



NORTHAMPTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLANNING AGENDA

Thursday, 17 July 2014

The Jeffrey Room, The Guildhall, St. Giles
Square, Northampton, NN1 1DE

6:00 pm

Members of the Committee

Councillor: Brian Oldham (Chair), Matthew Lynch (Deputy Chair)

Councillors: Iftikhar Choudary, Nazim Choudary, Penny Flavell, Michael Ford,
Matthew Golby, Jamie Lane, Lee Mason, Dennis Meredith, David
Palethorpe and Mohammad Aziz Rahman

Chief Executive David Kennedy

If you have any enquiries about this agenda please contact
democraticservices@northampton.gov.uk or 01604 837722

PLANNING COMMITTEE

AGENDA

Meetings of the Planning Committee will take place at 6.00pm on 10 June, 1 July, 29 July, 2 September, 30 September, 29 October, 25 November, 23 December 2014. 28 January, 17 February and 24 March 2015.

The Council permits public speaking at the Planning Committee as outlined below:

Who Can Speak At Planning Committee Meetings?

- Up to 2 people who wish to object and up to 2 people who wish to support an individual planning applications or any other matter on the public agenda.
- Any Ward Councillors who are not members of the Planning Committee. If both Ward Councillors sit on the Planning Committee, they may nominate a substitute Councillor to speak on their behalf.
- A representative of a Parish Council.

How Do I Arrange To Speak?

- Anyone wishing to speak (not including Ward Councillors who must let the Chair know before the start of the meeting) must have registered with the Council's Democratic Services section not later than midday on the day of the Committee.
NB: the Council operate a 'first come, first serve' policy and people not registered to speak will not be heard. If someone who has registered to speak does not attend the meeting their place may be relocated at the discretion of the Chair.

Methods of Registration:

- By telephone: 01604 837356
- In writing to: Northampton Borough Council, The Guildhall, St. Giles Square, Northampton , NN1 1DE, Democratic Services (Planning Committee)
- By email to: democraticservices@northampton.gov.uk (if no acknowledgement is received please telephone)

When Do I Speak At The Meeting

- A Planning Officer may update the written committee report then those registered to speak will be invited to speak.
- Please note that the planning officer can summarise issues after all the speakers have been heard and before the matter is debated by the Planning Committee Members and a vote taken.

How Long Can I Speak For?

- All speakers are allowed to speak for a maximum of three minutes.

Other Important Notes

- Speakers are only allowed to make statements – they may not ask questions or enter into dialogue with Councillors, Officers or other speakers.
- Consideration of an application will not be delayed simply because someone who is registered to speak is not in attendance at the time the application is considered
- Confine your points to Planning issues: Don't refer to non-planning issues such as private property rights, moral issues, loss of views or effects on property values, which are not a material consideration on which the decision will be based.
- You are not allowed to circulate new information, plans, photographs etc that has not first been seen and agreed by the Planning Officers
- Extensive late representations, substantial changes, alterations to proposals etc. will not be automatically accepted, due to time constraints on Councillors and Officers to fully consider such changes during the Planning Committee Meeting.

NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Your attendance is requested at a meeting to be held:
in The Jeffrey Room, The Guildhall, St. Giles Square, Northampton, NN1
1DE

on Thursday, 17 July 2014

at 6:00 pm.

D Kennedy
Chief Executive

AGENDA

1. **APOLOGIES**
2. **MINUTES**
3. **DEPUTATIONS / PUBLIC ADDRESSES**
4. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/PREDETERMINATION**
5. **MATTERS OF URGENCY WHICH BY REASON OF SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES THE CHAIR IS OF THE OPINION SHOULD BE CONSIDERED**
6. **LIST OF CURRENT APPEALS AND INQUIRIES**
Report of Head of Planning (copy herewith)
7. **OTHER REPORTS**
8. **NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL APPLICATIONS**
9. **NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL APPLICATIONS**
10. **ITEMS FOR DETERMINATION**
 - (A) **N/2014/0068 & N/2014/0545 - DEVELOPMENT LAND SOUTH OF BEDFORD ROAD OFF LILIPUT ROAD: DEMOLITION OF FARM HOUSE, ASSOCIATED FARM BUILDINGS AND TWO SEMI-DETACHED INDUSTRIAL UNITS. ERECTION OF A STRATEGIC WAREHOUSE AND DISTRIBUTION UNIT WITH ANCILLARY OUTBUILDINGS AND ASSOCIATED WORKS AND PERMANENT DIVERSION OF FOOTPATH**
 - (B) **N/2014/0519 - 24 YORK ROAD: INCREASE HIMO FROM 7 PERSONS TO 10 PERSONS, UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED REPLACEMENT WINDOW AND ALTERATIONS TO GROUND FLOOR FRONT (PART RETROSPECTIVE)**
 - (C) **N/2014/0482 - LAND AT CHAPEL PLACE: TEMPORARY USE OF LAND FOR CAR PARKING TO SERVE 50-60 ST MICHAEL'S ROAD**
 - (D) **N/2014/0392 - JOHN AMBIDGE PENSIONERS HALL, ARLBURY ROAD: CHANGE OF USE OF AMENITY LAND TO GARDEN AREA AND ERECTION OF 1.8M HIGH BOUNDARY FENCE AND GATE**

