

REPORT OF THE EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT 7.00PM ON TUESDAY 20th NOVEMBER 2012 IN THE ASSEMBLY ROOMS, THORNE.

Present: Cllr. R.S. Durant (Chair)

Cllrs. K. M. Abell, C. Blackham, J. Blackham, G. Derx, S.J. Durant, M. Houlbrook, A. Jones, R. Porter and R.J. Powell.

2363. APOLOGIES

Apologies were declared as follows:

Cllr A Brookes – personal

Cllr A Farrand - illness

RESOLVED: That the apologies be accepted.

2364. NEW COUNCILLORS

The Mayor welcomed Annie Jones and Ron Porter as new Councillors following their co-option. They signed the declarations of office which were witnessed by the Clerk.

2365. DECLARATIONS AND DISPENSATIONS

Cllrs C. Blackham, J. Blackham, R. S. Durant, S. J. Durant, and A. Jones declared an interest on the Moorends elements of the item on DMBC Sites and Policies Development Plan.

2366. DMBC SITES AND POLICIES DEVELOPMENT PLAN – SECOND ROUND OF CONSULTATION

The Clerk presented a report on the changes in the 2nd round of consultation. This identified the response by DMBC to the proposed amendments requested by the Town Council during the first consultation.

Jeremy Johnson from DMBC Planning was in attendance. He advised that the 2nd round of consultation was only on the site allocations, rather than the policies. He advised of the following significant issues:

1. The Bradholme site to the south of Thorne is not proposed for development.
2. Development in Thorne can be accommodated within the town "envelope" including the land to the west next to the railway line.
3. Development in Moorends is proposed to the west of the village, with no allocations to the east.
4. A site on Coulman Road considered for housing is now proposed to be retained a local employment opportunity.

The following issues were discussed:

The overall approach of focusing development within the existing envelopes of the town/village, or where there are natural growth boundaries (e.g. the railway) was welcomed.

Thorne

The proposed housing allocations are supported, with the addition of the sites near to the

Town Centre welcomed. Whilst recognising that this Plan focuses on sites with capacity of more than 2 units it is felt that the final plan should clearly the development and redevelopment of small sites (other than sites which form a valuable open space function) within the Town as part of its overall regeneration.

With regard to employment sites there are a number of specific comments:

1. The inclusion of site 1 as a major employment site would be welcomed. It is well located both for transport connections and as an employment site for the local people. It would also justify the addition of sites 52, 153 and 157 as local employment opportunities.
2. There is concern about the additional employment allocation at Coulman Road. This site already creates traffic problems with large lorries having to pass through residential areas. The sites above are preferable. The long term objective should be to transfer these types of uses to sites near the motorway, though without jeopardising current employment. To support this approach site 326 should be a residential allocation.
3. There should be clear support given in the plan for support for local employment growth on business sites and in the town centre.

Cllrs C. Blackham, J. Blackham, R. S. Durant, S. J. Durant, and A. Jones withdrew from the meeting.

Moorends

The shift of focus from sites to the east of Moorends, to sites to the west is welcomed. However, there are concerns about the relatively low housing allocation in Moorends, despite there being spare "capacity" in the figure of up to 1660 houses included in the Core Strategy.

The figure of 197 units in the plan is unduly pessimistic and sends out the wrong message to developers as to the potential of Moorends. There is a shortage of housing in Moorends, especially for people who wish to move up the ladder, and the village has successfully attracted private sector development in the past which has helped diversify the supply. The addition of further new mixed tenure housing would further support this trend, and help in the improvement and regeneration of the village. The capacity of the sites to the west is acknowledged in the plan to be much higher, yet the plan fails to provide the confidence that a developed needs to invest in the infrastructure etc needed to bring the sites forward.

The 2 small business sites to the north of Moorends should be formally allocated. If necessary the "Countryside" policy area boundary could be adjusted in this area which also includes a terrace of houses.

Cllrs C. Blackham, J. Blackham, R. S. Durant, S. J. Durant, and A. Jones returned to the meeting

Other

The Council would like to be satisfied that the plan adequately protects and encourages improvement of established areas of recreational space within Thorne and Moorends, notably Hawthorne Road in Thorne (one of the few open areas in the west of the town) and Moorends Recreation Ground which has the potential as a first class sports complex.

RESOLVED that the Clerk submit a response to DMBC based on the comments from this meeting, in consultation with the Council Leader and Deputy Mayor.