

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 9 SEPTEMBER 2008
AT THE OFFICES OF BIGGLESWADE TOWN COUNCIL, THE OLD COURT HOUSE, SAFFRON ROAD,
BIGGLESWADE**

Present: Cllr G Wilson (Chair), Cllr D Albone, Cllr Mrs S Grayston, Cllr D Lawrence, Cllr Mrs J Lawrence, Cllr P Rook, Cllr R Skinner, Cllr D Smith, Cllr W Smith, Cllr P Vickers, Cllr S Watkins, Cllr P Woodward, Cllr T Woodward.
Rob McGregor – Works Manager
Juliet Brookes – Finance Assistant
Laura Hutchinson – Biggleswade Chronicle
Members of the Public - 11

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr Mrs R Forbes

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

(a) Prejudicial interests in any agenda item – There were no Prejudicial interests declared

(b) Personal interests in any agenda item - Cllr PF Vickers and Cllr D Smith registered an interest as members of the District Council Development Control Committee in respect of planning applications listed on the agenda.
Cllr T Woodward registered a Personal interest in item 6a as listed on the agenda.

3. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

There were no matters discussed during the public open session.

4. INVITED SPEAKERS

a. Co-operative Group

Rob Ellis of Co-operative Group outlined the proposal for a Wind Farm located on land between Langford and the A1. Mr Ellis was accompanied by Peter Hinson, Principal Renewables Development Consultant, of EMP Squared.

Mr Ellis began by giving a brief description of the Co-op and their services.

Mr Ellis went on to say that due to climate change, the price of energy the fact that we are dependent on imported gas, renewable energy solutions such as Wind Farms are an efficient alternative.

The site is at the environmental assessment stage and an ecological survey is taking place. Once these are completed the results can be compiled. The land is farmed at present, and shared by private and county tenants.

There will be a Public Exhibition in Biggleswade Town Council Chamber on 17 September 2008 and public feedback is welcome.

Once a decision has been made by the Co-op, a formal application will be submitted to Mid Beds District Council with and Environmental Statement. The application could take 4 months.

If approved, the Wind Farm could be built in 2010, as it takes 18 months to 2 years before building can commence.

The Turbines would consist of 3 blades, steel towers with 100m to top of rotor. EDF will take the power from the Turbines into the local grid by underground cables that will have the potential to produce 75 million units of electricity enough to supply 18,000 homes. The potential layout is for 16 turbines.

There would be a Community Fund & Investment in rights of way. Cllr Albone asked if they would invest in Route 12 Cycleway.

A member of the public asked why the public had not been spoken to and was told that Parish Councils had been consulted.

Another member of the public asked how much a turbine cost and the reply was 2 million pounds.

Concern was raised about the noise from the Turbines, but the Meeting was told that Turbines were quiet these days due to stiff regulations and local authority noise regulations.

A member of the public asked about the location of the Turbines in relation to domestic properties.

A member of the public asked why is Co-op involved, why aren't EDF, and other large companies undertaking this project. The answer was that they are utility companies not development.

Mr Ellis then advised that pack would be given at the 2 local exhibitions; handouts were given to all members of the public, which would hopefully cover all questions and queries.

5 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

a. 08/01457/FULL – Land to rear of, Eagle Farm Road, Biggleswade.

Full: Relocation of existing multi use games area at Eagle Farm Road, Biggleswade.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council raise no objection to this application provided the neighbours are consulted and that any comments they may make are considered by MBDC in their deliberations. In addition, the District Council is to ensure that their guidelines on the size of the proposed extension to the principle dwelling are complied with in order to eliminate detriment in respect of light and privacy of adjacent residents.

6. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

a. 59th Annual Athletic and Grass Track Cycle Racing event 11 July 2009

Members were asked to consider correspondence received from Biggleswade Sports requesting use of the two Fairfield Sports Grounds and Pavilion for the 59th Annual Athletic and Grass Track Cycle Race on Saturday 11 July 2009 at 1pm.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council raise no objection to this application but Biggleswade Sports would need to liaise with the Cricket Club.

b. Traffic Management Improvements

Town Council were asked to consider correspondence received regarding requested Traffic Management Improvements for various sites in Biggleswade.

It was **RESOLVED** that Council do not want to see any alterations until the Traffic Survey results had been received from County Council.

c. Saffron Road – Garage Premises

Town Council were asked to consider correspondence from Cliftons, Property Consultants, regarding the garage adjacent to Town Council Offices that is up for sale, asking if Council would be putting forward an offer or show any interest in the property.

It was **RESOLVED** that Town Council would not be putting in an offer or showing any interest in the Garage.

d. **Biggleswade Bowls Club Barbeque**

Town Council were asked to consider correspondence from Biggleswade Bowls Club requesting permission for them to hold a Barbeque in conjunction with their Annual Pre-Season Meeting on Saturday 4 April 2009.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council raise no objection to this application.

7. **ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

a. **Installation of Vehicle Actuated Signs opposite Kitelands Road Junction**

Members were informed that correspondence had been received from Beds County Council, Confident Communities Fund, to inform Council that their application for installation of Vehicle Actuated Signs has been successful.

It was **RESOLVED** that the above documentation be noted.

8. **PUBLIC OPEN SESSION**

There were no matters discussed during the public open session.

9. **CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS**

That in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the press and public be temporarily excluded and they are instructed to withdraw.