- 11. ENFORCEMENT MATTERS**
- 12. ITEMS FOR CONSULTATION**
- 13. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS**

THE CHAIR TO MOVE:

“THAT THE PUBLIC AND PRESS BE EXCLUDED FROM THE REMAINDER OF THE MEETING ON THE GROUNDS THAT THERE IS LIKELY TO BE DISCLOSURE TO THEM OF SUCH CATEGORIES OF EXEMPT INFORMATION AS DEFINED BY SECTION 100(1) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 AS LISTED AGAINST SUCH ITEMS OF BUSINESS BY REFERENCE TO THE APPROPRIATE PARAGRAPH OF SCHEDULE 12A TO SUCH ACT.”

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

**Exempted Under Schedule
12A of L.Govt Act 1972
Para No:-**

NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 10 June 2014

PRESENT: Councillor Oldham (Chair); Councillor Lynch (Deputy Chair); Councillors Aziz, I. Choudary, N Choudary, Ford, Golby, Mason and Meredith

Steven Boyes, Director Regeneration & Planning; Rita Bovey, Development Management Team Leader; Paul Lewin, Planning Policy and Heritage Manager; Andrew Holden, Principal Planning Officer; Ben Clarke, Senior Planning Officer; Theresa Boyd, Lawyer and Nathan Birch, Democratic Services Officer

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Flavell, Lane and Palethorpe.

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 6 May 2014 were agreed and signed by the Chair.

3. DEPUTATIONS / PUBLIC ADDRESSES

RESOLVED: That under the following items the members of the public listed be granted leave to address the Committee.

- **N/2013/1143** - Former Gas Holder Site, Towcester Road
Paul Rouse (Agent) and Scott Lewis (National Grid)
- **N/2013/1263** - Development land between Talavera Way and Booth Rise
Councillor Hallam, Matthew Moore (Agent) and Jim Patman (East Midlands Housing)
- **N/2014/0214** - 37 Semilong Road
Councillor Marriott
- **N/2014/0262** - 25 Stanley Street
Councillor Marriott
- **N/2014/0263** - 47 Stanley Street
Councillor Marriott

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/PREDETERMINATION

Councillor Ford declared a personal, pecuniary and prejudicial interest in items 9a and 9b. He advised the Committee that he would leave the meeting during the presentation and deliberation of these items.

Councillor Ford declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in item 10d. As the ward member he had represented residents views in a previous application for the site. He could however approach the matter with an open mind and without any predetermination.

Councillor Meredith declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in item 10b as member he had been contacted by residents in his ward regarding the matter. He could however approach the matter with an open mind and without any predetermination.

The Director of Regeneration and Planning declared a pecuniary and prejudicial interest in items 10a. He advised the Committee that he would leave the meeting during the presentation and deliberation of this item.

5. MATTERS OF URGENCY WHICH BY REASON OF SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES THE CHAIR IS OF THE OPINION SHOULD BE CONSIDERED

None

6. LIST OF CURRENT APPEALS AND INQUIRIES

The Head of Planning submitted a List of Current Appeals and Inquiries.

The Development Management Team Leader introduced the written report and elaborated thereon.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

7. OTHER REPORTS

(A) ASSESSING THE WEIGHT OF SAVED POLICIES

The Director of Regeneration and Planning introduced the written report the Planning Policy and Heritage Manager elaborated thereon.

In response to questions from members the Planning Policy and Heritage Manager explained that those relevant policies shown could be used in the decision making process.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted

8. NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL APPLICATIONS

None

9. NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL APPLICATIONS

Councillor Ford left the meeting for the duration of items 9a and 9b.

(A) N/2014/0470 AND N/2014-0538- TWO SIDED HOARDING ENTRANCE TO DELAPRE PARK FROM LONDON ROAD AND HOARDING SIGN WITHIN CAR PARK AREA AT DELAPRE ABBEY, OFF LONDON ROAD

The Principal Planning Officer outlined the report of the Head of Planning, as set out in the agenda. Members were advised that at 1.1 of the report the words “and 8.2” should be deleted. The recommendation was for approval of both applications subject to the conditions as set out in the report.

