

27 February 2003
(6.00 pm – 8.50 pm)

DEVELOPMENT PLAN STEERING GROUP

Present: Councillors Harrison (Chair), Bradnack, Dixon, Durrant, Howarth
Also present: Councillor Liddle, alternate member for Councillor Ward

Also present: Director of Environment and Planning, the Head of Policy and Projects, the Planning Policy Manager.

1. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 January 2003 were signed as a correct record.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Currie and Ward.

3. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Durrant declared a personal interest as Co-Chair of Cambridge Futures. Councillor Howarth declared a personal interest as a Fellow of Cambridge University.

4. Public Question Time

No members of the public wished to address the Steering Group.

5. Local Plan Review - Progress

The Planning Policy Manager introduced the report as work in progress on the Core Plan. There was scope for changes before the report went to Environment Scrutiny Committee on 18 March 2003. He highlighted the following policies:

Chapter 2 – Designing Cambridge: sustainable development, pollution, air quality and flooding

Chapter 3 – Living in Cambridge: affordable housing included key workers; policies for travellers and people with disabilities; a new policy for Addenbrookes Hospital.

Chapter 4 – Enjoying Cambridge: protection of open spaces; a new policy on water courses; developments at Mill Road and Mitcham's Corner

Chapter 5 – Working in Cambridge: more dedicated housing for students of Anglia Polytechnic University; new policy on renewable energy use

The Chair congratulated the team on producing a short, well structured report. She said that the Green Belt issues especially those at the urban edges and their relation to the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan were to be discussed at Environment Scrutiny Committee on 18 March 2003.

In reply to questions from Councillors Bradnack and Durrant the officers explained the process for the Local Plan and its relation to that for the Structure Plan. The Examination in Public had reported on the Structure Plan to Cambridgeshire County Council who would produce any modifications to the Structure Plan in April 2003. There would then be a period of consultation in May/June when the City Council could formally respond should it wish to.

Feedback from the Steering Group on the draft Local Plan would be helpful. In addition there was to be a briefing for all members on 6 March at which a summary of the Examination in Public on the Structure Plan report would be given. It would also provide a first opportunity for ward councillors to comment on the Action Plans section of the Local Plan.

An amended report would be presented at Environment Scrutiny Committee on 18 March before the final report was presented at Council on 10 April for decision.

The Chair then took members through the report page by page asking for feedback. The points raised to do with broad policy and not yet incorporated in the working draft for Environment Scrutiny Committee are listed below.

Points raised by members to do with broad policy:

Chapter	Page	Issue
1 - Introduction	6	Need a list of the proposed and the existing SPG's for inclusion in the Plan before public consultation
2- Designing Cambridge	17	Policy on Extensions needed more work so that it was less prescriptive
	18	Section on Flooding – cut length of supporting text
3- Living in Cambridge	26	Last paragraph – Needed re-wording to be clear that conversion in properties under 110 sq metres would not be permitted
	28	Supported housing definition needed
	33	Query if Post Offices are included in Use Class D1 'Non Residential Institutions'
5 – Working in Cambridge	52	5/3 Protection of Industrial and Storage Space: to be re-drafted to also protect services for the public (such as vehicle and equipment maintenance)
	53	Cut length of supporting text. Consider if possible to merge with 5/2

	55	The most up-to-date figures for student numbers to be obtained
Chapter	Page	Issue
	56	5/ 8: Members were concerned that the policy did not allow any way for APU to expand its student numbers. Agreed that more discussions take place with APU
6 – Connecting and Servicing Cambridge	59	General - more about rail transport to be included along with proposed new stations eg at Addenbrookes. Noted that the East Chesterton sidings site were in South Cambridgeshire Transport text to be more positive Change the wording about the Council's influence on the provision of buses.

Points of clarification suggested by members are detailed below:

Chapter	Page	Point of clarification
1 - Introduction	2	Under vision – a) delete “civilised”
	2	The area described as Clay Farm needed re-defining and a different name to make it easily identifiable.
	3	Under d) add “regional”
	3	delete f)
2- Designing Cambridge	11	2/4 – key to this was relationship to the South Cambridgeshire. They would make their first deposit when the City made its second in Spring 2004
	12	2/7 – Second sentence delete “other” before “cases”
	16	2/12 – delete “damage” in 3 rd line 2 nd paragraph – substitute “valued” for “key” before landmarks
	19	Re water run off – “green” roofs and water capture within buildings should be added
	20	2/17 trees – delete “important” in second line before “trees”
	25	Policy 3/1. Add words “up to” before 6,000
3 – Living in Cambridge	27	3/ 4 Loss of Housing: at f) add “on site unless otherwise agreed” after “floorspace” Note: Needed to keep in mind the link with conversion of business use to residential use.
	27	3/ 5: second line add “only” after “will” so it reads “which have 15 or more dwellings will only be permitted.....”
	32	3/ 10: delete d)
	34	Try and tighten footnote definition
	35	3/ 14 Delete point e)

Chapter	Page	Point of clarification
4 – Enjoying Cambridge	44	4/15. Amend to clarify meaning
5 – Working in Cambridge	53	Last paragraph third line add a comma after “healthcare”
	55	Delete second paragraph
6 – Connecting and Servicing Cambridge	62	6/ 10 point b: add “where appropriate” before “buses”, consider need for a new point e): to include tree planting, landscaping, street lighting and night skyline
	63	Developer to provide evidence of safety
	63	6/15: remove reference to ICNIRP in policy as Government research over the next 3 years into the health effects of masts would replace that guidance. Move to supporting text.
	64	6/16: second paragraph line 16 delete “even” to read “neighbourhood schemes or schemes that link....”
Area Action Plans	83	Second last paragraph – make clear no cars allowed through any orbital connection Huntingdon-Histon Roads

The meeting finished at 8.50 pm.

Chair