

Minutes of the Community Planning Panel meeting of 16th May 2017

In attendance

- Egham Residents' Association
- Englefield Green Village Residents' Association
- Hamm Court Residents' Association
- The Chertsey Society
- The Ottershaw Society
- Thorpe Residents' Association
- Virginia Water Community Association
- Wentworth Residents' Association
- West Addlestone Residents' Association
- Ian Maguire-Corporate Head of Planning and Environmental Services, Runnymede Borough Council
- Georgina Pacey-Assistant Planning Policy Manager, Runnymede Borough Council

At the start of the meeting, IM went round the table and asked everyone to introduce themselves given that there were some new attendees. Each attendee was given a copy of the Additional Sites and Options consultation document prior to the commencement of the meeting.

Item 1: Additional Sites and Options (ASO) consultation

IM and GP took the CPP through the different chapters of the ASO consultation document and referred to the information contained in the appendices as required. Members of the CPP asked questions at various stages about the document content (sites and policy options), and the evidence which underpinned the consultation (the Green Belt Review Part 2 and Site Selection Methodology and Assessment were specifically referred to).

IM and GP confirmed the start and end date for the consultation and the CPP was also referred to the drop in sessions and the counter duty service arrangements detailed on pages 8 and 9 of the consultation document. It was confirmed that the drop in sessions have been targeted at locations in the Borough where new preferred allocations are proposed in the consultation document or where substantial changes to preferred allocations from the Issues, Options and Preferred Approaches (IOPA) document are now proposed.

It was confirmed that the ASO consultation is a more focussed consultation than the IOPA consultation last summer. Comments are sought on new sites, and on amended proposals from the IOPA document (sites and policy options). Interested parties who commented on the IOPA document did not need to repeat comments previously made but were being asked to focus on the changes proposed and/or to highlight where they had new points they wished to raise.

Notwithstanding this, all representations made during the period of consultation (providing that they are not derogatory or anonymous) would be considered by the Council as duly made and would be processed accordingly.

2. Self and custom build

GP advised the group that a report had been taken to the 19th April Planning Committee meeting which proposed that the Council introduced local eligibility conditions for its Self and Custom Build Register, a fee to join the register and an annual fee for the remaining on the register. Applicants would also be required to demonstrate that they had adequate financial means to purchase a plot. Anna Murray, who organises the meetings of the CPP would be asked to circulate a copy of this report (which was approved by the Planning Committee) to the CPP for their information. The Council would be looking to allocate plots for self and custom builders through the Local Plan.

3. Neighbourhood Planning

A representative from the Thorpe Neighbourhood Forum provided an update on progress with the development of the Thorpe Neighbourhood Plan. The Forum had now gathered views from the local community about issues which face the area and what the Neighbourhood Plan should look to address. Evidence was now being gathered to underpin the Plan and the first piece of evidence; a heritage and character assessment had now been completed.

It was advised that communities in Virginia Water and Englefield Green are also considering the development of neighbourhood plans.

4. AOB

The CS commented that he had noted that there were instances where planning applications were registered to the wrong ward which caused confusion for residents. The OS agreed with this comment and confirmed that sometimes a planning application would not come up when searching within just one ward of the Borough. IM said that he would raise this with the Technical Administration team.

5. Date of next meeting

It was confirmed that at the next key milestone in the Plan preparation process, another meeting of the CPP would be called. This was likely to be in September/October 2017 when the ASO consultation had ended and the representations made had been considered.