



Minutes of the meeting of the RURAL AFFAIRS CONSULTATIVE ASSEMBLY of the POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE held on THURSDAY 17 JUNE 1999 at 7.00 pm

- Present:**
- |                       |   |                                             |
|-----------------------|---|---------------------------------------------|
| Councillor Clark      | - | Milton Keynes Council                       |
| Councillor Mabbutt    | - | Milton Keynes Council                       |
| Councillor O'Sullivan | - | Milton Keynes Council                       |
| Councillor Seymour    | - | Milton Keynes Council                       |
| Councillor White      | - | Milton Keynes Council                       |
| G Mann                | - | Emberton Parish Council                     |
| P Bowtell             | - | Calverton Residents' Association            |
| R Newth               | - | Filgrave & Tyringham Neighbourhood Council  |
| B Moore               | - | Hanslope Parish Council                     |
| A Swannell            | - | Haversham cum Little Linford Parish Council |
| M Franklin            | - | Lavendon Parish Council                     |
| B Seymour             | - | Gayhurst Parish Council                     |
| C Nicholas-Letch      | - | Lavendon Parish Council                     |
- Officers:** T Dove (Traffic and Transportation Manager), P Robinson (Corporate Policy Officer) and T Mabbott (Committee Manager)

**Apologies:** Councillors Bartlett, Ellis, Hopkins and Tapp

F Gomme (Buckinghamshire Community Action), U Kraus-Harper (Filgrave & Tyringham Neighbourhood Council), J Geary (Hanslope Parish Council)

## 1.0 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Rural Affairs Consultative Assembly held on 25 February 1999 were received and approved, subject to the following amendments to Item 8:

- (a) The third paragraph being replaced by 'Some concern was expressed over the corridors for public transport identified with the Directions Paper'.
- (b) The fifth paragraph being replaced by:
  - '- Points raised included concern over Hanslope being the only identified village for development.

- There was also support for more affordable housing in the rural areas, to enable the families of residents to purchase homes and remain in the area’.

## **2.0 COUNTRY ROADS AND LANES**

The Assembly received a report from Rodney Newth of Filgrave and Tyringham Neighbourhood Council raising the possibility of whether certain lanes, be give advisory speed limits and further access restrictions.

It was reported that the Government was currently reviewing speed limit criteria, and that legislation on speed limits had been laid before Parliament at the end of May. It was further noted that advisory speed limits were being considered outside schools. It was also noted that Government guidelines were likely to allow Councils to impose lower limits in some areas, but that these would have to be self-enforcing.

**RESOLVED -**

That the draft document produced by the CPRE be circulated to local Councils, and placed on the agenda of the next meeting of the Consultative Assembly for consideration.

## **3.0 RURAL ENGLAND: A DISCUSSION DOCUMENT**

The Assembly received a report on Milton Keynes Council’s response to the Government’s paper, ‘Rural England - A Discussion Document’

The Assembly noted and endorsed the council’s response. The section on rural transport was particularly welcomed, although the hope was expressed that there should be greater emphasis upon the effect of EC Directives upon rural communities and economies.

## **4.0 SOUTH EAST ENGLAND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY**

The Assembly received a report on the establishment of a Rural Development Committee within the South East England Development Agency (SEEDA).

The Assembly noted the content of a draft document ‘A Strategic Local Authority View of Rural Development in the South East’, which had the central aim of enabling the region’s strategic local authorities to retain an influential voice on rural issues, explain the distinctiveness of particular areas and demonstrate a willingness to adopt a strategic regional approach to rural development.

The Assembly further noted that Milton Keynes Council had not been invited to comment upon the document, whilst it was in draft form. No further action would be taken on the document until SERPLAN had been completed. It was expected that comments would be invited in the autumn.

The Assembly expressed concern that Milton Keynes, as an authority on the edge of the region would become marginalised within the South East, although it

was noted that the Leader of the Council, Kevin Wilson, sat on the Board of SEEDA. The Assembly expressed the hope that the good intentions set out in the paper would lead to action.

## **5.0 THE COUNTRYSIDE AGENCY**

The Assembly received a report on the establishment of the Countryside Agency as a result of the merger of the Rural Development Commission and the Countryside Commission.

The Assembly noted that the aim of the merger was to enable a single body to provide the integrated approach which England's countryside and rural communities require. The budgets of the two previous organisations had been protected, and the new organisation would continue in most cases to provide the services formerly carried out by the Rural Development Commission and the Countryside Commission.

The Assembly expressed the wish that any initiatives by the new agency should be led by demand from rural communities themselves, and should not be imposed upon such communities. It was hoped that the new agency would place stronger emphasis upon the creation of jobs in rural communities.

## **6.0 RESPONSE TIMES**

The Assembly expressed concern at the length of time Milton Keynes Council had taken to respond to some local councils. In particular, reference was made to the issue of the closure of the lay-by close to Emberton Country Park, to which no satisfactory response had yet been received.

It was agreed that copies of information about the issue would be circulated to the Council to enable it to investigate further and respond.

## **7.0 MINERALS LOCAL PLAN UPDATE**

The Assembly noted that Milton Keynes Council had submitted a response to the Minerals Local Plan, and agreed that an update on the Plan would be a regular item on the agenda for future meetings.

## **8.0 BUCKINGHAMSHIRE RURAL CONFERENCE**

The Assembly noted that Local Councils had been invited to the Buckinghamshire Rural Forum 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference, entitled 'A Changing Rural Agenda', to be held on Thursday 29 June 1999.

## **9.0 DATE/VENUE OF NEXT MEETING**

The Assembly noted that the next meeting would be held at 7.00 pm on Thursday 14 October 1999 in either Lavendon/Emberton.

**THE CHAIR CLOSED THE MEETING AT 8.30 PM**