

MINUTES OF CABINET

20 MARCH 2023

PRESENT:

Councillors Lowe (Chairman), Miss Lawrence, Picker, Poole and Ms Robbins.

Councillors Mrs O'Rourke and Roodhouse were also in attendance.

73. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 6 February 2023 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

74. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received from Councillors Mrs Crane, Douglas, Mistry and Roberts.

75. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest.

76. QUESTION TIME

The following two questions were received in accordance with the Council's public question time procedure.

(a) Mr Dean Richards asked the Leader of the Council, Councillor Lowe:

"The Supplementary Planning Document which was approved for Rugby South West contains provision for, as laid out by 'Natural England' and the 'Forestry Commission' in its standing advice for ancient woodlands, a minimum buffer zone of 15 metres around Cawston Spinney. The buffer, widely reported at 15 metres only, has caused an amount of consternation locally with the local council criticised for approving a buffer zone of 15 metres. Having studied this matter in detail I would like to seek clarity on this issue. It would appear from the recommendations included that 15 metres is an absolute minimum and will likely be larger. The 'Natural England' and 'Forestry Commission' standing advice to which you refer in the SPD outlines the criteria which would lead to a larger buffer zone being required. It states: 'Larger buffer zones are more likely to be needed if the surrounding area is: 1. Less densely wooded 2. Close to residential areas 3. Steeply sloped.'

It is clear that Cawston Spinney meets criteria 1 and 2 having no further woodland around it and with plans to surround it with additional housing. With this in mind can the council clarify how it plans to assess the level of buffer zone required in future planning applications and can the council also confirm that it agrees with the assessment that a buffer zone of more than 15m will likely be required."

Councillor Lowe, Leader of the Council, replied as follows:

“Every planning application is determined on its own merits depending on the individual circumstances of the site. Each application received on South West Rugby will be subjected to consultation with statutory consultees and residents and these views will be taken into account in the determination of the planning application.

The Supplementary Planning Document follows this approach and allows for flexibility of the size of the buffer depending on the individual circumstances of the site. To date only one outline planning application for residential has been approved on the main allocation for South West Rugby which does not include the Ashlawn Road site. Planning Permission for this site was issued in December 2022. The application included a Landscape Strategy Plan which requires that all built development will be at least 30 metres from Cawston Spinney and 50-150 metres from Fox Covert. Natural England was consulted on this application and raised no objection.”

(b) Mrs Maralyn Pickup asked the Leader of the Council, Councillor Lowe:

“Please could RBC take a vote to promote plant based diets and support and encourage vegan businesses, such as No Meating Place in Bilton and The Barn in Brinklow?”

Councillor Lowe, Leader of the Council, replied as follows:

“The Council recognises the important role which vegan businesses provide in relation to both the economy of the Borough and the needs of the Borough’s residents. We are grateful for the services which these businesses provide and wish No Meating Place, in the popular Mosaic cafe in Bilton, and The Barn every success.

As a part of the borough’s diverse economy, businesses are able to access a range of support, for example the services provided through the Federation for Small Businesses and Coventry and Warwickshire Growth Hub.”

Growth and Investment Portfolio

77. MONKS KIRBY NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN EXAMINATION REPORT AND APPROVAL FOR REFERENDUM

Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Officer – Growth and Investment (Part 1 – agenda item 5) concerning the proposed approval of the Examiner’s report and approval for referendum with regard to Monks Kirby Neighbourhood Plan.

RESOLVED THAT –

- (1) the conclusions of the Examiner’s report and recommended modifications to the Neighbourhood Plan be accepted;
- (2) a referendum be arranged at the earliest practicable opportunity to take place in the Monks Kirby Neighbourhood Area; and

- (3) a Decision Statement confirming acceptance of the Examiner's report and modifications to the Monks Kirby Neighbourhood Plan, and the intention to proceed to referendum, be published.

Note: this decision is not subject to call-in.

78. COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY DRAFT CHARGING SCHEDULE – AGREEMENT TO UNDERTAKE PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Officer – Growth and Investment (Part 1 – agenda item 6) concerning proposed public consultation with regard to the Community Infrastructure Levy draft charging schedule

RESOLVED THAT –

- (1) the Rugby Community Infrastructure Levy Draft Charging Schedule document (Appendix 1 to this report) be approved for six weeks' public consultation in accordance with Regulation 16 of the Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010 (as amended);
- (2) the supporting documents that underpin the CIL draft charging schedule, the CIL Viability Study undertaken by BNP Paribas (Appendix 2), the infrastructure funding gap (Appendix 3) and the interim spending strategy (Appendix 4) be published to aid understanding of the CIL schedule; and
- (3) delegated authority be given to the Chief Officer for Growth and Investment to make minor grammatical and presentational amendments as necessary to the documentation before it is published for six weeks' public consultation.

Note: this decision is not subject to call-in.

CHAIRMAN