

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

19 March 2015

 7.00 pm – 9.27 pm
 Council Chamber, Ebley Mill, Stroud
3**Minutes****Membership:**

Councillor Simon Pickering (Chair)	P	Councillor Colin Fryer	P
Councillor Paul Smith (Vice-Chair)	A	Councillor Chas Fellows	A
Councillor Liz Ashton	P	Councillor Haydn Jones	A
Councillor Tim Boxall	P	Councillor Roger Sanders	P
Councillor Paul Denney	P	Councillor Brian Tipper	P
Councillor Julie Douglass	P	Councillor Tim Williams	A

P = Present

A = Absent

Officers Present:

Strategic Head (Development Services)	Neighbourhood Planning Officer
Planning Strategy Manager	Head of Environmental Health
Accountancy Manager	

Others Present:**EC.038 APOLOGIES**

Apologies of absence were received from Councillor Chas Fellows and Paul Smith.

EC.039 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

EC.040 MINUTES

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 11 December 2014 are confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Representatives on Joint Waste Committee will be Councillors Simon Pickering and Paul Smith (subject to confirmation).

EC.041 **PRESENTATION ON FRACKING**

Mark Connelly, Land Management Officer, Cotswolds Conservation Board gave a presentation on Unconventional Hydrocarbons in Stroud and the Cotswolds.

Following a very informative presentation, Andy explained that the Cotswolds and Stroud District are at very low risk of exploration.

The chairman thanked Mark for his presentation.

EC.042 **PRESENTATION ON NAPPY RECYCLING**

Andy Pritchard of the Gloucestershire Joint Waste Team gave a presentation on Real Nappies.

It is a project to promote the use of real nappies. They promote the project in antenatal groups, maternity units, nurseries, NCT groups. They do not compete with disposal nappies and you won't find them in the supermarkets.

The chairman thanked Andy for a useful presentation.

EC.043 **WORK PROGRAMME**

Discussion took place on the work programme, the following items were proposed for future meetings:

June 2015:

- Policy ES1 Sustainability Check List (Barry Wyatt/Conrad Moore) **NEW**
- Ebley Mill Hydro Scheme (Barry Wyatt) **NEW**
- Standish House – Supplementary Planning Advice (Mark Russell) **NEW**
- Green Infrastructure **NEW**

RESOLVED **To add the above to the Work Programme.**

EC.044 **BUDGET MONITOR REPORT 2014/15 Q3**

The Accountancy Manager presented the report and explained that this would be the third and final budget monitoring report for the financial year 2014/15.

There were concerns over savings on staff, the Accountancy Manager and Strategic Head of Development Services explained the position to Members.

RESOLVED **To note the outturn forecast for the general fund revenue budget and the capital programme for 2014/15.**

To note the provisional carry forwards and slippage as shown in Table 2 of the report.

EC.045 **STANDISH HOUSE: DRAFT PLANNING CONCEPT STATEMENT**

The Planning Strategy Manager presented the report.

The Council have been working with the Homes and Community Agency to produce the draft planning concept statement. The preferred use of the site would be a health facility, care home, residential college or return the house to single residential use. If this cannot be achieved then the minimum necessary redevelopment of the site to restore the listed buildings would need to be explored.

The draft statement will be subject to public consultation for six weeks and an amended document will return to Committee for final adoption. At this stage the concerns expressed over conserving the ecology on the site, can be addressed within the final wording of the document.

Members were keen to see the site in use again.

Councillor Simon Pickering moved that an additional clause (e) was added to the resolution, this was seconded by Councillor Paul Denney.

- RESOLVED**
- (a) that the Standish House: Draft Planning Concept Statement is approved as draft Supplementary Planning Advice;
 - (b) that the document is subject to six weeks public consultation;
 - (c) that the results of public consultation inform the final document;
 - (d) that a final document is considered for adoption at a future meeting of the Committee.
 - (e) that delegated authority is given to the Strategic Head (Development Services) to make minor textual changes to the draft Planning Concept Statement prior to public consultation.

EC.046 **INTERIM STRATEGY FOR AVOIDANCE OF LIKELY SIGNIFICANT ADVERSE EFFECTS ON RODBOROUGH COMMON SPECIAL AREA OF CONSERVATION (SAC).**

The Planning Strategy Manager presented this report regarding an avoidance and mitigation strategy for Rodborough Common in relation to an increase in recreational activity due to housing growth identified in the Local Plan.

A reference to the habitat regulation assessment did not feature in the background papers section of the report and the officer wanted it minuted that, the habitat regulations assessment for the Local Plan had a clear recommendation for the Council to deliver a mitigation strategy, for Rodborough Common arising from the housing growth in this immediate area. This strategy and report are a direct response to this recommendation.

The strategy would endeavour to change behaviour and the way the common is used. If mitigation measures do not work, other methods would need to be considered.

Whilst Members recognised the need for an effective strategy, management measures must not make the common exclusive.

RESOLVED That the Interim Strategy for Avoidance of Likely Significant Adverse Effects on Rodborough Common Special Area of Conservation (SAC) is adopted.

EC.047 **DESIGNATION OF NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING AREAS**

The Neighbourhood Planning Officer presented the report on the nomination of a neighbourhood planning area affecting the town of Wotton-under-Edge.

RESOLVED To accept the nomination of the Neighbourhood Area for the Town of Wotton-under-Edge.

EC.048 **REVIEW OF THE OPTIONS FOR THE DISPOSAL OF DOG WASTE**

The Head of Environmental Health presented the report and updated committee on the potential for anaerobic digestion of dog waste.

It would not be possible to accept dog waste with food waste. The environment agency and the County Council would not consider this.

Councillor Denney thanked the officer for the comprehensive report and commented that in time it may be possible to send dog waste to anaerobic digestion.

RESOLVED that the cost of providing facilities for the anaerobic digestion of dog waste is prohibitive at this time and that the protocol for the provision and emptying of dog waste bins set out in the appendix to the report be adopted.

EC.049 **PERFORMANCE MONITORING**

As Councillor Paul Smith had sent his apologies, this item was unable to be discussed.

EC.050 **MEMBERS' QUESTIONS**

None received.

The meeting closed at 9.27 p.m.

Chair