

**CABINET MEMBER FOR TOWN CENTRES, ECONOMIC GROWTH AND PROSPERITY
28th November, 2011**

Present:- Councillor Smith (in the Chair); Councillors Dodson and Pickering.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Walker.

G66. THE DESIGNATION OF A NEW CONSERVATION AREA - LETWELL

Consideration was given to a report presented by Jon Bell, Assistant Conservation Officer, which detailed how within the Borough there were twenty-six existing Conservation Areas. The Local Planning Authority had a duty under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990 to review the exercise of its functions in respect of the designation of Conservation Areas and to consider the designation of further parts of its area as Conservation Areas. Additionally, ENV2.10 of the Unitary Development Plan identified a potential twelve further settlements for designation as Conservation Areas.

Public consultation on these twelve settlements had been carried out as part of this year's draft Local Development Framework Core Strategy consultation that included public drop in sessions throughout the Borough.

This proposal would create a new Conservation Area to include the whole of the village of Letwell as it clearly met the criteria for Conservation Area designation. The proposed boundary covered a larger area than that proposed in the past. The area to the west of Ramper Road had been included to incorporate St Peter's Church, but also the 20th Century housing. It was felt that despite its more recent architecture this section of the village still managed to contribute to the "character" of the settlement.

By designating the village as a Conservation Area it would help ensure that the character of the settlement was retained and that future development was of a suitable quality that would enhance and not detract from its current appeal.

Appraisals have now been carried out on all the areas identified. With the exception of both of the areas of the Chesterfield Canal, it was considered that all have individual merit and, therefore, potential for designation as additional Conservation Areas. The Chesterfield Canal was discounted as the vast majority of the lock structures and bridges were adequately protected as listed buildings.

It was proposed to carry this out through a rolling programme of designation starting with those that were considered most meritorious and/or where there was perceived threats to the area through development.

Resolved:- That the proposal to designated Letwell as a Conservation Area be approved.

G67. SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL OF CORE STRATEGY PUBLICATION VERSION

Consideration was given to a report presented by Helen Sleight, Senior Planner, which sought an exemption from Standing Order 47.6.2 to allow orders to be placed with Jacobs Engineering Consultants to prepare the Sustainability Appraisal of the Core Strategy Publication Version 2012.

Jacobs Consultancy were appointed by the Council in January, 2011 to undertake the Integrated Impact Assessment of the Draft Core Strategy, following a competitive tendering procedure using the Homes and Communities Agency Panel. Further Sustainability Appraisal was now required to accompany the Core Strategy Publication Version.

Given the extensive Integrated Impact Assessment completed by Jacobs in May, 2011, there would be significant economies of scale for the same consultancy to undertake this work particularly given the extremely tight timeframe for completion of the Sustainability Appraisal. They, therefore, have detailed knowledge of the earlier work undertaken (both our consultation documents and the Sustainability Appraisal work carried out by themselves) and direct access to relevant information within their own records.

Due to the technical nature of this work other consultancies undertaking the work would incur additional time and costs derived from reading and taking forward previous sustainability work undertaken by others and reading and understanding our Draft Core Strategy.

Resolved:- That the exempting of the proposed appointment of Jacobs Engineering Consultants to undertake the Sustainability Appraisal of the Core Strategy Publication Version from Standing Order 47.6.2 (requirement to invite at least two oral or written quotations for contracts with an estimated value of £5,000 but less than £20,000) be approved.