

Notes of a meeting of Chatteris Town Council's Planning Working Group held at the Council Chambers on Tuesday 22nd November 2022.

Present: Cllrs W Haggata (Chairman), L Ashley, J Carney, A Gowler, A Hay and J Smith. Cllrs F Newell and I Taylor joined via Zoom.

P29 22/23 Apologies for Absence

Cllrs A Charrier and P Murphy sent apologies for absence. Cllr Charrier submitted her opinion on planning application a).

P30 22/23 Speakers from Anglian Water and Cambridge Water on Reservoir Plans

Three representatives attended the meeting via Zoom.

Richard outlined the need for two additional reservoirs, one in Lincolnshire and one in the Fens, and said there was enough flow in the winter for water to be extracted from rivers and stored ready for the summer. In the Fens the best river to use was the Great Ouse. The Eastern region was a very dry area and was set for a growth in demand; the best way to meet the gap between demand and available supplies was a reservoir with a capacity of 50 million cubic metres of water. Richard said the whole region had been considered and a number of key factors were used to decide on the best site for the reservoir.

David said the site north east of Chatteris performed strongly and a broad outline was drawn up but the plan was at an early stage hence the consultation to gain initial thoughts. He urged everyone to fill out feedback forms and to consider the opportunities the reservoir could bring. He acknowledged that the banks of the reservoir would be tall and said as gentle slopes as possible were being considered.

After the first consultation the design team would come back with more of a design and definition, said David. There would be three rounds of consultation before the final plan was submitted.

Karen said it was a nationally significant infrastructure project which would be considered by the Planning Inspectorate and determined by the Secretary of State.

Karen said there had been some brilliant consultation events in the Fens and the team was feeling positive going into the next stage of the planning process. Opinions expressed at consultation events and through the feedback forms would be shown on the reservoir website and newsletters would be sent out to those interested.

Members were then invited to ask questions.

Cllr Haggata asked if the team were aware of a project to link three local cities by the waterways and if they would be co-ordinating with the 3 cities project team. David said the team were aware and were looking at the wider opportunities for navigation of the waterways.

Cllr Ashley said re-opening Horseway Lock would be helpful as it would link the rivers and she also suggested creating moorings on the Forty Foot River so the boating fraternity could moor up and use the reservoir's facilities.

David confirmed fishing facilities at the reservoir were being considered.

Cllr Haggata suggested it would be helpful if facilities such as viewing platforms could be provided while the project was taking shape so the local population could see what was going on; it would feed local interest. He was assured that Anglian Water had an education team and there were many things that could be considered to keep the community engaged.

Cllr Gowler said he was supportive of the project but was concerned about potential disruption to roads while the reservoir was being constructed. He pointed out there were already problems due to the volume of traffic using Slade End roundabout and he asked how the heavy traffic creating the infrastructure would be managed. He suggested a roundabout should be constructed on the A141 giving access to the visitor centre. Cllr Smith suggested the roundabout should be on the A142. (Cllr Hay joined the meeting)

David said studies and assessments of the road network would be carried out. He said most of the materials excavated in the formation of the reservoir would be used on site but he acknowledged there would still be a significant impact on the roads.

Cllr Smith was concerned, from a cycling and walking point of view that all new accesses to the reservoir from Chatteris were hemmed in by major roads and suggested thought should be given to designing a method of safely crossing a main road. Cllr Smith commented that the general population seemed to be in favour of the facility and were excited about it as it would not only bring extra water but added recreational facilities. She said it would be disappointing if there were problems accessing the reservoir.

David assured her that several people had conveyed similar thoughts and these would be taken into account

The speakers were thanked for attending the meeting.

P31 22/23 Appeals, Decisions and Withdrawn Plans

The Clerk updated members on the latest planning decisions from Fenland District Council.

The following had been granted planning permission:

Outline application for the erection of 2 dwellings at land south of 55 Wood Street (CTC recommended refusal);

Erection of a first-floor rear extension to 5 King Edwards Road;

Change of use of property to mixed use dwelling and dog grooming parlour at 78 Green Park;

Erection of 2 dwellings on land north of 20 St Francis Drive (CTC recommended refusal).

The application to erect 22 dwellings on land south of 88 West Street had been refused planning permission (CTC recommended approval).

Following an email consultation, the Clerk had informed FDC that the Town Council had no objections to the development on land east of 13 Clare Street being named Barrett Close.

P32 22/23 Applications and Revised Applications

- a) F/YR21/0981/F - Revised application for the erection of 93 dwellings with associated garages, parking and landscaping at land north of Wenny Estate – *Chatteris Town Council does not support the revised proposals. It is totally unacceptable to off-set the biodiversity loss by transferring the compensation and enhancement 10 miles out of Chatteris when there is plenty of land which could be used to compensate for the loss of biodiversity within Chatteris.*
- b) F/YR22/1236/O - Erect up to 6 dwellings and formation of 6 accesses (outline application with matters committed in respect of access) at land south east of Highfield Lodge, Doddington Road – *Recommend Refusal. The land is outside the boundary/building line for Chatteris. There are also concerns about six access points being created on a busy road, near a bend in the road. The Town Council has successfully fought for a reduction in the speed limit in the built up area of Doddington Road and these houses will be outside the area covered by the 30mph.*
- c) F/YR22/1230/LB - Works to a Listed Building – Installation of 1 replacement window at 48 High Street - *Support*
- d) F/YR22/1269/F - Erect 2 dwellings (2-storey, 3-bed) at land east of 13 Clare Street - *Support*
- e) F/YR22/1274/A - Display of 5 x signs: 1 x externally illuminated fascia sign, 1 x internally illuminated totem sign, 1 x non-illuminated fascia entrance sign, 1 x non-illuminated wall mounted entrance sign and 1 x non-illuminated wall mounted banner sign at Metalcraft House, 1 Engineers Way – *Support*
- f) F/YR22/1296/F - Erect 10 x dwellings (4 x 2-storey, 4-bed and 6 x 3-storey, 3-bed) and the formation of a new access involving the demolition of existing building at 14-16 Wenny Road – *Support on the condition that the roadway in Ellingham Gardens is made up to adoptable standard because at present it is not suitable for more vehicular movements.*

P33 22/23 Any Other Business

Cllr Gowler said if possible he would be speaking in favour of the applications for two houses in King Edwards Road when the application went to FDC's planning committee having been approached by the applicant. The Town Council supported the application. Cllr Gowler said he had spoken to a resident of Kingfisher Close who was concerned that at the bottom of his garden (which backed on to Prospect Way) trees had been cut down and the company who occupied the factory unit had installed racking which was 30 feet high. Cllr Gowler said he would be visiting the site to view the impact.

Cllr Haggata was concerned that FDC had agreed to a change in a condition attached to the permission to build the training centre Metalcraft House. The change meant there was no necessity to build the footpath along the A141 to link with the existing footpath which led to Tesco's and the underpass.

It was agreed to write in the strongest possible terms to FDC, and to copy in Cllr Dave Connor, pointing out the lack of a footpath would not stop those attending the training centre (many of whom were likely to be non-drivers) trying to make their way along the verge beside the A141 to Tesco's with all the inherent dangers. Members feared that as a result of the decision someone would be killed along the stretch of road.

A dropped kerb had been provided to encourage people to cross the A141 to make their way into town but that in itself was fraught with danger due to the speed of traffic using the roundabout. It was agreed to point out again that the claims made in the report which accompanied the application were inaccurate and the closest shop to the training centre was definitely Tesco's.