

Co-operation for Sustainable Development Member Board
Notes of Meeting held on 7 October 2019

Harlow Leisure Zone, Second Avenue, Harlow, CM20 3DT

Attendees

Organisation	Councillors	Officers
East Herts DC	Cllr. Linda Haysey (Cllr. Haysey)	Richard Cassidy (RC) Kevin Steptoe (KS)
Epping Forest DC	Cllr. John Philip (Cllr. Philip) - Chair Cllr. Chris Whitbread (Cllr. Whitbread) Cllr. Nigel Bedford (Cllr. Bedford)	Georgina Blakemore (GB) Nicky Linihan (NL) Simone Williams (SW)
Essex CC	Cllr. Lesley Wagland (Cllr. Wagland) Cllr. Michael Hardware (Cllr. Hardware)	David Sprunt (DS)
Harlow DC		Brian Keane (BK) Andrew Bramidge (AB)
Herts CC	Cllr. Derrick Ashley (Cllr. Ashley)	
Garden Town	n/a	Sarah Pullin (SP) Trudie Baker (TB)

1. Welcome and apologies

Cllr. Danny Purton – Harlow District Council
Cllr Merifield – Uttlesford District Council
Cllr Storah – Uttlesford District Council
Cllr. Helen Coomb - Redbridge
Alison Blom-Cooper – Epping Forest District Council
Sarah Fraser – Natural England
Suzanne Lansley – Havering
Padraig Collins – Redbridge (comments received)
Jeremy Dagley – City of London

2. Draft notes of meeting of 10 June 2019 – including review of action points/matters arising

The minutes from the last meeting of 10 June 2019 which were circulated prior to this meeting were agreed.

3. Update on Epping Forest Special Area of Conservation Mitigation Strategy

NL introduced herself to the group.

NL advised that EFDC has received an advice letter from the Inspector dated 2 August 2019 (EB98) following the Local Plan hearing sessions identifying a number of matters regarding the approach to assessing air quality impact on the Epping Forest SAC, resulting in EFDC needing to carry out more work. Until this work is completed EFDC cannot move forward to identifying the final actions within the Mitigation Strategy. EFDC are working closely with colleagues at Natural England and are

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intending to have regular telephone or face to face meetings with them to ensure the most appropriate approach is taken. As was noted at the last meeting of the Co-operation for Sustainable Development Member Board there have been a number of decisions by the Court of Justice of the European Union which have changed some of the tests and EFDC and this has changed the approach adopted by Natural England on measuring the impact on the Epping Forest SAC.

Note from Pdraig Collins (London Borough of Redbridge) LBR has had a judicial review of its approach to collecting the monies required in respect of mitigation arising from the impact of recreational pressure on the Forest. Initially Redbridge took the same approach to our neighbouring boroughs, in the sense that we only charged for developments over 10 units/majors. We had an approval for a single dwelling which we did not collect the monies for. This subsequently was subject to a Judicial Review by residents in the area, and a Freedom of Information request of other dwellings/developments of less than 10 or non majors which we did not collect for. Our approach is now to charge £30 for each residential approval.

Cllr Phillip stated this was a very similar approach to that of EFDC as to try to collect monies from smaller groups would not be financially viable.

In answer to Cllr Wagland regarding developers making good damage to highways on any developments, Cllr Philip advised EFDC would be happy to work with ECC to pilot a scheme to recover monies for this as this is something that residents get very upset about.

4. Hatfield Forest SSSI

AB advised HDC are continuing discussions with Natural England around a Statement of Common Ground for their Local Plan and one of the issues has been around Hatfield Forest. HDC are now close to coming to an agreement with them. The wording is that developments in Harlow will take into consideration the impact on all SSSIs in the area, not just Hatfield Forest. HDC plans to carry out another visitor survey on the Forest to determine if the Zone of Influence should be amended or not.

NH advised the current Zone of Influence covers a number of Authorities. Uttlesford District Council set up a meeting with all the interested Authorities to discuss findings of the visitor surveys and to discuss in detail a Mitigation Strategy that is being developed by the National Trust.

