
Development Management Panel

**Report of the meetings held on 19th April, 24th May
and 14th June 2010**

Matters for Information

1. DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCESS

Following a presentation by Councillor M G Baker, the Panel has approved a series of recommendations arising from the final report of a Working Group appointed by the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Environmental Well-Being) on the process for the determination of planning applications. Having been made aware that the Development Management service either had largely implemented or would be giving further consideration to the Working Party's recommendations in respect of the development management process, the Panel was of the view that it was particularly essential to establish an ongoing programme of training and assistance for town and parish councils. The Working Group was commended for the excellence of their report and for the detail in which they had approached their investigation.

2. SECTION 106 APPLICATION: PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AT RAF UPWOOD, RAMSEY

On the recommendation of the Section 106 Agreement Advisory Group and having been advised of the progress of an appeal against non-determination of an application for proposed development at RAF Upwood and the current position in respect of negotiations on the potential 106 Agreement, the Panel has authorised the Head of Law, Property and Governance to enter into such Agreement as he considers appropriate in the event that the Secretary of State decides that proposed development at RAF Upwood is acceptable.

3. DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT APPLICATIONS

At three meetings, the Panel has determined a total of 33 applications of which 23 were approved and 8 refused. Two applications were deferred to enable the Head of Planning Services, in the first instance to clarify details in respect of ridge heights and footprints involved in an application for a replacement dwelling at Great Staughton. In terms of the second application at Rectory Road Bluntisham, this was deferred because of the requirement for further investigation of the need for a dwelling on the site.

Of wider interest to the Council might be the application to construct a new recreation ground and car park off High Street, Offord D'Arcy and three cottages to offset the funding required for the sports facilities. The recreation ground has been gifted to the Parish Council and will accommodate a Football Association adult standard pitch.

**4. PERFORMANCE MONITORING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT
PROGRESS REPORT: 1ST JANUARY - 31ST MARCH 2010**

The Panel has undertaken its regular review of the activities of Development Management Services over the period 1st January - 31st March 2010 in comparison with the preceding quarter and the corresponding period in 2009 and it is the expectation that income from planning fees will increase over the coming year with the submission of several large development applications being anticipated in the coming months.

5. IMPACT OF NEW GOVERNMENT ON PLANNING POLICIES

The new Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government has announced the intention to abolish Regional Spatial Strategies (RSS) and return decision-making powers on housing and planning to local councils. Whilst a further announcement is awaited, the Panel has noted that local planning authorities and the Planning Inspectorate have been advised to regard this intention as a material planning consideration in any decision-making. This development will be particularly relevant for those authorities where there is a variation between RSS and local planning policies which is not currently the case in Huntingdonshire.

The Panel also has noted recent publication of revisions to Planning Policy Statement No. 3 with regard to housing. In brief, the definition of previously developed land now excludes private residential gardens and the indicative minimum density of 30 dwellings per hectare has been deleted.

P K Ursell
Vice-Chairman