

**EPPING FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL  
NOTES OF A MEETING OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND PLANNING SERVICES STANDING  
SCRUTINY PANEL  
HELD ON TUESDAY, 28 FEBRUARY 2006  
IN COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC OFFICES, HIGH STREET, EPPING  
AT 7.30 - 9.25 PM**

<b>Members Present:</b>	D Stallan (Chairman), M Woollard (Vice-Chairman), Mrs M Boatman, Mrs D Borton, D Kelly, A Lee, P McMillan, T Richardson, Mrs M Sartin and Mrs P Smith
<b>Other members present:</b>	K Angold-Stephens, R Glozier, Mrs A Grigg, Mrs J H Whitehouse and J M Whitehouse
<b>Apologies for Absence:</b>	(none)
<b>Officers Present</b>	H Stamp (Principal Planning Officer) and Z Folley (Democratic Services Assistant)
<b>Also in attendance:</b>	Councillor E Borton (Nazeing PC), A Burgess (PORA), P Collins (BCAG), D Farr (North Weald Parish Council), I LeGallais (Consultant), Ms H Nicholas (Roydon Parish Council) and Councillor R Woods (North Weald Bassett Parish Council)

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**55. NOTES OF THE LAST MEETING - 12 JANUARY 2006**

Noted.

**56. SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS (COUNCIL MINUTE 39 - 23.7.02)**

Noted that no substitutes Members were at the meeting.

**57. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

There were no declarations of interest made pursuant to the Council's Code of Member Conduct.

**58. TERMS OF REFERENCE / WORK PROGRAMME**

**(a) Community Wardens Review**

Reference was made to a briefing note produced by the Head of Environmental Services advising that the report expected on the review would not be ready for the 30 March 2006 meeting due to other work commitments. The Chairman agreed to liaise with the Head of Environmental Services to establish whether interim information could be reported to the March 2006 meeting and whether in view of the changes, a representative of the police would be attending the meeting.

**Action:**

Chairman of the Panel to liaise with the Head of Environmental Services.

**(b) Review of England's Waste Strategy**

Reference was made to the strategy which was allocated to the Panel's Work Plan at the 2 February 2006 OSC. With the assent of the Panel, the Chairman undertook to ask the OSC to delegate the task of formulating a direct response to the consultation to the Panel. Noted that this was a lengthy document and two meetings of the Panel might need to be arranged to formulate the response to be submitted by 9 May 2006. Noted that a full copy of the document would be made available to the Panel.

**Action:**

Chairman to raise request at 2 March 2006 OSC.

**59. EAST OF ENGLAND PLAN - PRESENTATION ON EXAMINATION IN PUBLIC**

The Chairman introduced and welcomed representatives of North Weald, Roydon Parish Council and the Society for the Protection of the Roydon Area (PORA). He also welcomed the former Head of Planning and Economic Development, Ivan Le Gallais, who was now a consultant on forward planning issues. The Chairman reminded the Panel that the Examination in Public (EIP) had recently met to discuss those matters affecting the District. The participants together with the Portfolio Holder and the Principal Planning Officer Henry Stamp had attended these key sessions on 13 and 14 February 2006 and were present to debrief the Panel.

It was reported that:

(a) the Council had made a number of written responses and two approaches to the EIP on matters affecting the District. The investigation covering November 2005 to February 2006 had just come to a close. The Panel was expected to report to the ODPM in the beginning of July 2006 who would in turn propose a list of changes to be subject to further consideration. It was anticipated that the process would be completed and the final plan adopted in 2007.

(b) the Panel gave out no 'signals' during the deliberations about its intentions and there were no great surprises. They expressed an interest in central government household projection figures and appeared to see its role as one of delivering the government's growth agenda and testing the practicalities of the emerging proposals through 'bottom up testing.'

(c) the Panel differentiated between the southern end of the region and the less constrained remaining areas. They heard from interest groups such as Friends of the Earth in considering the possible environmental implications of accelerated growth.

(d) in terms of the plans for Harlow and East Harlow, there was no real opposition in principle. None of the arguments concerning North Harlow and East Hertfordshire were seriously undermined.

(e) the District representatives made references to the relatively small-scale proposals for the South and West of Harlow and emphasised that it was unlikely to meet the target for new homes for the locality and not worth pursuing. The capacity available at East and North Harlow might if developed absorb the need to develop land to the West. It was questionable whether the number of jobs envisaged for the sub region could be attained as the increase might lead to further commuting to London.

(f) infrastructure was a key issue and in particular, the speed at which it could be delivered. Issues included the widening of the M11, the funding and timing of new roads, the timescale for the establishment of a high quality transport system to support the proposed additional dwellings, cross rail and the expansion of the Central Line and water supply and disposals. Given these issues there was a serious chance that the proposals for North Weald would be placed at the end of the programme and considered a low priority. It was clarified that consideration was still being given to development both at North Weald airfield and in the area itself. There were no other plans for Epping Forest.

(g) noted the views of PORA and North Weald. Councillor Wood of North Weald Parish Council advised that he personally found the examination accessible, however the timescale for the proposals were realistic.

The Principal Planning Officer reported that the Environmental Agency had been asked to produce a White Paper on water issues. He undertook to investigate this and the timescale for the consultation period and report back to Members. Noted that the notes for these key sessions were available on the Go-East website.

**ACTION:**

The Principal Planning Officer for Forward Planning to report back to Members.

**60. REPORTS TO BE MADE TO THE NEXT MEETING OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

There were no reports to be made.

**61. FUTURE MEETINGS**

Noted that the next meeting would be held on 18 March 2006. Further meetings had been arranged for 20 March and 13 April 2006.

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