



Minutes of the meeting of the RURAL AFFAIRS CONSULTATIVE ASSEMBLY of the POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE held on THURSDAY 24 FEBRUARY 2000 at 7.00 pm at Haversham Social Centre, Haversham.

Present:

Councillor Newcombe	-	Milton Keynes Council
Councillor Mabbutt	-	Milton Keynes Council
Councillor Tapp	-	Milton Keynes Council
Councillor White	-	Milton Keynes Council
S Bailey	-	Milton Keynes Council
D Gray	-	Milton Keynes Council
G Mann	-	Emberton Parish Council
R Newth	-	Filgrave and Tyringham Neighbourhood Council and CPRE
I Markham	-	Castlethorpe Parish Council
N Richards	-	Moulsoe Parish/Neighbourhood Council
H Gilbert	-	Haversham Parish Council
J Geary	-	Hanslope Parish Council
R Bailey	-	Lavendon Parish 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 14 October 1999, were received and approved.

2.0 BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COMMUNITY ACTION

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

3.0 MINERALS LOCAL PLAN

The Consultative Assembly received an update on the latest developments in relation to the Minerals Local Plan.

It was noted that the Chairman of the Local Plan Sub-Committee intended to contact Buckinghamshire County Council with a view to seeking agreement from them about a reduction in the amount of aggregate that Milton Keynes provided as a proportion of the former County area's allocation.

The Chairman was optimistic about reaching such an agreement as Buckinghamshire was looking to Milton Keynes to assist them with their housing allocation. Additional aggregate provision from Buckinghamshire would not be difficult to achieve because of large scale permitted reserves within their area.

4.0 LOCAL PLAN REVIEW - PROGRESS REPORT

The Assembly noted the progress of the Local Plan Review, and particularly reference to allocations of land for development in the rural area outside the city.

Concerns were raised that any figures used for projecting future schools populations were highly speculative, and that any housing developments in rural areas should be mixed in order to maintain the viability of rural communities.

The Assembly also noted the Local Plan Steering Group's proposals to defend and expand areas of attractive land in the Borough. It was noted that the three areas recommended for removal from the list of areas of attractive landscape and the three proposed for inclusion had gone out to public consultation, and that the comments of Parish Councils and local members were welcomed.

The Assembly also noted the timetable for consultation on the Local Plan.

5.0 GLOBAL CENTRE PROJECT

The Assembly received a presentation on the Global Centre Project, which had arisen from a partnership of local organisations wishing to develop Local Agenda 21 initiatives. It was noted that, although the project was based in the centre of Milton Keynes, its Management Committee wished to ensure that rural communities were not ignored when developing its services.

The Assembly welcomed the establishment of the Project.

6.0 ECONOMY AND LEARNING – GENERAL DEVELOPMENTS

The Assembly received a report from Darren Gray of the Economic Development Section of Milton Keynes Council about general developments affecting rural areas. In particular, he referred to issues set out in the Economic Development Plan for 2000/01, and proposals to circulate the Lifelong Learning Plan in March 2000 seeking views on issues affecting rural areas.

7.0 EMPLOYER TRANSPORT/RURAL RECRUITMENT FAIR

The Assembly received an update from Darren Gray of the Economic Development Section of Milton Keynes Council on issues surrounding recruitment of staff from rural areas and the need to address the issue of poor transport in the rural areas.

It was noted that some partnerships were currently underway with Buckinghamshire Community Action for improved transport schemes for rural areas.

It was agreed that the issues raised should be further developed and that there should be dialogue with bus companies in Milton Keynes over subsidies for appropriate routes linking rural areas with parts of Milton Keynes, including the East and West flanks, where some employment is concentrated.

8.0 E-COMMERCE IN VILLAGE SHOPS

The Consultative Assembly noted the work of the Economic Development Unit in attempting to address the issue of the closure of village shops. One such scheme, for computerised delivery of groceries, was being piloted in conjunction with Buckinghamshire Community Action. The Assembly welcomed the advances that had been made, and expressed the hope that further such schemes would be carried out shortly.

The further views of Parish Councils on the subject were welcomed.

9.0 DATE/VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

The Assembly agreed that the next meeting would be held at 7.00 pm on Thursday 15 June 2000 in the Wavendon/Woburn Sands/Bow Brickhill Area.

THE CHAIR CLOSED THE MEETING AT 9.31 PM