



Minutes

Name of Meeting:	Development Control Committee
Date of Meeting:	5 March 2009
Present:	Councillors: R Johnstone (Chairman), V Lee (Vice-Chairman), Richard Baker, R Oliver, B Piggott, T Rogers, I Shingler and P Swaisland
Other Members In Attendance:	Councillors: R Bootiman, J Scott and T Wootton
Others in attendance	

08-09dc128 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Roger Baker, Carter and Paul.

08-09dc129 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 28 January 2009 were confirmed.

08-09dc130 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

No interests were disclosed.

08-09dc131 COMMUNICATIONS

The Chairman reminded Members that this would be the very last meeting of the Development Control Committee.

He praised the work of the Officers who have supported the Committee and expressed his thanks to the other Members of the Committee for their support during his time as Chairman. He paid particular tribute to Councillor Richard Baker who had served continuously on the Committee and its predecessors for the last twenty-six years.

Development Control Committee
Date Thursday, 5 March 2009

08-09dc132 PETITIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

No petitions were submitted by members of the public.

08-09dc133 SPEED LIMIT REVIEW - STUDHAM

The Committee considered a report of the Assistant Director of Highways and Transportation in relation to a petition that had been submitted to the County Council from residents of Studham requesting the introduction of a 20 mph speed limit between The Bell Public House and the Village Hall in Studham.

Members noted the background to and details of the proposal and then heard the views of Councillor Piggott, the local County Councillor for the area. Councillor Piggott urged the Committee to implement a 20 mph speed limit as requested by local residents against the advice of the officers.

RESOLVED:

That the Cabinet member for Highways and Waste be requested to agree that a 20 mph speed limit on part of Dunstable Road, Studham should be implemented as advertised.

08-09dc134 40MPH SPEED LIMIT - BILLINGTON

The Committee considered a report of the Assistant Director of Highways and Transportation in relation to proposals to change existing speed limits for Billington Road, Slapton Road and Leighton Road, Billington to improve road safety.

Members noted the background to and details of the proposals together with the results of local consultations and publicity undertaken.

RESOLVED:

That the Cabinet Member for Highways and Waste be requested to agree that the proposed changes to speed limits for Billington should be implemented as advertised.

08-09dc135 30MPH SPEED LIMIT - CLOPHILL

The Committee considered a report of the Assistant Director of Highways and Transportation in relation to proposals to change the speed limits for Kiln Lane, Old Silsoe Road and Goodwood Close, Clophill.

Members noted the background to and details of the proposals together with the results of local consultations and publicity undertaken.

RESOLVED:

That the Cabinet Member for Highways and Waste be requested to agree that the proposed changes to speed limits in Kiln Lane, Old Silsoe Road and Goodwood Close, Clophill should be implemented as advertised.

08-09dc136 PETITION - REDUCTION OF SPEED LIMITS MOGGERHANGER AND WILLINGTON AND THE A603

The Committee considered a report of the Assistant Director of Highways and Transportation in relation to a petition that had been submitted to the County Council from residents concerned about the speed of traffic in Willington and Moggerhanger and between those villages and requesting that the current 40 mph speed limits be reduced to 30 mph and that the current 50 mph speed limit on the A603 between the villages should be reduced to 40 mph.

Members noted the background and the views of officers on the situation. They also heard the views of Councillor Scott, the local County Councillor for the area, who had serious concerns that there was no proposal to reduce the speed limit on the A603 on the dangerous bends immediately west of Moggerhanger.

RESOLVED:

That the Cabinet Member for Highways and Waste be requested to note the situation with regard to the petition received for a reduction in speed limits in Moggerhanger and Willington and on the A603 between those villages but that the matter is currently being addressed through the speed limit review of the A603 and agree that any draft orders and speed reducing features arising from the consultation be advertised and the results taken to the appropriate committees of the new unitary authorities.

08-09dc137 NORTH EAST BEDFORDSHIRE WEIGHT RESTRICTION

The Committee considered a report of the Assistant Director of Highways and Transportation in relation to a proposal to introduce 7.5 tonnes heavy goods vehicle weight restrictions in north east Bedfordshire on various roads in Great Barford, Chawston, Colmworth, Honeydon, Moggerhanger, Ravensden, Renhold, Roxton, Wilden, Willington and Wyboston.

Members noted that following statutory publication of the proposals 24 formal objections had been received and 268 letters of support had been received. They were informed Bedford Borough Council had requested that the matter should be deferred so that the new unitary Council for the area could determine the outcome. The Committee also heard the view of Councillor Mrs Bootiman, one of the local County Councillors for the area, who strongly opposed the proposal and its likely impact on Wentworth Drive. She did not think that heavy goods vehicles would be driven within the proposed 20 mph speed limit along the length of Wentworth Drive and was also concerned for the safety of school children who attended Mark Rutherford Upper School in the area. Councillor Mrs Bootiman did not believe that Wentworth Drive was appropriate for diverted heavy goods vehicles.

Councillor Scott, whose electoral division would be affected by the proposal, believed that this proposed wider area restriction had lots to commend it and urged the Committee to agree that this contentious but necessary proposal should be implemented.

