



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2013 at THE LODGE, 90 STATION ROAD, CHINNOR, OXON, OX39 4HA. COMMENCING AT 10.00AM AND CONCLUDING AT 12.35 PM**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

<b>Member</b>	<b>Appointing Body</b>
<b>Nominated by Local Authorities</b>	
Cllr David Barnard	North Hertfordshire District Council
Cllr Brian Norman	Three Rivers District
Cllr Chris Richards	Aylesbury Vale District Council
Cllr Alan Walters	South Buckinghamshire District Council

**Appointed by the Secretary of State**

Bettina Kirkham ( Chairman)	Secretary of State
Helen Tuffs	Secretary of State

**Elected by Parish Councils**

Cllr Barbara Wallis	Buckinghamshire Parish Councils
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**OTHERS PRESENT**

**Co-opted Members**

Gill Gowing	Strategic Planning Adviser to The Chiltern Society
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**Officers**

Colin White	Chilterns Conservation Board
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**Others**

Deirdre Hansen	Minute taker
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**111. Apologies**

Mike Fox (Chairman of the Board), Cllr Margaret Jarrett (Hertfordshire Parish Councils), Cllr Jeremy Ryman (Chiltern District Council), Mike Stubbs (The National Trust) and John Willson (co-opted member CCB, Secretary of State).

**112. Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were made.

**113. Minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held 5<sup>th</sup> September were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

**114. Matters Arising from the minutes**

Item 100: ref item 92. The Planning Officer reported that Natural England's review of their Planning Protocols is being looked at on a national basis which is delaying the process. The Planning Officer will report when he gets more information.

**115. Public question time**

No members of the public were present.

**116. High Speed 2 – update**

The Planning Officer updated the Committee about the latest developments in connection with a possible high speed rail route through the Chilterns.

The Committee was informed about the following:

1. The Hybrid Bill and Environmental Statement had been published on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2013; consultation will be until 24<sup>th</sup> January 2014. The earliest date for a second reading would be 18<sup>th</sup> March 2014 with a petitioning period following from 18<sup>th</sup> March 2014.
2. The Community Forum meetings have been suspended.
3. The wider Chilterns HS2 Group continues to meet.
4. The Supreme Court hearing has taken place and the ruling is understood to be imminent.
5. The 'Buckinghamshire Blueprint for mitigating HS2' has been reviewed and was launched in draft at a recent 51M/Bucks CC summit.
6. At recent meetings with MP's Board Officers discussed compensation, the final environmental statement consultations and pressed for a longer period of public engagement with the Hybrid Bill and the Environmental Statement.
7. The Board is involved in producing a document that will deal with the non-markets effects of the construction of HS2 (closely linked to ongoing work on a fully bored tunnel) which will be launched in the Houses of Parliament in early December.
8. The Board is intending to submit a petition based on the need for a fully bored tunnel. Advice from BCC is that comments must be made during the consultation on the ES in order to later be covered in a petition. Further advice is being sought.
9. It was noted that the documents for the Hybrid Bill and the Environmental Statement are not easily accessible.
10. The response to the Hybrid Bill and the Environmental Statement will principally be prepared by four members of staff.

**1. The Committee NOTED the report.****117. AONB Management Plan Review**

The Planning Officer informed the Committee about the latest developments in connection with the emerging 2014-2019 Management Plan.

1. The draft Management Plan was published for public consultation on 20<sup>th</sup> September following Committee contributions and a good level of feedback. The consultation period for the Management Plan runs until 13<sup>th</sup> December. Reminders are being sent to ensure that the Board gets as many responses as possible.
2. The draft environmental statement was published 18<sup>th</sup> November, following the Board meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> October, where comments on the draft SEA scoping report and responses were considered and approved.
3. All documents are available from the Board's web site. Electronic means are the preferred method of distributing information. A limited number of hard copies are available.
4. A full report on the consultations will be given at the Board meeting in January 2014.
5. The Committee was presented with a timetable for the production of the Management Plan.

The Committee thanked the Planning Officer for the information, discussion took place and suggestions were passed to the Planning Officer.

- 1. The Committee PROVIDED comments on the draft Management Plan and the Draft Environmental Statement to the Planning Officer.**
- 2. The Committee NOTED the programme for the production of the Management Plan 2014-19.**

**118. Events**

The Planning Officer provided feedback from recent events and sought approval of the details for the forthcoming events.

Recent events:

1. AONB Planning Conference

This took place on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2013 at Princes Risborough Golf Club. Nearly 70 delegates attended from 37 different organisations including 5 of the Chilterns local authorities. There were 24 Town or Parish Council attendees. Income is anticipated to be £1,665. Feedback was generally very good, with good scores for speakers and content. Most favoured keeping the event the same for next year and some topics for future discussion were suggested.

Forthcoming events:

2. AONB Planning Forum

This would take place on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2013 at the offices of Wycombe District Council. Items to be discussed: Draft AONB Management Plan review; HS2 Environmental Statement and petitioning; Draft Conservation Board position statement on renewable

energy and the possible review of the AONB boundary.

### 3. Design Awards.

This year was the 15<sup>th</sup> year the awards have been given out. The awards scheme is being reviewed and work is ongoing with the Chiltern Society to take the award into a new era. A suggestion is for a Board member to be part of the judging panel. Brian Norman agreed to take part in the judging panel on behalf of the Board.

