

24 FEBRUARY 2000



Minutes of the meeting of the RURAL AFFAIRS CONSULTATIVE ASSEMBLY of the POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE held on THURSDAY 14 OCTOBER 1999 at 7.00 pm

Present:

Councillor Newcombe	-	Milton Keynes Council
Councillor Mabbutt	-	Milton Keynes Council
Councillor O'Sullivan	-	Milton Keynes Council
Councillor Seymour	-	Milton Keynes Council
C Nicholas-Letch	-	Lavendon Parish Council
A Cony	-	Lavendon Parish Council
M Franklin	-	Lavendon Parish Council
G Mann	-	Emberton Parish Council
J Newth	-	Filgrave and Tyringham Neighbourhood Council
R Newth	-	Filgrave and Tyringham Neighbourhood Council and CPRE
W Moorer	-	Filgrave and Tyringham Neighbourhood Council
M Davies	-	National Farmers Union
U Kraus-Harper	-	Filgrave and Tyringham Neighbourhood Council

Officers: D Gray (Assistant Economic Development Officer), S Bailey (Economic Development Assistant), C Chapman (Commissioning Unit Co-ordinator), C Clapson (Senior Planning Officer), P Robinson (Corporate Police Officer) and I Reed (Senior Committee Manager)

Apologies: Councillors Bartlett, Ellis, Clark, White and Tapp

P Bowtell	-	Calverton Residents' Association
J Jones	-	Olney Town Council
P Hall	-	CPRE

1.0 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Consultative Assembly held on 17 June 1999 were received and approved.

2.0 BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COMMUNITY ACTION

Mr C Collins, the Executive Director of Bucks Community Action, made a presentation to the Consultative Assembly on Support to Rural Communities. The issues raised included:

The Provision of a Rural Officer for Milton Keynes to Recognise the Needs of the Rural Areas.

Rural Transport Initiatives

Countryside Initiatives

Community Car Schemes and Dial a Ride

Rural Crime

The Importance of the Village Shop

3.0 RURAL JOBS FAIR/EMPLOYER TRANSPORT SCHEME

Darren Gray from Milton Keynes Council's Economic Development section made a presentation on employment opportunities for people living in rural communities.

4.0 EXTERNAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Stuart Bailey of the Economic Development section of Milton Keynes Council made a presentation on the support he might be able to give in identifying opportunities for organisations looking for external funding.

Both officers of the Council agreed to meet up with the representative of Buckinghamshire Community Action to investigate how their respective organisations could help each other in the schemes outlined.

5.0 MINERALS LOCAL PLAN

Further to the meeting of the Consultative Assembly held on 17 June 1999 no further progress could be reported.

6.0 LOCAL PLAN REVIEW - PROGRESS REPORT

The Consultative Assembly was advised that the deposit version of the Local Plan would be considered shortly by the Council's Local Plan Sub-Committee. Its first meeting would look at the Strategic Policies and proposals. Its further meeting would look at non-strategic proposals, which would include potential

rural housing sites. All its recommendations would be considered by the Environment Committee. It was also reported that a Local Plan Advisory Panel would be held in January 2000, to brief representatives from local organisations on the Deposit Plan. Representatives from Local Councils would also be invited to attend. An assurance was made that local Councils would be advised if there were last minute objections to the Plan.

7.0 DRAFT REGIONAL PLANNING GUIDANCE

The Consultative Assembly was advised of the recommendations of the report of the public examination into the draft Regional Planning Guidance for the south east. The new Regional Planning Guidance was expected to be issued in Spring 2000. Copies of the report would be made available in public libraries. It was agreed that copies of the summary of the report's conclusions and the section relating to the Milton Keynes area, would be sent to all Local Councils.

8.0 SSI REPORT - CARE IN THE COUNTRY

Chris Chapman of Milton Keynes Council's Neighbourhood Services Directorate made a presentation on Community Care in Rural Areas based on a recent Social Services Inspectorate Report "Care in the Country". The presentation notes are attached to the Minutes.

9.0 COUNTRY ROADS AND LANES

Further to the last meeting of the Consultative Assembly it was reported that two Parish Councils had signed up to the CPRE's Charter.

It was noted that the CPRE was to consider the matter further, at its Annual Meeting in December 1999, after which Local Councils would be approached.

10.0 SOUTH EAST ENGLAND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

Further to the last meeting of the Consultative Assembly it was reported that officers of Local Authorities within the south east region had agreed that a document be written for SEEDA that could inform its rural agenda. It was noted that the draft document had been circulated to Members of the Consultative Assembly and that the Officer Group had met again and a brief summary of how they felt SEEDA could be operated and what the key principles were had been circulated with the agenda.

It was also noted that SEEDA, as one of its first duties, had prepared an Economic Strategy for the South East. The Assembly was advised of the draft Strategy as it affected rural issues. The Strategy identified seven programmes for the region which included world class rural economy. The draft Strategy would be presented to Government Ministers within the next few days.

11.0 PARISH REVIEW

It was reported that final consultation was now being undertaken on the Parish Review and comments to Milton Keynes Council were required by 30 November 1999.

12.0 DATE/VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

The Assembly agreed that the next meeting would be held at 7.00 pm on Thursday 24 February 2000, possibly at Haversham.

THE CHAIR CLOSED THE MEETING AT 9.30 PM