In response to questions from the Committee the Principal Planning Officer advised the Committee that:

- The sign inside the grounds was for the duration of the works and should not set a precedent for future applications.

The Committee discussed the report.

RESOLVED: That the application N/2014/0470 be **APPROVED** subject to the conditions set out in the report.

RESOLVED: That the application N/2014/0538 be **APPROVED** subject to the conditions set out in the report.

(B) N/2015/0539 AND N/2014/0573 - SINGLE SIDED NON-ILLUMINATED SIGN AT LONDON ROAD (ADJACENT TO JUNCTION WITH GLOUCESTER AVENUE) AND SINGLE SIDED NON ILLUMINATED SIGN AT LONDON ROAD (OPPOSITE JUNCTION WITH SOUTHAMPTON ROAD

The Principal Planning Officer outlined the report of the Head of Planning, as set out in the agenda. The recommendation was for approval of both applications subject to the conditions as set out in the report.

In response to questions from the Committee the Principal Planning Officer advised the Committee that:

- The signs would have metal uprights.
- Highways advice is taken in the form of their standing advice on signage. The sign on Gloucester Avenue was on Highways owned land and met with their approval for installation.

The Committee discussed the report.

RESOLVED: That the application N/2014/0539 be **APPROVED** subject to the conditions set out in the report.

RESOLVED: That the application N/2014/0573 be **APPROVED** subject to the conditions set out in the report.

10. ITEMS FOR DETERMINATION

The Chair advised that given there were public speakers registered for and against item 10b that matter would be heard before 10a.

(B) N/2013/1263 - DEVELOPMENT LAND BETWEEN TALAVERA WAY AND BOOTH RISE: 38 NEW DWELLINGS, WITH ASSOCIATED PARKING AND INSTALLATION OF NEW ACCESS ROAD

The Senior Planning Officer outlined the report of the Head of Planning, as set out in the agenda. The recommendation was for approval in principle, subject to the prior completion of a S106 agreement and subject to the conditions set out in the report.

Councillor Hallam addressed the committee. He explained he was the County Councillor for the area and that only two months ago the Committee had rejected a very similar application. In his opinion the changes that had been made, including the removal of the retail element, were minor. The arguments regarding the area as a green buffer and traffic had all been made regarding the previous application. He urged the committee to again reject the application.

In response to a question from the committee Councillor Hallam supplied the following information:

- While the Council had agreed to dispose of the land and he was a Cabinet member, he had not been involved in the original decision by the Council to sell the land for development.

Mr Moore, for the applicant, addressed the committee. He explained that since the last application there had been a significant reduction in scale with the retail element being removed. The application remained in keeping with planning policy. The developer had made other changes following the previous application and the proposal would help address the shortage of starter homes and meet Northampton's housing need. This was vacant land, identified by the authority as being suitable for housing. He highlighted that the Highways Authority and Environmental Health had not raised any objections.

In response to question from the committee Mr Moore supplied the following information:

- The Highways Authority had not objected to the proposed development

- It was the bus operators who looked to stop on the highway rather than in a layby. The developer would be supplying shelters to existing stops.
 - Westleigh Developments Ltd are not connected to William Davis Homes who had developed the Booth Park site.
 - A wildlife survey had taken place in consultation with the County Ecologist.
 - This was seen as a family development and as such the highways issues had been addressed with this in mind.
 - The developer had advised Councillor Hallam directly of the revised scheme proposals.
-
- The provision of parking was in line with the Highways Authority requirement, but the development was also easily accessible by public transport.
 - The major change to the retail development had been made because of concerns over potential anti-social behaviour raised by residents. There were also changes to the proposed elevations in the scheme.

Mr Patman, Group Director East Midlands Housing, addressed the Committee. He advised the Committee that EMH had a long track record of working with the Council and with over 1000 units were in fact the second largest landlord in the town. With 2250 people on the housing waiting list, and 300 looking for shared ownership, this scheme will help to address some of that need. The scheme would be funded by EMH, with a significant contribution from the Homes and Communities Agency. The Council would receive a significant receipt, but the issue was time sensitive.

In response to question from the committee Mr Patman supplied the following information:

- Asked to comment on the design he advised he was not an architect, but the experts in the matters of design, namely the planning officers, had recommended the scheme for approval.

In response to the points raised by the speakers the Senior Planning Officer advised the Committee that:

- The development at Booth Park was now built, so should therefore be taken into consideration when looking at the areas character and mix of property design.
- Traffic flows would be less in the area without the retail element. The Highways Authority is the expert in such matters and again appropriate weight should be given to their observations.
- The site may be seen as a “green buffer,” but was not – unlike the former Booth Park and Thorpeville sites which the committee had voted against - allocated as open space.
- There were no issues raised by the ecological survey.
- As part of the consultation process the Planning Authority had written to all residents who had made representations on the previous application.

