

CRAVEN SPATIAL PLANNING SUB-COMMITTEE

(Online)

19 April 2021

Present – The Chairman (Councillor Staveley) and Councillors, Brockbank, Myers, Pringle, Rose and Shuttleworth.

Officers – Strategic Manager for Planning and Regeneration, Interim Legal Services Manager, Interim Spatial Planning Manager, Planning Manager, Principal Planning Officer, Planning Consultant, Planning Officer (Planning Policy Team) x 2, Planning Assistant (Planning Policy Team) x 2, Senior Democratic Services Officer and Democratic Services and Scrutiny Officer.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Sutcliffe.

Start: 7.03pm

Finish: 8.37pm

The Chairman arrived at 7:05pm.

Councillor Rose left the meeting at 8:22pm.

Minutes for Report

CSP.190

MONITORING DISCUSSION PAPERS 2,3 & 4

The Strategic Manager for Planning and Regeneration submitted a report presenting monitoring discussion papers (MDPs) relating specifically to the following three themes of the Council's Climate Emergency Strategic Plan (CESP):

- Travel and Transportation
- Land and Nature
- Carbon Neutral Energy and Low Carbon Waste

This Committee at its meeting held on 10th November 2020 had already received and debated the first MDP which related to the theme of carbon neutral development, following which a number of workshops had been held to see how relevant adopted Local Plan policies could be fully implemented and updated to help achieve carbon neutral development in the District.

The discussion papers before Members, together with a powerpoint presentation set out how the Local Plan policies addressed each theme set and provided out some points and objectives for consideration, namely

- Existing policies – how existing Local Plan policies support the specific theme and how they can be implemented to achieve optimum results now.
- Future policies – how existing policies can be improved (through a review and update of the Local Plan) to achieve better results for the specific theme in the future.
- Requirements and limitations – what evidence we need to support future Local Plan policies and what limitations are imposed on the Local Plan by national planning policy.

During the discussion, one Member referred to electric vehicle charging points (EVCs) and the importance of specifying the type of electrics required in new developments in order to support EVCs. He also felt that the Council had to address the reality of consumer use, including on-street infrastructure. The Planning Manager explained that Planning Control were already encouraging applicants to deliver EVCs on site by way of a planning condition but that this could be subject to

challenge and he did not wish to undermine the current planning policy position which was to encourage, not require EVCs. It was reported that the Government had recently undertaken a consultation exercise on Building Regulations and, if approved, EVCs could become a requirement in all new developments.

Additionally, a Member asked if there was a plan for the location of ECVs in the District and that it was necessary to understand the type of journey's people made. In terms of public transport a comment was made about providing a range of options that took account of older and disabled people, as not everyone was fit and able to cycle or walk.

Another Member raised the issue of the validation stage of planning applications and the importance of developers providing all the information required by local and national requirements including details on the provision of EVCs.

The Strategic Manager commented that it was important to encourage, enable and allow public EVCs if Craven was to encourage visitors/tourists to the District.

Members were informed that Craven District Council had one of the lowest level of tree coverage at only 5% of land area compared to a UK average of 12%. Farmers should be encouraged to plant more trees and with the loss of farming subsidies, the Council would need to help farmers diversify including tree planting. It was also emphasised that urban trees added value and were to be encouraged as they had all sorts of benefits for residents. Members did comments that urban trees in residential areas had to be proactively managed as overgrown trees could cause problems and were sometimes resented by residents. One Member commented that some types of smaller non-native trees may on occasion be more suited to residential areas and should be given consideration when planting schemes were devised. The Interim Spatial Planning Manager advised that green infrastructure was not just about trees but the provision of ponds, hedgerows, green open space etc. in order to create a wide range of bio-diversity.

In terms of carbon neutral energy and low carbon waste Members acknowledged that wind turbines and anaerobic digesters would play a part in Craven's climate emergency declaration and achieving carbon neutrality. Whilst there would undoubtedly be many benefits to landowners and farmers it was important to position them in the right location. Members noted that ENV9 supported small scale turbines subject to meeting certain criteria.

Resolved – That Craven Spatial Planning Sub-Committees are arranged as and when required to consider draft Supplementary Planning Documents and further discussion papers.

CSP.191

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To be confirmed.

Chairman.