

SEDFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

SPECIAL MEETING

Minutes of the proceedings of the **SPECIAL MEETING** of the **Council** held at **7 p.m.** in the **Council Offices**, Advice & Information Centre, Sedgfield, on **Monday 20th June 2011** to discuss the response to the County Durham Plan.

Present **Cllr. Allan Blakemore (Chairman)**
Cllr. John Robinson (Vice-Chairman) and
Cllrs. P. Bodo, D. Brown, M. Brown, N. Dunn, S. Hannan, T. Jeanes, M. Robinson, I. Sutherland, S. Sutherland, D. Waters

Officer L. K. Swinbank (Town Clerk)

1. Apologies

None

2. Declaration of Interest

None

3. Response to the County Durham Plan

A report was given on the Public Open Meeting held at Sedgfield JMI School the previous week. This had been arranged by Sedgfield Together in conjunction with STC and Chief Planning Officers from DCC had attended to give information on the proposals for Sedgfield.

In particular these included: -

- a) Additional 350 houses
- b) Executive Housing

RESOLVED

To agree the response – as shown.

A second Consultation event has been organized by the Together Partnership in conjunction with the Town Council for Monday 19th September at 7 pm in the Parish Hall. This will be a Planning for Real / Workshop event where everyone will have opportunity to discuss locations / types of housing plus the Industrial Estate and Netpark.

County Durham Plan Questions – June 2011

Question 1
Do you think this is the right Spatial Vision for County Durham? If not, can you suggest how it can be improved, or put forward a more suitable alternative?
<p>Sedgefield Town Council agree in principle with the overall Spatial Strategy but feel it should include implementation of the Leamside rail line which it is felt would be beneficial to an integrated and sustainable transport system, and provide important links for local industry and communities including Netpark at Sedgefield.</p> <p>In addition whilst accepting the need for improved energy efficiency and renewable energy – the increasing number of wind turbines must be addressed as this will have direct effect on the special vision.</p>
Question 2
Do you think these are the right strategic objectives for County Durham? If not, can you suggest how it can be improved, or put forward a more suitable alternative?
<p>Again, Sedgefield Town Council agrees in principle with the strategic principles but stress that if the county is encircled by wind turbines this would have considerable impact on achieving the strategic objectives. It is essential a strategy for this and in consultation with adjoining authorities is achieved.</p>
Question 3
Do you agree that 38200 new houses is the correct Housing Requirement for County Durham by 2030 and that the County Durham Plan should identify specific sites for 29000 of these? If not can you put forward a more suitable alternative?
<p>Agree with the number but feel local communities should have some input into the exact locations. In addition it is important there should be direct consultation as to types of housing and that the demographics of each locality should have influence.</p>
Question 4
Do you think this is the right Spatial Strategy for County Durham? If not can you suggest how it can be improved, or put forward a more suitable alternative?
<p>Yes – agree with the key elements.</p>
Question 7
Do you think this is the right Spatial Strategy for South Durham? If not, can you suggest how it can be improved, or put forward a more suitable alternative?
<p>Sedgefield Town Council agrees with the Spatial Strategy for South Durham but emphasise</p>

<p>the need for local people to decide which sites are most suitable and also the type of development needed by the local community.</p>
<p>Question 10</p>
<p>Do you think Aykley Heads should be identified as a Strategic Employment Site?</p> <p>A. Yes.</p> <p>B. No.</p>
<p>Yes – agree Aykley Heads should be identified as a Strategic Employment Site.</p>
<p>Question 12</p>
<p>Do you think NETPark should be identified as a Strategic Employment Site?</p> <p>A. Yes.</p> <p>B. No</p>
<p>Yes – agree and welcome Netpark as a strategic Employment Site, but also suggest that Sedgefield Industrial Estate should also be developed to service both Netpark and Sedgefield itself.</p>
<p>Question 15</p>
<p>Do you think Tursdale/Durham Green should be identified as a Strategic Employment Site?</p> <p>A. Yes.</p> <p>B. No</p>
<p>Yes – Tursdale / Durham Green should be identified as a Strategic Employment Site. It is important however to ensure the appropriate infrastructure is in place which could include the opening of the Leamside Line</p>
<p>Question 21</p>
<p>Bearing in mind the criteria set out above do you know of any site which would be suitable for Executive Housing?</p>
<p>Sedgefield Town Council agrees that Sedgefield is suitable for executive housing, but feel there must be direct consultation with the local community about location(s) of such.</p>

4. CCTV

Members were reminded that a letter had been sent from the old Sedgefield Borough Town

Councils in respect of the invoices for 2009/10, 2010/11 for CCTV and as a result of the issues raised by double taxation.

A response from Simon Henig has now been received and was circulated. A meeting is being arranged for Clerks/Leaders/Chairmen – however the Clerk will be on holiday.

RESOLVED

Cllrs. J. Robinson, A. Blakemore, D. Waters to attend on behalf of the Council

The Chairman, Cllr. Allan Blakemore thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.15 p.m.