- In the officers opinion this was a deliverable and sustainable scheme that would address housing need.

In response to questions from the Committee the Senior Planning Officer advised the Committee that:

- The two bus stops shown in the plans were already in place, so laybys had not been considered as part of the application.
- Traffic flow may increase by a limited number as this was a development for only 38 properties. The Highways Authority had no objections, subject to the mitigation proposals.
- Booth Park would have formed part of the Highways Authority consideration.
- He believed the design was in keeping and the Council Urban Design Officer had raised no objections.
- All previous objectors had been written to and he could not explain the lack of resident numbers attending the Committee.

The Committee discussed the report.

Upon a proposal from Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor N Choudary the Committee voted whether to accept the recommendation.

The vote on the resolution being - For: 4 Against: 4 Abstained: 1

On the casting vote of the Chairman the vote being - For: 4 Against: 5

The Committee discussed reasons for refusal.

Upon a proposal from Councillor I Choudary, seconded by Councillor Lynch the committee **RESOLVED**:

That the application be **REFUSED** on the grounds that:

The application site is an isolated site surrounded by roads, including those frequented by a high volume of traffic, which prevent effective direct pedestrian links to the surrounding area from being formed. As a consequence, the development would not be integrated with the surrounding area. Furthermore, the site can be characterised as forming a transitional green area between the urban areas to the south and the less built up setting to the north, as a consequence the development would form an incongruous feature, detrimental to the character and appearance of the locality and visual amenity. The proposal therefore fails to comply with the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework and Policy H7 of the Northampton Local Plan.

The vote on the resolution being - For: 5 Against: 4

**(A) N/2013/1143 - FORMER GAS HOLDER SITE, TOWCESTER ROAD:
OUTLINE APPLICATION FOR THE DEMOLITION OF EXISTING
STRUCTURES AND REDEVELOPMENT FOR FLEXIBLE MIXED USES
AND ASSOCIATED WORKS**

The Director of Regeneration and Planning left the meeting for consideration of the item.

The Principal Planning Officer outlined the report of the Head of Planning, as set out in the agenda. The committee's attention was also drawn to the circulated addendum. The Committee was asked to note that Condition 19 of the Addendum should read, "2,500 lines".

The recommendation was for approval in principle, subject to the prior completion of a S106 agreement and subject to the conditions set out in the report and addendum.

Mr Lewis, National Grid, addressed the Committee. He explained that National Grid had a large portfolio of land, including some 400 former gas works sites. They had a proud record of developing brownfield sites. Following discussions with West Northants Development Corporation and the Council this site had been brought forward in their development timetable from 2019. This 8 acre site would be cleared and ready to market by the year end.

Mr Rouse, agent for the applicant, highlighted that this was an outline application to determine access. He believed this proposal would help enable further development in line with the Council's long term plans. No objections had been received and the proposal had been vigorously reviewed by the Local Authority.

In response to questions from the Committee the Principal Planning Officer supplied the following information:

- The largest unit shown on the indicative plan was 1700m². Primark in the town centre was 980m².

The Committee discussed the report.

RESOLVED: That the application be **APPROVED IN PRINCIPLE** subject to the conditions set out in the report and addendum.

**(C) N/2014/0137 - SITES F AND G UPTON, HIGH STREET, UPTON: ERECTION
OF A MIXED USE DEVELOPMENT COMPRISING OF CONVENIENCE
STORE, RETAIL UNITS, NURSERY, CAFE RESTAURANT, 77
APARTMENT EXTRA CARE FACILITY AND 32 GENERAL NEEDS
APARTMENTS WITH ACCESS AND PARKING SPACES**

The Development Management Team Leader outlined the report of the Head of Planning, as set out in the agenda.

The recommendation was for approval in principle, subject to the prior completion of a S106 agreement and subject to the conditions set out in the report.

The Committee discussed the report.

RESOLVED: That the application be **APPROVED IN PRINCIPLE** subject to the prior completion of a S106 agreement and subject to the conditions set out in the report.

**(D) N/2014/0155 - DEVELOPMENT LAND, OLD TOWCESTER ROAD:
RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT COMPRISING 45 APARTMENTS,
ASSOCIATED ACCESS, PARKING, DRAINAGE, LANDSCAPING AND
PUBLIC OPEN SPACE**

The Development Management Team Leader outlined the report of the Head of Planning, as set out in the agenda. The Committee was asked to note that 1.2 i) should read "5 affordable housing rented units on site or".

The recommendation was for approval in principle, subject to the conditions set out in the report.