5. North Weald Special Development Order

GB advised the North Weald Special Development Order has been issued with some planning conditions attached to set up a temporary Custom hub to deal with outgoing traffic should a No Deal BREXIT go ahead on 31 October 2019. This will be mainly for HGV traffic from the North that require their customs documentation stamped. Vehicles will be on site for no longer than 2 hours with approximately 300 lorry movements per day. HMRC are to run the operation and are recruiting additional staff. There have been considerable concern from Essex Resilience Forum regarding traffic and congestion. EFDC are having difficulty in engaging with Highways England to have discussions around the traffic and congestion concerns.

Cllr Wagland stated this would be an ideal opportunity to identify HGVs that are breaking the rules with regard to being non compliant with tachographs etc.

Cllr Hardware advised as a user of Junction 7 on the M11, increasing the volume of traffic at peak times will cause traffic to back up southbound on the motorway which is incredibly dangerous.

GB acknowledged that all are in agreement with Cllr Hardware but there are a number of planning conditions that have not yet been discharged. Traffic management and marshalling are part of the

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agreement to stop lorries travelling through Harlow as a short-cut and causing more disruption through the town.

BK expressed concerns that there were not more discussions with HDC before the order was placed. DS stated that ECC Highways were informed with a limited period for comments before the order was made but asked to keep it confidential.

Cllr Philip reiterated the need to have involvement from Highways England.

GB advised there was a specific area of land HMRC requested that the Special Development Order was based around. EFDC have continued to work with HMRC and the Police to make the area slightly larger and to put some additional capacity and are working around contingencies.

BK requested that EFDC keep HDC informed of any developments.

6. Other cross-border strategic matters:

a) Princess Alexandra Hospital

BK advised he has spoken to the Chief Executive of PAH and the business case for the new hospital to be sited at Junction 7a of the M11 is being prepared following the announcement from Government that funding is going to be available. It is unknown how much funding is going to be allocated. PAH have advised it will cost as much if not more to carry out regeneration of the existing hospital and logistically would be demanding and problematic.

Cllr Wagland advised that when Walsall and Coventry looked at renovating on the existing site it would result in higher death rates due to dust.

b) Highways and transportation

DS reported that tenders for Junction 7a of the M11 have been received and assessed and works are due to begin in January 2020 with completion due in 2022/23.

Works at Edinburgh Way are due to complete in April 2020.

M11 Junction 8 is due to start, some site clearance has begun with utilities starting in January 2020 through to July 2020, main works programmed to begin in April 2020 with the completion estimated as July 2021.

With regard to the HIF bid there have been a large number of questions from Homes England and recently questions have also been received from Department of Transport, all of which are being responded to. There is still no date for a decision, but nothing is showing that the bid hasn't been successful. Work is still optimistically being carried out on the Sustainable Transport Corridor from Harlow Town Station to Harlow Town Centre.

There are a number of feasibility studies being carried out across the Harlow and Gilston Garden Town in line with the Transport Memorandum of Understanding.

ECC are feeding comments into East Herts District Council regarding the Gilston application.

A Bus Rapid Transit Study, high level, strategic piece of work has been completed in Uttlesford. This piece of work was commissioned quite late so the Inspector has requested extra time for questions.

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7. Update on Local Plans

EHDC – nothing to report

HDC – AB advised a letter had been received from the inspector in September regarding final comments on matters relating to the HGGT IDP. A deadline of Friday 11 October 2019 has been set for these comments to be received. The inspector will then issue his report and any proposed modifications to the plan. It is hoped this will be received by end of October 2020 and then go to consultation by end of November 2020. This would enable HDC to complete the consultation before Christmas and adopt the Plan in early 2020.

EFDC – Cllr Philip reported the inspector has provided written advice dated 2 August 2019 (EB98) outlining a number of actions including the deletion of a number of sites from the Plan. The main modification consultation is not expected until further work has been undertaken. EFDC will be writing formally to the inspector outlining their programme following her recommendations.

Note from Pdraig Collins (London Borough of Redbridge) LBR adopted in March 2018. The authority is awaiting the outcome of the London Plan inspectors report. In the meantime background preparation is being undertaken for a potential review of the Plan.

8. A.O.B.

9. Date of next meeting:

Monday 9 December 2019 – *note due to the General Election this meeting was cancelled*