

Local Plan Committee

Wednesday 25 March 2015 at 7.00pm
in the Council Chamber, The Cube, Corby

Councillors present: Councillors Elliston (Chair), Bromhall, Petch & Kettle

25. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Rahman & Dady.

26. Declarations of Interest

Members were asked to declare any interest they might have in the business to be discussed and/or indicate whether these were prejudicial or non-prejudicial, the nature of the interest and whether they intend to participate in the relevant agenda item. No such declarations were made.

27. Minutes of Previous Meeting

RESOLVED that:

The minutes of the meeting held on 3 February 2015, copies of which had been circulated to Members, be agreed as a correct record.

28. Corby Flood Risk Management Study

The Principal Planner (Local Plans) presented a report seeking approval for the Corby Flood Risk Management Study and support for the Action Plan.

Planned growth of Corby created some challenges for the management of flood risk in the area, approximately 3000 properties in the Borough were at risk of flooding due to a range of sources including fluvial and surface water and the production of the study would help to demonstrate how partners including Corby Borough Council, Northamptonshire County Council, Anglian Water and the Environment Agency could work together to reduce flood risk and promote a strategic approach to flood risk management in the Borough.

Gainsborough Road

The study acknowledged the high profile flooding issues associated with Gainsborough Road and it concluded that the flood risk in this location was due to reduced capacity in the watercourse owing to available storage and blockage at culvert inlets. Severity of flooding could be reduced through an improved maintenance and public engagement, the study indicated however that those options would not prevent flooding during extreme events and capital schemes should be taken forward.

A review of the maintenance programme had been undertaken since the study was completed and as a result the Council had now taken responsibility for checking and clearing debris at a greater number of grilles.

Cottingham Road

On Cottingham Road fluvial flood risk had been identified, this was associated with the construction caused at the culvert inlet near Studfall Avenue. Capital works would reduce flood risk either by increased conveyance or flood storage. The study indicated the lowest cost option would be flood storage between Willow Brook Road and Studfall Avenue.

Borough Wide

In addition to the mitigation that had been proposed in the individual priority areas further solutions were suggested at a Borough wide scale:

- Promote an increased capacity in SuDS for new development which could provide betterment in the downstream areas.

- Promote the use of retrofit SuDS measures where appropriate through information available on the County Council and Borough Council websites or through flood fairs
- Continue the existing partnership between the key stakeholders. This should include all major new development proposals whereby joint flood risk benefits could be achieved; and
- Liaise with the Highways Agency and local authority highways teams to reduce flood risk associated with surface water runoff and promote measures for flood risk enhancement

The study had been prepared in a collaborative manner and flood risk partners for Corby would continue to work together to reduce flood risk and promote a strategic approach in the Borough.

Members said the action plan was a good plan and it was good to see it was partnership driven.

The Head of Planning and Environmental Services explained that it would be necessary to get the community involved and take responsibility, at the two public meetings there had been good attendance and it was hoped that from this someone would come forward to act as a representative/flood risk warden. Currently there were members of the public calling in to report problems but as yet no-one had taken the opportunity to take on the role of warden.

Members suggested perhaps some leaflets etc., to encourage residents to take part, perhaps advise that training would be given.

HoS Planning and Environmental Services explained that training would be given and that currently the Council was carrying out a twice weekly visit to ensure everything was ok. There was a problem on Gainsborough Road with an absentee landlord and the Council would continue to investigate how to recover costs.

Members asked about the culvert near Lidl, officers explained that it was being monitored and there were currently ongoing talks to secure an agreement on monitoring maintenance.

RESOLVED that:-

The Corby Flood Risk Management Study be approved and that the Committee support the action plan attached to the report.

29. Neighbourhood Planning Arrangements

The Principal Planner (Local Plans) presented a report to propose arrangements for dealing with Neighbourhood Planning.

Corby Borough Council expected to receive two applications pursuant to the Localism Act 2011 (as amended) and Paragraph 5 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) within the next few weeks from Cottingham Parish Council and Corby Town Centre Neighbourhood Association.

Neighbourhood Planning placed specific responsibilities on Corby Borough Council as the local planning authority:

- Determination of requests to designate neighbourhood areas and neighbourhood forums
- Organisation of publicity for and consultation on the plan at specific stages
- Consultee on the draft plan
- Organisation and cost of the independent examination
- Organisation and cost of the referendum
- Adoption of the Neighbourhood Plan

Designation of the neighbourhood area was the first step local communities were required to take before acquiring their new neighbourhood planning powers.

Qualifying Bodies

Where there was a Parish Council that would be the qualifying body for leading a Neighbourhood Plan, where there was no Parish Council a neighbourhood forum of 21 people should be formed, this should include one person living in the area, one person working in the area and one Councillor, the forum would lead the neighbourhood plan.

Content of Neighbourhood Plan

There was no explicit guidance about what the Plan should include, it was the Governments intention that the plan should be locally driven.

Role of Corby Borough Council

The Borough Council had a legal duty to provide technical advice and support to communities producing a plan in addition to the requirements that the Regulations placed on the Council. This was a new and untried duty and would be a learning process for all involved. The extent of the support and advice provided be subject to skills and resources available to the local authority as well as the needs of the group preparing the plan.

Governance

There would be certain points in the preparation process when Council decisions would be required, the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations did not prescribe how local authorities should make decisions – for example whether by delegated officer, Committee or Full Council, this was for the Council to decide.

Members asked if this process had been budgeted for and what would it achieve, the Principal Planning Officer (Local Plans) said there was no budget for this process, initial costs would be absorbed and until the Council knew what was to be delivered it was difficult to cost.

Members asked if Officers thought this was workable or meaningless, officers responded that it was part of the planning framework, there would have to be public consultation and it was an opportunity for the local community to improve the area, this would usually be Parishes but officers were unsure how the town centre plan would work.

RESOLVED that:-

the arrangements set out in the report for dealing with neighbourhood planning be approved.

30. Close of Meeting

The meeting closed at 7.40 pm.