The Committee discussed the report.

RESOLVED: That the application be **APPROVED IN PRINCIPLE** subject to the conditions set out in the report.

**(E) N/2014/0171 - 113 ABINGTON AVENUE: CHANGE OF USE FROM
DWELLING (C3) TO HOUSE OF MULTIPLE OCCUPATION FOR 5
OCCUPANTS (C4)**

The Senior Planning Officer outlined the report of the Head of Planning, as set out in the agenda.

The recommendation was for approval subject to the conditions set out in the report.

In response to questions from the Committee the Senior Planning Officer supplied the following information:

- He believed five was a comparable number of residents to those that may live in the property as a single dwelling.
- The Highways Authority had requested 2 off road parking spaces, but these could not be supplied.

The Committee discussed the report.

Upon a proposal from Councillor I Choudary, seconded by Councillor Golby the committee **RESOLVED**:

That the application be **REFUSED** on the grounds that:

1. The proposed development would, by reason of its scale and nature of use, would exacerbate the existing parking problems within the vicinity of the site to the detriment of highway safety. The proposal therefore fails to accord with the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework.
2. The proposed development would create an undue concentration of such uses within the area to the detriment of the character and amenities of the surrounding. The proposal fails to comply with the National Planning Policy Framework, Policy H30 of the Northampton Local Plan and Policy H6 of the submitted West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy.

The vote on the resolution being - For: 4 Against: 0 Abstained: 5

(F) N/2014/0214 - 37 SEMILONG ROAD: CHANGE OF USE FROM DWELLING (C3) TO 7 BED HIMO (SUI GENERIS)

The Senior Planning Officer outlined the report of the Head of Planning, as set out in the agenda.

The recommendation was for approval subject to the conditions set out in the report.

Councillor Marriott addressed the Committee as ward member. He believed that the proliferation of HIMO's in the Semilong area was changing the nature of the community. This particular property was lacking in facilities for those living there. The Highway Authority had raised the matter of off road parking, which was not provided, and this property sat on a very busy corner.

In response to a question from the Committee Councillor Marriott supplied the following information:

- He did not know the exact percentage of properties that are a HIMO, but he believed the number was growing as more were found that did not have the requisite planning permissions.

In response to the points raised by Councillor Marriott the Senior Planning Officer supplied the following information:

- In Semilong Road 31 of 183 properties had been so far identified as HIMOs.

In response to questions from the Committee the Senior Planning Officer supplied the following information:

- Most of those properties found to be a HIMO without planning permission simply applied for retrospective permission.
- The Highways Authority had requested 2 off road parking spaces, but with public transport nearby this could be seen as a sustainable development.

The Committee discussed the report.

Upon a proposal from Councillor Golby, seconded by Councillor Mason the committee **RESOLVED**:

That the application be **REFUSED** on the grounds that:

1. The development has resulted in the loss of a single dwelling house within a primarily residential area. The development therefore prevents the provision of a wide choice of homes being provided in this location contrary to the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework and adversely affects the character of the area contrary to the requirements of Policy H6 of the submitted West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy.
2. The proposal forms an overly intensive form of development that prevents a satisfactory level of amenity afforded to occupiers of the property contrary to the National Planning Policy Framework.

The vote on the resolution being - For: 8 Against: 0 Abstained: 1

(G) N/2014/0262 - 25 STANLEY STREET: CHANGE OF USE FROM DWELLING (C3) INTO HOUSE IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION (C4) FOR 4 TENANTS (RETROSPECTIVE APPLICATION)

The Senior Planning Officer advised that he would make a single presentation for items 10g and 10h. Both were from a single applicant and were similar properties owned by the same landlord.

The Senior Planning Officer outlined the report of the Head of Planning, as set out in the agenda. The committee's attention was also drawn to the circulated addendum.

The recommendation was for approval subject to the conditions set out in the report and addendum.

Councillor Marriott addressed the Committee as ward member. He suggested there are some excellent landlords in Semilong and not all HIMO's were unwelcomed. He considered these properties though were not of a good standard. They were former family homes, a good distance from transport links, again requiring designated parking according to the Highway Authority. He asked that the Committee consider

what they saw on the site visit, including the condition of the properties, and that neither the landlord nor applicant had attended that visit.

In response to a question from the Committee Councillor Marriott supplied the following information:

- Residents had made their concerns on HIMO's known to the Semilong Forum and Planning Department direct.
- Residents also brought any "illegal" HIMO to the attention of the Semilong Forum.

In response to the points raised by Councillor Marriott the Senior Planning Officer supplied the following information:

- Planning Officers had previously visited both properties to confirm the layout.

