

6 January 2014

Planning & Development Committee

Hands off our Open Green Space Petition

Report of: *Gordon Glenday, Head of Planning*

Wards Affected: *All*

This report is: *Public*

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 A petition has been received from Cllr Louise McKinlay entitled “Hands off our open green space!”
- 1.2 The petition states the following: “We the undersigned oppose any piecemeal plans to build on the open green spaces across Hutton and in the rural wards of Brentwood. We want to see such areas protected from development plans that the new Lab / Lib coalition running Brentwood Council put forward as part of the Local Development Plan, which will allocate land for building over the next fifteen years. Local people must decide.”
- 1.3 The petition is made up of 705 signatories.

2. Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 That members debate the petition submitted by Cllr Louise McKinlay titled “Hands off our open green space!”**

3. Introduction and Background

- 3.1 A petition entitled “Hands off our open green space!” has been received from Cllr Louise McKinlay. This sets out opposition to any plans to build on the open green spaces across Hutton and in the rural wards of Brentwood and wishes for such areas to be protected from development. The petition is made up of 705 signatories.
- 3.2 The emerging Local Development Plan, which is currently being produced, is subject to public consultation at key stages. The next public

consultation is due to take place on the Strategic Growth Options document on 6 January 2015 asking for views on where future growth in the Borough should take place.

- 3.3 The location of where growth should happen in one of the key issues for the plan and will require careful consideration.
- 3.4 Members are being asked to debate the subject of the petition which is specifically the opposition of development in Hutton and rural wards of Brentwood.

4. Issue, Options and Analysis of Options

- 4.1 The issue of the location of future development in the Borough will be determined in the emerging Local Development Plan.
- 4.2 The Plan is supported by technical studies that form part of the Council's evidence base. Open Space designations are currently informed by the Needs & Audit of Open Space, Sport & Recreation Facilities in Brentwood Borough (August 2007). The Council is in the process of commissioning updated evidence for both an Open Space Study and Sport and Leisure Facilities Study. These studies will provide up-to-date evidence to inform emerging planning policies and strategy.
- 4.3 This petition raises specific concerns regarding development taking place on open green spaces in Hutton and other rural wards of Brentwood.
- 4.4 No decisions have been made yet as to where development is going to take place in the Borough or which specific sites would be chosen to meet the housing need.
- 4.5 The forthcoming public consultation on the Strategic Growth Options document on 6 January 2015 will provide the opportunity for members of the public and consultees to put their views forward on this matter.
- 4.6 Following the public consultation all representations will be given due consideration and inform the production of Local Development Plan including the overall strategy, where growth will occur and the specific site allocations to meet the strategy.

5. Reasons for Recommendation

- 5.1 The petition has received more than 200 signatures and relates to a local issue not affecting more than two wards. Under the Brentwood Petition

Scheme guidelines the petition can be put forward for debate. Members are therefore requested to debate the petition in line with the guidelines.

6. Consultation

- 6.1 No specific consultation is required for this petition. The emerging Local Development Plan, which will determine the location of future development, will be subject to public consultation at key stages. The Strategic Growth Options consultation will take place on 6 January 2015 for a period of six weeks.

7. References to Corporate Plan

- 7.1 The location of future development in the Borough will be set out within the Brentwood Local Development Plan. The Local Development Plan is a key priority in the Council's Corporate Plan as part of 'A Prosperous Borough'.

8. Implications

Financial Implications

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- 8.1 The Council is currently in the process of commissioning revised evidence relating to open space designations in the Borough to inform the Local Development Plan. This has been accounted for in the Planning Policy budget for 2014/15. The estimated cost is approximately £15,000.

Legal Implications

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- 8.2 The concept of sustainable development includes a long term purpose of preserving amenities for future generations. Whether or not a site is within a sustainable location for development control decisions may necessarily involve weighing planning considerations and carrying out a balancing exercise.

Other Implications

- 8.3 None.

9. Background Papers

9.1 None.

10. Appendices to this report

10.1 None.

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