

## POLICY & RESOURCE COMMITTEE

A Policy & Resources Committee meeting was held on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> August 2016 which commenced at 7pm at the Town Meeting Room, The Old Courthouse, George Street, Pocklington.

Present: Cllr Sykes, (chairman), Cllr Hutchinson, Cllr Jones, Cllr Marron, Cllr Perry, Cllr Shepherd & Cllr West. One member of the public was present.

1. The Cllr Marron proposed the accepting the notice of the meeting 2<sup>nd</sup> Cllr Shepherd and agreed.

2. Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Cooper and Cllr Ratcliffe

Declarations of Interest

3. There were no declarations of interest made by any member of the council.

4. Consider suspending the meeting. Cllr Perry proposed the meeting be suspended. 2<sup>nd</sup> Cllr Jones & agreed. Adrian Smith (Project Manager) Infrastructure and Facilities, East Riding of Yorkshire Council gave a presentation on the proposed flood alleviation scheme for Pocklington Beck upstream of the town. The alleviation scheme is part of the policies which will allow development of POC – C. The reason the scheme is needed is because of the topography of the catchment area which causes the Beck to surcharge into the town. The scheme has been designed to cope with a 1 in 75 year flood event, the fact the town has had two of these recently doesn't indicate that we might have another for over 75 years. The potential flood map used for the modelling of is a worst case scenario and showed the possible depth of water in the town. A large area would be flooded to only a depth of 10mm or less.

The flood defence structure will be a dam with a core of clay that is keyed into the under laying Mercian mud stone. The mudstone is below a porous layer of sand and gravel through which water could seep without being stopped by the defence. The dam which will be constructed to the standards of a reservoir will hold 90,000 – 100,000 cubic metres of water. The beck will flow at a maximum of discharge rate of 1.7 cubic metres per second. If the flow rate increases then a restrictor will keep the flow at 1.7 cubic metres per second. Water will then build up behind the dam. The topography of the valley which is v shaped will aid the construction. The highest point of the dam will be 3.5 metres above the level of the beck. The flow rate of 1.7 cubic metres wouldn't cause any flooding providing the culverts are not obstructed i.e. they don't have any gravel deposits in them.

The dam will be covered with a special mix of grass and the area behind the dam will continue to be farmed this will ensure it blend in with the landscape. At present this is in arable production and will continue to be. If there is a flood event when there is a crop growing that is damaged the farmer can claim compensation. The average time the alleviation scheme is likely to operate is for 30 hours unless there are two events which are very close

together. The scheme has a central spillway and a pipe will ensure the Beck continues to flow at all times.

The Environment Agency's remit ends 50 metres downstream which is where the main river designation starts. East Riding of Yorkshire Council will adopt and maintain the structure after 5 years.

The construction phase will be overseen by a panel engineer who is a specialist in the construction of dams that have to conform to the reservoir act.

The scheme will protect 130 homes and the businesses in the centre of the town. The cost is £3 Million pounds. The scheme would not be eligible for grant funding as the cost benefit to protecting 130 homes would be too low. East Riding of Yorkshire Council are lobbying central government to include businesses in the cost benefit analysis at the present time only residential properties are included.

Without the policy in the residential development the scheme could not be financed.

Cllr Sykes – thanked Adrian for the presentation.

Craig Woolmer and Robin McGinn from Persimmon Homes presented the draft design layout for POC C. Persimmon Homes are proposing approximately 200 houses on POC C which is bordered by The Mile to the west, Mile End Park to the south, Pocklington Beck to the east and farmland to the north.

The draft sketch plan showing the potential position of the residential development, roads, green space, buffer zone to Mile End Park and a central play area were presented. These plans are at an early stage and a public consultation is being held at Burnby Hall Community Hall on Wednesday 14 September from 2.30 pm to 7.30 pm. The flood alleviation scheme will be presented at the same consultation by East Riding of Yorkshire Council.

Cllr Marron asked about the number of car journeys the new development will generate. A transport assessment has been produced and will be included as part of the formal planning application process. A footpath/cycleway will be included as part of the development through the buffer to Mile End Park on the southern boundary of the development.

Cllr Jones asked about affordable housing. Affordable housing is not being included in this development. This is because providing the flood alleviation scheme and affordable housing would make the development unviable. A viability assessment has been produced. (Note East Riding of Yorkshire Council requires a rate of 25% for affordable housing.

Cllr Jones asked about the runoff from the new development which will be discharged into the Beck downstream of the flood alleviation scheme. This will increase flow rates.

Cllr Sykes thanked Craig and Robin for their presentation and encouraged councillors to attend the public consultation on the 14 September which is a drop in.

5. Consider continuing the council meeting. Cllr Marron proposed the meeting be continued. 2<sup>nd</sup> Cllr Perry & agreed.
6. To consider the Transport Policy Paper produced by Cllr Perry. The paper has been read and it was agreed that the response to the Bus consultation be sent to East Riding of Yorkshire as the formal response from the Council.

Cllr Jones asked about the bus company's opinions of the proposed cuts to services. Cllr Perry answered that consultation and the report had been undertaken in partnership with the bus company. Cllr West suggested that the late night buses back from York are only busy on a Friday and Saturday night coming back from York. The buses run empty in to York.

7. To consider the complaints log and issues log produced by Cllr Sinton. Cllr Marron proposed that the Council uses these forms to note complaints and issues registered with the Council, 2<sup>nd</sup> Cllr Perry and agreed.
8. To receive the draft retention of documents and records management policy. Cllr Marron proposed that the policy be put on to the Full Council agenda with a proposal to adopt 2<sup>nd</sup> by Cllr Perry and agreed.
9. To receive the draft data protection policy. Cllr Marron proposed that the policy be put on to the Full Council agenda with a proposal to adopt 2<sup>nd</sup> by Cllr Perry and agreed.
10. To consider the role of handyman.  
There was a discussion about the current tasks the handyman performs and how many days these take. The Clerk reported that in the summer most of the time is taken up with grass cutting which leaves little time for street cleansing. It was agreed that a proposal that the grass cutting work at the Cemetery be tendered. This is to be placed on the next Full Council agenda.
11. To consider purchasing the telephone system for the Arts Centre.  
Cllr Shepherd proposed purchasing the system 2<sup>nd</sup> Cllr Jones and agreed.

The meeting closed at 8.35 pm