In response to questions from the Committee the Senior Planning Officer supplied the following information:

- The applicant is the prospective purchaser of the properties.

The Committee discussed the report.

Upon a proposal from Councillor I Choudary, seconded by Councillor Ford the committee **RESOLVED**:

That the application be **REFUSED** on the grounds that:

The use of this property for multiple occupation would create an undue concentration of such premises in this locality to the detriment of the general amenities and character of the area contrary to Policy H30 of the Northampton Local Plan, Policy H6 of the submitted West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy and the National Planning Policy Framework.

The vote on the resolution being - For: 8 Against: 0 Abstained: 1

(H) N/2014/0263 - 47 STANLEY STREET: CHANGE OF USE FROM DWELLING (C3) INTO HOUSE OF MULTIPLE OCCUPATION (C4) FOR 4 TENANTS (RETROSPECTIVE)

The Committee discussed the report.

Upon a proposal from Councillor N Choudary, seconded by Councillor Mason the committee **RESOLVED**:

That the application be **REFUSED** on the grounds that:

The use of this property for multiple occupation would create an undue concentration of such premises in this locality to the detriment of the general amenities and character of the area contrary to Policy H30 of the Northampton Local Plan, Policy

H6 of the submitted West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy and the National Planning Policy Framework.

The vote on the resolution being - For: 8 Against: 0 Abstained: 1

**(I) N/2014/0462 - FORMER ST CRISPIN HOSPITAL, BERRYWOOD ROAD:
APPLICATION TO VARY SECTION 106 AGREEMENT IN RESPECT OF
APPLICATION N/1997/0566 TO REMOVE THE OBLIGATION TO PROVIDE
A LINK ROAD BETWEEN BERRYWOOD ROAD AND ST CRISPIN DRIVE**

The Principal Planning Officer outlined the report of the Head of Planning, as set out in the agenda.

The recommendation was to agree to the variation of the S106 agreement as set out in the report.

The Committee discussed the report.

RESOLVED: That the variation to the S106 agreement be **APPROVED** as set out in the report.

The vote on the resolution being - For: 8 Against: 0 Abstained: 1

**(J) N/2014/0473 - EXTENSION TO EXISTING BOWLING CLUB BUILDING TO
PROVIDE CHANGING AND LOCKER ROOM AT INDOORS BOWLS
CENTRE KINGSTHORPE RECREATION GROUND HARBOROUGH ROAD**

The Senior Planning Officer outlined the report of the Head of Planning, as set out in the agenda.

The recommendation was for approval subject to the conditions set out in the report.

The Committee discussed the report.

RESOLVED: That the application be **APPROVED** subject to the conditions set out in the report.

11. ENFORCEMENT MATTERS

None

12. ITEMS FOR CONSULTATION

None

The meeting concluded at 9:02 pm

Directorate: Planning and Regeneration
 Head of Planning: **Susan Bridge**



List of Appeals and Determinations – 17th July 2014

| Written Reps Procedure | | | |
|---|---------------|--|------------------|
| Application | Del/PC | Description | Decision |
| N/2013/0818 APP/V/2825/A/14/2216152 | DEL | Change of use of part of garden to create rear access and driveway to rear of 144 Boughton Green Road at land adjacent to 157 Ruskin Road | ALLOWED |
| N/2013/1047 APP/V/2825/A/14/2216030 | PC | Erection of detached bungalow (revision of previously approved application N/2009/0824) at Building Plot adjacent to 15 Whitehills Crescent | DISMISSED |
| N/2013/1243 APP/V/2825/A/14/2204102 | PC | Outline application for the development of 3 new houses including parking and new access road from Millway land rear of 7A Millway, Duston | ALLOWED |
| N/2014/0126 APP/V/2825/A/14/2218191 | DEL | Repositioning of side boundary fence (2m high) adjacent to footpath at 40 Longford Avenue, Little Billing | AWAITED |
| N/2014/0132 APP/V/2825/H14//2220452 | DEL | 1no. vinyl illuminated sign at first floor front – retrospective application at 38 Derngate | AWAITED |
| Public Inquiry | | | |
| | | None | |
| Hearing | | | |
| N/2012/1093 APP/V/2825/A/14/2214518 | PC | Demolition of Bective Works and Jebez House. Erection of a new student accommodation building, incorporating a retail unit and lower ground floor parking and service space, together with new vehicular access and pedestrian access and associated landscaping proposals, plus the alteration and restoration of the circa 1902 part of the Listed Building Enterprise House and its change of use to student community use at Bective Works, Enterprise House and Jebez House, Between Bective Road & Yelvertoft Road | AWAITED |
| Enforcement Appeal | | | |
| 02/2014 | | Installation of 3No. roller shutters and associated boxes to the frontage of 24-28 Wellingborough Road | AWAITED |

