

Parish and Town Council Forum

12 October 2020

Gordon Glenday; Nigel Brown and Ann Howells from UDC in attendance

Brief update on Local Plan

Withdrew the LP in April and start a new plan. You might think you haven't seen anything about the new LP but rest assured there has been a lot of work going on behind the scenes. Developing Project Plan and Risk Register, LDF CSI Local Plan Leadership Group and Scrutiny Committee and hopefully will go through Cabinet.

Engage more with Parish and Town Councils - any advice or tips then please let us know.

Key role - representing the local community. Help disseminate the information/consultations etc and any other help let us know.

We will be looking to consult on Issues and Options over the next four / six months. Usually it is a six week consultation. Series of theme documents.- seven themes. Details will be coming out nearer the end of the month. There will also be a call for sites.

Q: Project Plan - is that in the Public domain?

A: Yes scrutiny committee so available there.

Q: View on calls for sites, owners put forward or having strategic sites.

A: Nothing will be excluded so whatever is put forward we will look at more closely.

Q: How does it work with calls for sites with developers by passing the call for sites and go straight for application.

A: We cant stop people putting in applications but we are encouraging the developers that they come forward early and we work transparently with the developers.

Q: If there is this lengthy consultation, is it in addition to Reg 18 and Reg 19? What are the implications on the timescale on the process?

A: We have the project plan setting out the process.

Q: Great idea about pre-application discussions including parishes etc. Disappointed that wasn't involved in the recent meeting.

A: This was explained to the developer how things are going to work moving forward, you will be involved going forward.

Q: Call for sites how does this affect the NP?

A: As yours adopted then it takes precedent.

Please feel free to email to ask questions.

Q: I thought that where there is a NP the land suggested - if the NP had rejected a site that comes forward then the NP takes precedent.

A: Yes that is correct.

Enforcement

Apology enforcement has been affected more than DM. DM only visiting site if they have to. Enforcement officers haven't been released to go out on site until recently. Planning Enforcement team leader is currently on maternity leave and the s106 officer is unavailable for personal reasons.

Sarah was sending out notification manually. What would you like to have from us for tracking purposes?

Q: Each issue is dealt with separately rather than have everything on one file. Why?

A: Makes sense to add to one file but they are dealt with as they come in.

Contact for Historic Buildings inquiries.

We have a contract with Place Services to provide UDC with conservation. An organization opposed to individual. Primary role is to deal with consultation on Planning Apps and pre-apps and enforcement issues. In the past Barbara was at the end of the phone if the parish needed to. Now we need to set up a process. Has to be a set process and if there are any inquiries then we can make it happen. A bit more clunky but we need to justify 'the spend' and draw on Place Services.

Q: If I want to speak to someone about conservation, who do I speak to?

A: Nigel, Ann or Maria.

Q: Conservation and Conservation Areas - a request to review/extend - when is the next review?

A: Not necessarily Place Services. Strategically need a Heritage Strategy to move all of this forward.

Consultation with Parish and Town Councils.

We have a draft document setting out how we would like to work with Parish and Town Councils, Ward Members and Developers. It is a very DRAFT copy which will be circulated and you will be given 6 weeks to respond.

Q: Is it going to be regular and is there ToR?

A: Twice a year but can hold smaller groups. Please let us know what you think.

Q: Difficulty of dialogue with Developers and Parishes - can we rely on the fact that Parish and Town Council's will be consulted with regards s106 before they are signed off.

A: Where it is in the process of going to committee but it does go wrong when it goes to appeal. The s106 or Unilateral Undertaking is led by developers with little input from Council when it gets to appeal stage.

Q: Felsted Neighbourhood Plan (NP) being referenced can you confirm that NPs will continue to be referenced?

A: yes they will.

Q: Government consultations - changes to the current planning system - not many people knew about it. Was devastating as far as Uttlesford are concerned. Uttlesford made an excellent response and Elsenham could say that we concur with UDC and add a bit.

Is Uttlesfords response going to be available a couple of days prior to 29th for the second consultation?

A: GG going to circulate the draft. 26th October there is the Local Plan Leadership Group and the papers will be out on 19th October.

Cllr Evans conclusion:

Portfolio holder for Planning and Local Plan. Cllr Day is the Cabinet member for communities. We will be communicating every three months on what is happening on the Local Plan. Currently we are going to be introducing a new look to the website, more directly accessible. Providing as much information as possible.

A number of points been made this evening:

- The white paper is to be consulted on. Uttlesford will be replying and individually you can respond.
- Meetings such as these are committed to have two way conversations.
- Our openness and ears are open, although not possible to please everyone all of the time.
- Invite any comments to go to officers or portfolio holidays.

Cllr Day:

We would particularly look to your help, reach out to people who don't traditionally take part in surveys that we are about to progress on. Looking to the younger people to take part. Looking at how we can engage with young people.

Thanks and the date of the next meeting will be 21 April 2021 @ 6pm via Zoom.