PH explained that we are only consultees and that HTC hope that SCC Councillors and WSDC Councillors can pass the message on.

District Cllr Crooks – Alternative point of view: The new residents are part of Haverhill and these new residents should have access to Howe Road, which has few houses on it and a direct link into town. ASR is more residential that Howe Road. Would like HTC to suggest Howe Rd is opened to traffic.

County Cllr Mason – Thank you for moving the meeting to allow residents to join. Agrees that there should be two access points, but doesn't agree regarding opening up Howe Road. Also, the school may have a drop-off zone when plans come forward for the school. JM requested and was denied a site meeting, so called them in for development control. Highways have not done proper due diligence on additional traffic on ASR. This has resulted in an agreement to meet Highways and planning on-site. Concern about speeding from phase 6 to Wrating Road as it is a long straight. Howe Road has traffic light control at the end, Chalkstone Way has speed humps, Chivers Rd has traffic calming and Parkway has a mini roundabout. Phases 4, 5, 6 will find ASR a favoured road into Haverhill. This has inbuilt dangers, with the children walking towards Samuel Ward School. Cars queuing to leave ASR will, coupled with parked cars, block entry into ASR from Wrating Road.

Councillors

Dave Smith – Howe Rd proposal by Cllr Crooks counterproductive to relief road. The loop round should be closed so it doesn't feed ASR, as ASR won't cope. As a member of DC at WSDC he cannot predetermine his conclusion at district. Need to seek the best outcome for existing and new residents. Fully recognise the frustrations of existing residents.

Tony Brown – reiterate past objections again. Need Highways and Planning officers to come across and meet. The decision should be deferred pursuant to better engagement. ASR isn't really fit for purpose now, never mind the proposed additional traffic flow and is potentially dangerous too. We should strongly object. Await response form Highways etc to Vicky's letter. We are consultees.

Mayor Liz Smith – agree with Cllr Brown and interested in what Cllr Mason and residents has to say. Agrees that there does need proper consultation, so his meeting with officers should precede any decision making at WSC

Chair Pat Hanlon – landscaping: They are taking trees down, whether these have to wait or have already removed them prior to permission. Will this delay the tree works and subsequently the bypass?

Cllr Mason – we should get a response from Penny Mills. There should be no work where there are live nests. It would be illegal and he has received assurances this will be observed

Tony Brown – Sulphur clover needs to be put somewhere it can thrive.

Dave Smith – The relief road has to be built by March next year, so should be ahead of some of the later phases.