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|--|--|
| The Address for Planning Appeals is: Mr Brian Rowe, Room 301, The Planning Inspectorate, Temple Quay House, 2 The Square, Temple Quay, Bristol BS1 6PN. | Appeal decisions can be viewed at - www.planningportal.gov.uk |
| Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 Background Papers The Appeal Papers for the appeals listed | Author and Contact Officer Mrs Rita Bovey, Development Management Team Leader Telephone 01604 837237 Planning and Regeneration The Guildhall, St Giles Square, Northampton, NN1 1DE |



Addendum to Agenda Items Thursday 17th July 2014

10. ITEMS FOR DETERMINATION

10A

N/2014/0068

Demolition of farm house, associated farm buildings and two semi-detached industrial units. Erection of a strategic warehouse and distribution unit with ancillary outbuildings (totalling 60,108sq.m of floorspace), car parking, new site access off Liliput Road, attenuation ponds, infrastructure and landscaped bunding at development land south of Bedford Road off Liliput Road

Application withdrawn.

N/2014/0545

Application for a permanent diversion of footpath at development land south of Bedford Road off Liliput Road

Application withdrawn.

10B

N/2014/0519

Change of use from offices (Class B1) into 10 person House of Multiple Occupation (Sui Generis) including alteration to windows to front and rear elevations (increase of 3 persons from planning permission N/2013/0931) at 24 York Road

The description for the development on the report is incorrect and should read:-

“Change of use from offices (Class B1) into **10 person** House of Multiple Occupation (Sui Generis) including alteration to windows on front and rear elevations (increase of 3 persons from planning permission N/2013/0931)”.

Please note 10 persons and not 10 bedrooms.

10C

N/2014/0482

Temporary use of land for car parking to serve 56-60 St Michaels Road at land Chapel Place

No updates to report.

10D

N/2014/0392

Change of use of amenity land to garden area and erection of 1.8m high boundary fence and gate at John Ambidge Pensioners Hall, Arlbury Road

The recommended Condition 2 needs to be amended to reflect changes to the plans submitted and should now read:

Amended Condition 2:

The development hereby permitted shall be carried out in accordance with the following approved plans: Proposed Site Plan (received 11 July 2014), Proposed Elevation & Proposed Elevation (Side Gate Entrance).

Reason: For the avoidance of doubt and to accord with the terms of the planning application.



PLANNING COMMITTEE: 17th July 2014
DIRECTORATE: Planning and Regeneration
HEAD OF PLANNING: Susan Bridge

N/2014/0068: Demolition of farm house, associated farm buildings and two semi-detached industrial units. Erection of a strategic warehouse and distribution unit with ancillary outbuildings (totalling 60,108sq.m of floorspace), car parking, new site access off Liliput Road, attenuation ponds, infrastructure and landscaped bunding.

and;

N/2014/0545: Application for a permanent diversion of footpath.

WARD: Rushmills

APPLICANT: Roxhill Developments Limited
AGENT: Savills

REFERRED BY: Head of Planning
REASON: N/2014/0068: Major Application requiring a S106 legal agreement
N/2014/0545: Called in by Cllr Larratt as associated with a contentious application

DEPARTURE: YES

APPLICATION FOR DETERMINATION:

1. RECOMMENDATION

N/2014/0068

1.1 APPROVAL IN PRINCIPLE subject to conditions and the matters in paragraphs 1.2, 1.3, 1.4 and 1.5 for the following reason:

The proposed development would secure economic growth and additional job opportunities, would appropriately mitigate against its impacts upon the strategic and local road network, would safeguard residential amenity and biodiversity and would not unacceptably prejudice the function of designated green space and the significance of designated heritage assets and is therefore in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework, Policies E1, E6, E9, E19, E20, E26 and E40 of the Northampton Local Plan and Policies SA, S1, S7, S8, S10, S11, BN1, BN2, BN4, BN5 and INF2 of the Submitted West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy.

- 1.2 Delegated authority being passed to the Head of Planning to consider any further consultation responses upon the application received pursuant to consultation, the display of site notice and the advertisement placed in the local press, which expires 17th July 2014.
- 1.3 The prior completion of a Section 106 Legal Agreement to secure:
 - i) A financial payment towards the Northampton Growth Management Scheme;
 - ii) A financial payment towards the provision of a Green Infrastructure and Sustainable Transport Contribution to enhance or maintain improvements to green infrastructure and sustainable forms of transportation;
 - iii) A financial payment to fund the provision of new bus shelters and a commuted sum for their ongoing maintenance within the vicinity of the site;
 - iv) A Noise Mitigation Scheme;
 - v) A financial payment to fund the monitoring of the Travel Plan; and
 - vi) The Council's monitoring fee.
- 1.4 Delegated authority being given to the Head of Planning to negotiate the detail of the Section 106 Legal Agreement and to amend the list of planning conditions where appropriate.
- 1.5 It is also recommended that in the event of the Section 106 Legal Agreement not being completed within three calendar months of this Committee meeting, in addition to being able to grant planning permission as recommended above, the Head of Planning be given delegated authority to either refuse or finally dispose of the application (at her discretion) for the reason that the necessary mitigation measures have not been secured to make the proposal acceptable in line with the requirements of Northampton Local Plan Policy E19 and the National Planning Policy Framework.

