

Minutes of a Meeting of the Planning Communities EAP

At 10am on Wednesday 15th November 2023

Held in the Council Chamber, Corby Cube, George Street, Corby

Present:

Members

Councillor David Brackenbury (Chair)

Councillor Jennie Bone (virtual attendance)

Councillor Robin Carter

Councillor Mark Dearing

Councillor Ken Harrington

Councillor Steven North

Officers

Graeme Kane – Interim Executive Director of Place and Economy

Rob Harbour – Assistant Director of Growth and Regeneration

Simon Richardson – Head of Policy and Placemaking

Paul Woods – Senior Planning Officer (Strategic Policy, Design and Delivery)

Louise Tyers – Senior Democratic Services Officer

Also Present

Councillor Michael Tebbutt, Assistant Executive Member (virtual attendance)

Matthew Thomas (Michael Sparks Associates)

Tony Watkins (First Renewable Ltd)

30. Welcome

The Chair welcomed all of the members of the public who had attended the meeting. He clarified that the meeting was not a planning meeting and would not be making any decisions on the Kettering Energy Park.

31. Apologies for Non-Attendance

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Councillor Anne Lee.

32. Members' Declarations of Interest

The Chair invited those who wished to do so to declare any interests in respect of items on the agenda.

The following declaration of interest was made:

Councillors	Item	Nature of Interest	DPI	Other Interest
Robin Carter	Kettering Energy Park: Draft Masterplan Document	Has done work for BI Engineering who had submitted a letter.		Yes

33. Minutes of the Meeting held on 24 October 2023

The minutes of the meeting held on 24 October 2023 were approved and signed as a correct record.

34. Notification of Requests to Address the Meeting

Requests to address the meeting had been received from Mr Kevin Binley, Councillor Adrian Watts of Burton Latimer Town Council and Councillor Paul Rothe of Finedon Town Council.

35. Kettering Energy Park Draft Masterplan Document

The Senior Planning Officer presented the report which informed Members of the feedback relating to the consultation on the Draft Masterplan Document for Kettering Energy Park. The report also requested that Members consider the next steps in progression of the Masterplan.

At the invitation of the Chair, Mr Kevin Binley, Councillor Adrian Watts and Councillor Paul Rothe addressed the meeting.

The Chair thanked the speakers for their contributions and stated that it was important for the promoters to understand the concerns of local residents. He thanked them for all of their work in putting their responses together.

Matthew Thomas of Michael Sparks Associates and Tony Watkins of First Renewable Ltd gave a presentation on the Kettering Energy Park.

During discussion, the following key points were noted:

- i. Members stated that they did not believe that the concerns raised at the Panel's meeting earlier this year had yet been addressed.
- ii. The scale of proposed B8 (Storage and Distribution) was not in conformity with the Joint Core Strategy (JCS). The site had been identified as an energy park and not another B8 site and 78% of B8 was unacceptable. The former Kettering Borough Council had wanted an energy park and there were other areas that could be extended for B8.
- iii. Highways was fundamental for the development. Finedon would be particularly affected by traffic. The existing Junction 11 of the A14 may not be able to cope with the increased traffic and the effect of large vehicles could already be seen on the structure of the highway in other areas. There was concern that the highways assessment had not yet been seen.
- iv. It was recognised that there was a need for some B8 in the area as North Northamptonshire was on the edge of the golden triangle for logistics. The site had not been tested as an allocation for B8 and some further work was needed to be done. It was important to ensure that uses for the site were complimentary.

- v. The Masterplan was the mechanism for the site and the promoters were responding. There were time factors around the preparation of the new Local Plan which needed to be taken into account.
- vi. Members reiterated that the proposed level of B8 was not acceptable and much more work needed to be done. The draft Masterplan needed to be brought back to the EAP before it was considered by a planning committee.
- vii. Consultation by the promoters needed to improve and they needed to take on board local concerns. The promoters were encouraged to engage more with local communities.

The Chair thanked everyone for their contributions today.

RESOLVED:

- (i) To note the contents of the report.
- (ii) To note the comments made by the Public Speakers.
- (iii) That the Draft Masterplan document be brought back to a future meeting of the Planning Communities EAP.

36. Executive Forward Plan

The EAP noted the Executive Forward Plan for November 2023 to February 2024.

37. Close of Meeting

The Chair thanked the public, members and officers for their attendance and closed the meeting.

The meeting closed at 12noon.

Chair

Date