Members were informed that, if approved, an annual review of the effects of the implementation would be undertaken with Cambridgeshire County Council and locally elected Members.

RESOLVED:

That the Cabinet Member for Highways and Waste be requested to agree to the implementation of a weight restriction to prevent the movement of heavy goods vehicles over 7.5 tonnes on various roads in Great Barford, Chawston, Colmworth, Honeydon, Moggerhanger, Ravensden, Renhold, Roxton, Wilden, Willington and Wyboston and to an annual review of the effects of the implementation being undertaken with Cambridgeshire County Council and local Members.

08-09dc138 PETITION - REQUEST FOR A VEHICLE ACTIVATED SIGN IN BARFORD ROAD, WILLINGTON

The Committee considered a report of the Assistant Director of Highways and Transportation in relation to a petition that had been submitted to the County Council from residents of Barford Road, Willington requesting the installation of a vehicle activated sign to reduce the speed of traffic there.

Members noted the background to and the details of the proposal and were reminded that proposals were being prepared for amendments to the speed limits on the A603 through both Moggerhanger and Willington which could result in measures being implemented on the side roads in either or both villages and therefore it was felt that any action on Barford Road would be premature ahead of any possible changes to the main road speed issues.

RESOLVED:

That the Cabinet Member for Highways and Waste be requested to agree that no action should be taken in relation to the request from residents of Willington for a vehicle activated sign in Barford Road but that the matter be kept under review pending the outcome of the speed limit review on the A603.

08-09dc139 BROMHAM - OAKLEY POST BEDFORD WESTERN BYPASS TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT PROPOSAL

The Committee considered a report of the Assistant Director of Highways and Transportation in relation to traffic management proposals for Bromham and Oakley to mitigate the traffic impact of phase 1 of the Bedford Western Bypass which was due to open in 2010.

RESOLVED:

That the Cabinet Member for Highways and Waste be requested to agree that the three preferred traffic management schemes in Bromham and Oakley designed to mitigate the forecast traffic impact of Phase 1 of the Bedford Western Bypass be included in the 2009/2010 programme for final design and statutory consultation with implementation being dependent on the support of the new unitary authority for Bedford.

08-09dc140 WEIGHT LIMIT PETITION, NORTHILL AND ICKWELL

The Committee considered a report of the Assistant Director of Highways and Transportation in relation to a petition that had been submitted to the County

Council last year requesting vehicle weight limits through the villages of Northill and Ickwell.

Members were reminded that an area wide weight limit in north east Bedfordshire was being recommended to the Cabinet Member for his approval and that the A603 would form the southern boundary of that area. They also noted that in addition to the propose area wide weight limit, advisory lorry route signs would be erected on the A1 and A421 to encourage heavy vehicles to avoid the A603 through Moggerhanger and Willington. Officers explained that it was not anticipated that this area wide weight limit and advisory lorry route signing would have any significant effect on lorry route movements through Northill and Ickwell although it would leave those villages isolated between other weight limit areas. It was, therefore, felt appropriate to propose a weight limit for the two villages.

The Committee heard the views of Councillor Scott, the local County Councillor for the area who fully supported the proposal for a weight limit there.

RESOLVED:

That the Cabinet Member for Highways and Waste be requested to agree that the new unitary authority for Central Bedfordshire should be asked to support the need for a weight limit in Northil and Ickwell and that a scheme to design and implement this be included within the draft forward work programme for 2009/2010.

08-09dc141 THE DETERMINATION OF AN APPLICATION MADE UNDER SECTION 53 OF THE WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981 TO MODIFY THE DEFINITIVE MAP BY THE ADDITION OF A CLAIMED FOOTPATH IN THE PARISH OF CLOPHILL

The Committee considered a detailed report of the Assistant Director Cultural and Community Services in relation to the determination of an application to add a number of claimed footpaths in the parish of Clophill.

Members noted the results of consultations undertaken with Clophill Parish Council, Mid Bedfordshire District Council and other interested parties together with detailed legal and policy considerations, historical documentary evidence, user evidence and other relevant information associated with the application.

RESOLVED:

That, consequent upon an event under section 53 (3) (c) (i) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, namely the discovery by the authority of evidence which when considered with all other relevant evidence available to them shows that a right of way which is not shown in the Definitive Map and Statement of Public Rights of Way subsists or is reasonably alleged to subsist, an order be made to add sections of public footpath to the Map and Statement between points A-B and points J-Z as shown on the plan at Appendix 1. (Note: Between points A and B, the path to have an approximate width of 2.5 metres and between points J and Z the path to have a width equal to the physical width of the track between banks and buildings varying between approximately 3.3 and 7 metres).

08-09dc142 PUBLIC FOOTPATH NO 28 MAULDEN

The Committee considered a report of the Assistant Director of Corporate Governance in relation the very detailed history associated with Public Footpath No. 28 Maulden.

For the benefit of the majority of Members of the Committee who were not County Councillors when the matter was first considered, the Managing Solicitor explained, in depth, all the issues associated with it.

RESOLVED:

That for the reasons set out in the detailed report, now submitted, no further action be taken on the application of Mr A Bowers dated 11 September 2004 to extinguish or stop up Public Footpath No. 28 Maulden.