### 4. Parish and Town Council planning training 2014.

Every two years the Board organises and runs short training events for Parish and Town Councils. These normally take place in late June and early July. They are scheduled to take place again in 2014. It is suggested that the next training sessions could address settlement sustainability and that prior engagement with Parish and Town Councils could bring about survey work to show how their settlements have changed over the last few years. This could be both in positive ways and negative ways. Information could be circulated prior to the training session. Other topics would also need to be addressed and the Committee's thoughts were sought.

### 5. AONB Planning Conference 2014

The planning conference takes place each year in early October. It was proposed that the 2014 event take place on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> October. The Committee's initial thoughts on venues, topics and speakers were welcomed.

- 1. The Committee NOTED the feedback from the AONB Planning Conference.**
- 2. The Committee NOTED and APPROVED the arrangements for the forthcoming Planning Forum.**
- 3. The Committee NOMINATED Brian Norman to take part in the Design Awards judging panel.**
- 4. The Committee NOTED the suggestions made for the Parish and Town Council training and APPROVED the date for the AONB Planning Conference of 8<sup>th</sup> October 2014 and would provide the Planning Officer with any further suggestions.**

## **119. Conservation Board Position Statements**

The Planning Officer informed the Committee about initial responses made on the renewable energy policy position statement, which is currently out for consultation until 17<sup>th</sup> January. The Committee will be updated when all comments have been received

The Planning Officer sought confirmation on the key issues to address in the next position statement on telecommunications. The Committee discussed the key issues and made some additions. The draft position statement should incorporate the following topics:

- Telecommunications mast siting/location and design including camouflage
- Poles and cables siting/location, design and undergrounding including camouflage
- Cabinet siting/location and design including camouflage
- NPPF and Management Plan policy

- DCMS cabinet and pole siting code
- Equipment removal and
- Land re-instatement.

The draft document will be prepared and presented to the next Planning Committee.

1. **The Committee NOTED the progress made in connection with the draft renewable energy position statement.**
2. **The Committee PROVIDED suggestions for any additions or alterations to the key topics to be addressed by the draft telecommunications position statement.**

## 120. Solar Farms

The Planning Officer gave a brief presentation on the three sites visited by the previously approved sub-group to assess a number of proposed solar farms. All sites are outside the AONB. The sub group felt that full landscape and visual impact assessments (LVIAs) should be undertaken which should include viewpoints from within the Chilterns AONB and which should demonstrate the likely impacts on the AONB and its enjoyment. The Ivinghoe proposal is subject to a planning application, which does not include a full LVIA. The Board has sought a full EIA for the other two. Neither of the other sites is subject to a current planning application.

1. **The Committee NOTED the outcome of the recent visits made by the solar farm sub-group.**

## 121. Development Plans Responses

The Planning Officer informed and sought approval from the Committee for the responses that have been sent in and made under delegated powers in connection with the public consultation exercises on the following development plan documents: **Department for Transport** Consultation on Guidance to the CAA on Environmental Objectives Relating to the Exercise of its Air Navigation Functions; **National Grid** Visual Impact Provision Consultation on National Grid's proposed approach to existing transmission lines in National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty; **Dacorum BC** West Tring masterplanning; **Aylesbury Vale DC** Vale of Aylesbury Plan Scope of Development Management Policies; **Chiltern DC** Delivery DPD Gypsy, Travellers and Travelling show people site options; **Oxfordshire CC** Local List of Information Requirements and **Chiltern DC** Draft Heritage Strategy September 2013.

1. **The Committee NOTED and APPROVED the responses already made on behalf of the Board in connection with the consultation exercises on the developments plan documents as detailed above.**

## 122. Planning Applications Update

The Planning Officer informed the Committee about and sought approval for the responses that have been made under delegated powers in connection with planning applications listed in Appendix 2, which also lists a number of appeals and previous cases that have been determined.

Since April this year the Board has been consulted on 80 applications and has responded to most of these. There have been 17 formal responses so far this year.

The latest position in connection with the application for the airport expansion at Luton (12/01400/FUL) was discussed.

The Committee was presented with information about, and then discussed, the application for a proposed biogas plant at Icknield Farm at Ipsden (P13/S3412/FUL). It was noted that the proposal constituted a form of farm diversification and included various sustainable elements. The Committee considered that it would fit with the Board's draft renewable energy position statement. The Committee resolved not to object to the planning application and requested that the Planning Officer draft and circulate a response to reflect the discussion that had taken place.

12.25 Chris Richards left the meeting.

- 1. **The Committee NOTED and APPROVED the responses made in connection with the applications as listed.**
- 2. **The Committee RESOLVED not to object to the planning application for a biogas plant at Icknield Farm, Ipsden and that the Planning Officer should draft and circulate a response.**

**123. Any Urgent Business**

There was no urgent business.

**124. Date of the next meeting**

**Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2014** at the **Village Centre, High Street, Chinnor, OX39 4DH** commencing at 10.00 am.

**Future meetings: Wednesdays 14<sup>th</sup> May, 10<sup>th</sup> September and 26<sup>th</sup> November 2014.**

The meeting closed at 12.35pm.

**The Chairman .....**

**Date .....**