



Rutland County Council

Catmose Oakham Rutland LE15 6HP
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Record of a meeting of the **Special PLACES SCRUTINY PANEL** held in the Council Chamber, Catmose, Oakham at 7.00 pm on **Wednesday 2 April 2014**

PRESENT: Mr J T Dale (Chairman, in the Chair)
Mr M E Baines
Mr C J Cartwright
Mr W J Cross
Mr D C Hollis
Mr J Lammie
Mr B A Montgomery
Mr M A Oxley
Mr D L Richardson
Mrs C L Vernon

OFFICERS PRESENT: Mr D Brown Director – Places (Environment, Planning & Transport)
Mrs L Kingsley Economic Development and Tourism Manager
Mrs V Musgrave Travel4Rutland Project Manager
Mrs S A Ramsay Support Officer

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr T C King Portfolio Holder for Places (Development) and Finance
Mr M D A Pocock Portfolio Holder for Places (Environment & Transport) and Resources

ALSO PRESENT: Miss G Waller

APOLOGIES: Mrs C L Vernon

921 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made in respect of the items on the agenda for this meeting.

922 PETITIONS, DEPUTATIONS AND QUESTIONS

No petitions, deputations or questions had been received.

923 QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE FROM MEMBERS

No Questions with Notice had been received from members.

SCRUTINY

924 TOURISM REPORT ON ACHIEVEMENTS WITH S106

Report No. 73/2014 from the Director for Places (Development and Economy) was received.

The Portfolio Holder for Places (Development) and Finance, Mr King, introduced the report the purpose of which was to advise the Schedule 1 Planning Obligations agreed with Anglian Water and, to provide a report on tourism achievements brought about with S106 funding over the period 2007-2012.

During discussion the following points were noted:

- i) Members thought it would be useful for them to have a list of the businesses within the county who are members of the Tourism Committee, it was felt that this would be useful in aiding them to identify any potential new businesses who may wish to join the Tourism Committee. Councillor Oxley advised the panel that he would approach two businesses he knew in Uppingham with a view to them joining the committee;
- ii) Members acknowledged that the promotion of Rutland had improved and that the brochures were good quality. Officers advised that there was also a website and, more recently, an app had been launched allowing smartphone users to access information without the need for the full website. The Discover Rutland brand had had significant investment and was prominent on all leaflets, brochures, website and merchandising material. Members asked about the use of Twitter as a means of promotion, it was being used but perhaps not to its full potential, officers advised that the Committee did not currently have enough resource available at the present time to facilitate this.
- iii) Rutland is seen as largely a summer destination with the majority of visitors coming for the day, mainly to Rutland Water. The Discover Rutland team were working to promote other destinations and activities available in the county and also to encourage visitors to stay overnight or longer. Whilst events were held in the county and the surrounding areas, e.g Bird Fair or Burghley Horse Trials, accommodation providers in the county were inundated with requests for rooms and most, if not all, were full for the duration of the event. Discover Rutland were aiming to capitalise on these events as an opportunity to promote the county and to encourage those attending to stay longer or to return to the county another time.
- iv) Co-branding of Discover Rutland on cycling and walking leaflets was taking place, alongside work with both Uppingham and Oakham Town Partnerships on Heritage leaflets.
- v) Membership numbers for the Discover Rutland Newsletter had increased and there are currently 18,600 members on the database to receive this.

The Chairman thanked officers and asked that the Discover Rutland Team be congratulated on behalf of the panel.

AGREED:

- i) That the Panel noted the achievements in Tourism and the contents of Report No. 73/2014.

925 TRAVEL4RUTLAND CYCLE ROUTE INFRASTRUCTURE 2014/15

Report No. 74/2014 from the Director for Places (Environment, Planning and Transport) was received.

The Portfolio Holder for Places (Environment & Transport) and Resources, Mr Pocock, introduced the report, the purpose of which was to present the cycle route infrastructure proposals for implementation with the Travel4Rutland Local Sustainable Transport Fund grant from the Department for Transport (DfT).

During discussion the following points were noted:

- i) The Portfolio Holder, Mr Pocock advised the panel that the funding available had increased since the publication of the agenda, as a result a further two cycle routes from Appendix 2, Ashwell and Egleton bypass, were now included in the recommended routes proposed.
- ii) Members had requested information on the maintenance for the proposed routes, the Portfolio Holder advised that it was approximately 0.05% of the total Highway Budget.
- iii) Mr Oxley, Ward Member for Uppingham commented that he was pleased to see the Uppingham, Glaston and Preston routes on the proposal.
- iv) Members asked about the viability of extending the route of the Rutland Flyer bus to include Corby Railway Station, the Director for Places (Environment, Planning and Transport) advised that this had been raised by the Transport Task and Finish Group previously but he did not have the answer to hand, he advised that he would provide this at a later date.

AGREED

- i) that the panel recommends to Cabinet that the routes identified for approval in Appendix 2, with the addition of the Ashwell and Egleton bypass routes, to Report No. 74/2014 be constructed in 2014/15.

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The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.10 pm.

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