

**Councillors Present:** Bailey (Chair), Baker, Blencowe, Churchill, Durrant and Reid

Also Present: Andrew Poulton (Economic Policy Officer), Nick Bolton (Head of Economic Development & Tourism, Dave Roberts (Planning Policy Manager), Brian Human (Head of Policy and Projects).

**1 Minutes From Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 25 April 2005 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the chair.

**2 Apologies**

None.

**3 Declarations Of Interest**

Cllr Durrant declared a Code of Conduct personal interest as he had a relationship through his work with Citylife.

**4 Public Question Time**

A Petersfield resident, speaking on behalf of PACT, requested the inclusion of the area to the east of the Howard Mallet Centre as protected space.

Members responded to the comments.

Councillor Bradnack had submitted a similar request in writing and had listed a number of reasons in support of his proposal. He supported the inclusion of the area East of Howard Mallett centre as protected open space because of the shortage of such pieces of land in the area. He was concerned that Citylife's proposed development would deprive the area of a precious space for residents. He also considered that this development was based on inaccurate information and was concerned at the lack of consultation on drawings and plans, which had been shared only with officers.

**5 Cambridge Local Plan Redeposit Draft Suggested Change: Extension of Protected Open Space, St Matthews Piece**

During consultation on the Redeposit Draft Local Plan a representation had been received from a Petersfield resident requesting the inclusion of the area to the east of the Howard Mallet Centre as protected open space as an extension to St Matthew's Piece as shown on Map 1. This had been accepted as a Suggested Change to the Redeposit Draft Local Plan and had been

subjected to consultation. Representations had been received objecting to this suggested change on the grounds that it would prejudice a proposal by the Cambridge based charity Citylife for the redevelopment of the former Howard Mallet building as the Cambridge Community Innovation Centre. This aimed to provide an affordable, accessible, supportive environment nurturing social and micro enterprises among the more disadvantaged communities. The Steering Group was asked to decide the approach to be followed in respect of these representations at the Local Plan Inquiry and whether the protected open space designation should remain or be withdrawn. The Planning Policy Manager briefed members on the content of the representation from a Petersfield resident who led to the protected open space designation, and stated that the Local Plan Inspector had confirmed that if the designation were to be withdrawn we should consult affected parties as outlined in the report.

Economic Development officers supported the development of a new Cambridge Community Innovation Centre for disadvantaged and excluded communities as they felt proposals to designate the open space would prejudice future development.

Members argued that the conservation of this open space was important for this ward due to the high density of development in the area and that designation of the open space would not hinder the consideration of future proposals.

Cllr Durrant suggested that further protection and enhancement for the amenity could be considered for example by the Council buying the affected land to add to St Matthew's Piece.

**Agreed** (by 6 votes to none) that option (a) be pursued: to maintain the proposed change to the Redeposit Draft Local Plan, which extended the protected open space. The City Council could make it clear in its evidence to the Local plan Inquiry that Citylife's proposal be supported in principle, without prejudice to the development control process.