
Development Management Panel

**Report of the meetings held on 21st December 2009
and 18th January 2010**

Matters for Information

**18. HUNTINGDON WEST AREA ACTION PLAN –
PROPOSED SUBMISSION**

Further to Minute No. 63 (a) of the Minutes of the Council held on 2nd December 2009, the Panel has noted the content of the Huntingdon West Area Action Plan: Proposed Submission and acknowledged that any further representations received will be limited to whether the action plan is considered to be sound or otherwise. As it was unlikely that the document would change significantly, the Panel has noted that it will be submitted to the Secretary of State in May with a view to an Examination in Public in September 2010.

**19. DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROGRESS REPORT:
1ST JULY - 30TH SEPTEMBER 2009**

The Panel has undertaken its regular review of the activities of Development Management Services over the period 1st July - 30th September 2009 in comparison with the preceding quarter and the corresponding period in 2008 and was pleased to note that quarterly fee income had again exceeded that envisaged in the revised budget by £48,061.

**20. DRAFT PROPOSED SUBMISSION –
DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT DPD**

With the benefit of a pre-meeting briefing, the Panel has considered the content of the Draft Proposed Submission: Development Management DPD in advance to its submission to Cabinet. The document, which will form part of the Local Development Framework and support the Core Strategy and East of England Plan, sets out the Council's policies for managing development in Huntingdonshire and as such will be used to assess and determine planning applications. Panel Members have forwarded their comments on the Draft Proposed Submission to the Planning Service Manager (Policy) for inclusion in the final document.

21. SUMMARY OF ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES 2009

The Panel has noted the extent of activity undertaken by the Enforcement Team in the Planning Division during 2009 and has

endorsed five key objectives identified for the service in 2010 which include proposals to reduce case loads and to introduce a process for monitoring the use of agricultural buildings.

In extending their gratitude to the Team for their hard work during 2009, the Panel has expressed concern at the burden placed on the Team both as a result of the extent of their workload and the long term absence of one Officer in such a small team. Despite noting that the Head of Planning Services has been requested to monitor the situation and to consider whether resources could be utilised from elsewhere to cover, the Panel has requested the Cabinet to undertake a review of staffing levels in the team whilst acknowledging that it was unlikely that budget could be made available for additional resources without reductions elsewhere.

**22. ENFORCEMENT ACTION:
SUNDOWN STRAW PRODUCTS, STATION ROAD,
TILBROOK, HUNTINGDON**

The Panel has been advised of the unauthorised operation of a wood shaving line at Sundown Straw Products, Station Road, Tilbrook contrary to conditions 3 and 4 of planning consent reference no. 08/03545/FUL which relate to hours of activity. As an appeal against refusal to vary the operating restrictions was to be heard on 10th February 2010, the Panel has decided not to take further enforcement or prosecution action against the company concerned pending the outcome of the appeal hearing.

**23. MONITORING OF SECTION 106 AGREEMENTS
(PLANNING OBLIGATIONS)**

In conjunction with the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Social Well-Being), the Panel has considered the up to date position with regard to the receipt and expenditure of Section 106 monies and indicated that they wished to continue to monitor the information collated on a quarterly basis.

24. DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS

Over two meetings, the Panel has determined a total of eleven applications, of which eight were approved and three refused.

Of interest to the Council will be the decision to approve an application for the construction of a new all-weather synthetic football pitch with floodlights, additional changing room facilities and an overflow car parking area with lighting together with footpath and cycleway links at St. Ivo Outdoor Centre, California Road, St. Ives.

P G Mitchell
Chairman