

Minutes of a special meeting of **Bingham Town Council** held in The Old Court House, Church Street, Bingham, on **Tuesday, 17th June, 2008**, at **7.00 p.m.**

PRESENT:

Councillor G. Davidson– Town Mayor in the Chair
 " R. Barnett
 " Mrs. A. Bryan
 " A. Hall
 " Mrs. S. Hull
 " F. Kerry
 " Mrs. J. Marshall
 " F. Purdue-Horan
 " A. Shelton
 " J. Stockwood
 " Mrs. M. Stockwood

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

There were no Declarations of Interest received.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies for absence were accepted from Councillors P. Abbey, J. Eagles and C. Lancaster.

ECO-TOWNS - GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION:

Further to initial discussions at the Planning Committee meeting on the 10th June, 2008, the Council considered the Government's consultation paper – "Eco-towns – Living a Greener Future". Each Councillor had received a copy of the document. Responses to the consultation paper had to be received by the 30th June, 2008.

The Town Mayor opened the meeting and outlined the background to the proposals and the consultation process. After that, each member spoke in turn to air their views.

Each Councillor was against the development of an eco-town near to Bingham, and, mainly but not exclusively, discussion centred on the R.A.F. Newton site. There were real concerns on a large number of issues, including:-

- ✍ Vagueness of the concept
- ✍ Infrastructure problems
- ✍ Size of the proposal
- ✍ Threat to the sustainability of Bingham
- ✍ Opposition by Nottinghamshire County Council and East Midlands Regional Assembly.
- ✍ Area needed will be greater than the R.A.F. Newton site
- ✍ Number of existing empty homes
- ✍ Numbers are extra to existing housing allocations
- ✍ Should be associated with urban not rural areas
- ✍ Will not be self-sufficient
- ✍ Need to protect existing green belt land
- ✍ Not a viable site
- ✍ Concern that local planning process will be by-passed in later stages

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continued.....

ECO-TOWNS - GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION continued.....

- ✍ Creation of urban sprawl from Nottingham to Bingham
- ✍ Does not fit with current local and regional strategies
- ✍ Need for eco-town not demonstrated
- ✍ Plans for Rushcliffe area too speculative
- ✍ Needs proper appraisal to include areas to the north of Nottingham that are desperate for regeneration.

At the conclusion of the debate, it was **Moved** by Councillor Shelton, **Seconded** by Councillor Purdue-Horan, and

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that:-

1. The Council has serious concerns, widely shared within the local community, about the suggestion that the R.A.F. Newton site should be chosen as one of the eco-towns.
2. The Council objects in the strongest possible terms to an eco-town for Rushcliffe and calls on the Government to remove the proposal from the shortlist for the Stage 2 consultations.
3. The Acting Town Clerk be authorised to make representations to the Government in support of the Council's objection and to consult with the Town Mayor, Deputy Town Mayor and members of the Planning Committee when drafting the objection.
4. Copies of the Council's objections be sent to local Members of Parliament, Rushcliffe Borough Council, Nottinghamshire County Council, the East Midlands Regional Assembly and local parish councils.

OBSERVATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:

Members of the public made a number of observations in support of the Town Council's objections and made various helpful suggestions concerning the Council's representations to be sent to the Government.

As there was no further business to discuss, the meeting closed at 8.10 p.m.

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CHAIRMAN.

Date:-