

SAWBRIDGECWORTH TOWN COUNCIL

MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes

of the Extraordinary Meeting of Sawbridgeworth Town Council held at the Council Offices, Sayesbury Manor, Bell Street, Sawbridgeworth at 18:00 on **Friday 06 October 2017**.

Those present

Cllr Angela Alder
Cllr Roger Beeching
Cllr Eric Buckmaster
Cllr Ruth Buckmaster

Cllr John Burmicz (*from 18:30*)
Cllr Annelise Furnace
Cllr Mike Shaw

In attendance:

1 member of the public

R Bowran - Town Clerk

17/84 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received from Cllr Coysten – prior engagement; Cllr Hall – prior engagement; Cllr Royle - holiday
Absent were Cllrs Adamopoulos and Riches

17/85 EAST HERTS DISTRICT PLAN

Resolved: That Sawbridgeworth Town Council wishes to participate in Part 2 of the hearing sessions for the examination of the District Plan.
[Prop Cllr Alder; Secd Cllr Furnace]

Resolved: That the key points to be raised in the participation and the response to be made by the Town Council relating to the Inspector's guidelines were:

- Major Issues
 - Must relate to GBR1 (Green Belt) and GBR2 (Rural Area Beyond the Green Belt)
- Point 1. What is the basis for planning to accommodate 500 new homes at Sawbridgeworth?
 - No observation about the assumptions made to arrive at a 500 houses figure to meet need
- Point 2. Is the site selection methodology robust and transparent?
 - No observation about the stated methodology, just a questioning of the selection arrived at.
- Point 3. How does the Plan contribute towards the employment needs of the District and those in Sawbridgeworth?
 - No contribution to employment
 - No contribution to extra facilities
 - No value added to town
 - Replicates existing profile and adds burden to existing infrastructure

- Point 4. Is the Plan sound in its choice of sites to be removed from the Green Belt?
 - No natural boundary
 - Impermissible intrusion into Green Belt
 - Site south of West Road is not optimal – creating urban sprawl – outside the natural curtilage of the town
 - Protrudes into Green Belt – surrounded on 3 sides by farmland.
 - No natural screening
 - West Road is a country road incapable of significant improvement
 - Artificial extension that does not complement the topography of the town

- Point 5. SAWB5 – is a sports facility necessary and is there a realistic prospect of delivery?
 - Agree with assessment for additional facilities proposed in SAWB5

- Point 6. Are the allocated sites appropriate and deliverable, having regard to the provision of the necessary infrastructure and facilities, and taking into account environmental constraints?
 - London Road is an existing air quality blackspot
 - M11 Junction 7a will cause increased traffic between major conurbations of Harlow and Bishops Stortford – all of which will funnel through Sawbridgeworth
 - Increased traffic into the West Road junction will cause increased pollution at mini roundabout site
 - Traffic, to avoid increased congestion, will be forced onto country lanes and create additional “rat-runs”
 - Development will cause future issues within the town infrastructure
 - What is certain is that the Plan is positively detrimental
 - Isolation of the development sites with no planned safe walking routes into town
 - The accumulative effect of all three developments would be to exacerbate the above concerns to such a degree that the town of Sawbridgeworth would be unsustainable.

[Prop Cllr Burmicz; Secd Cllr Beeching]

Resolved: That the participation should be by written representation and by personal presentation.

[Prop Cllr Shaw; Secd Cllr Burmicz]

Resolved: That the team to represent Sawbridgeworth Town Council at the Hearings should be The Town Clerk and Cllr Shaw.

[Prop Cllr Beeching; Secd Cllr Alder]

17/86 ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

There were no items nominated for inclusion on future agendas.

Meeting closed at 19:30