N/2014/0545

- 1.6 **APPROVAL** to draft an order to authorise the diversion of the Footpath KU9 under Section 257 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 in the event that planning permission N/2014/0068 is granted for the following reason:

The footpath diversion is necessary to enable the development granted planning permission under N/2014/0068 to be carried out in accordance with the approved details.

2. THE PROPOSAL

- 2.1 The scheme would involve the demolition of a farm house and associated farm buildings at the northern corner of the application site adjacent to Bedford Road, these removals would allow for the provision of balancing ponds as part of the scheme's drainage strategy. To the western side of the site it is proposed that two-semi-detached vacant industrial buildings (accessed off Weddell Way) be demolished to provide the opportunity to create car parking to serve the scheme.
- 2.2 The proposals are for the erection of a strategic warehouse and distribution unit of 59,534 sqm gross internal area, which is proposed would have unrestricted hours of operation. It would have a maximum height of 21.5m measured from finished floor level to ridge height (providing 18m of clear internal height within the warehouse). The total extent of floor space proposed (including the ancillary outbuildings of a gatehouse, car park office and pedestrian link bridge) is 60,108 sqm. The development has a named end occupier: Carlsberg.
- 2.3 The scheme includes the construction of an external storage yard of some 13,074 sqm in area to the western side of the site as well as HGV trailer parking (178 spaces) to the west and north of the proposed warehouse. Loading docks for HGVs would be provided to the western and northern elevations of the proposed warehouse. In addition a car park (308 spaces) is proposed off Weddell Way to the north-western side of the site on land currently occupied by employment units.
- 2.4 The proposals involve extensive earthworks, ground profiling and structural landscaping in the interests of incorporating the warehouse and supporting infrastructure into the landscape. A landscaped bund, measuring up to 18m in height, would be formed to the eastern and southern sides of the warehouse.
- 2.5 The scheme is supported by an Environmental Statement (ES) due to the development requiring Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) given its scale and potential to have significant environmental effects. The ES sets out the baseline environmental conditions, identifies the potential environmental effects of the development and sets out the mitigation measures envisaged in order to avoid, reduce and, if possible, remedy any significant adverse effects and to summarise the residual environmental effects that the proposed development may have.

- 2.6 The scheme would necessitate the diversion of Public Footpath KU9, which runs south-east to north-west across the application site. The applicant has made, under Section 257 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, an application for the permanent diversion of this footpath in the interest of enabling the development to occur (Council reference: N/2014/0545). N/2014/0545 only need proceed should planning permission be granted under N/2014/0068. In the event that N/2014/0068 is refused, a diversion under N/2014/0545 would no longer be justified to enable development. The present route of the footpath runs along the eastern edge of the proposed building; it is proposed that this be re-routed to curve around the north-eastern side of the proposed landscape bund. The difference in alignment between the existing and proposed route would, at its widest point, be approximately 100m.
- 2.7 This report considers the merits of N/2014/0068 and N/2014/0545 in tandem given their inherent links. The bulk of the report is focussed upon the planning application (N/2014/0068); the diversion application (N/2014/0545) is evaluated in the 'Highways & Rights of Way' section of the Appraisal below.

3. SITE DESCRIPTION

- 3.1 The site is located to the south eastern side of Northampton and measures 19.5 ha in area. It abuts the eastern edge of the Brackmills Industrial Estate and constitutes open agricultural pastureland with the exception of an approximate 0.8 ha area to the north west of the site, which is accessed from Weddell Way and currently contains two attached vacant industrial buildings. The pastureland serves Martins Farm, which is located at the northern end of the site and is accessed via Bedford Road, which runs east-west along the northern tip of the site.
- 3.2 The topography of the site typically slopes and falls from its south-eastern side down to its north-western boundary that abuts the current industrial estate. The difference in ground levels at alternate ends of the site equates to as much as 19m. The area constitutes a broad river valley landscape with gently undulating valley slopes. The Brackmills Estate, to the northern-western side of the site, occupies a low-lying position in a natural, shallow bowl.
- 3.3 Great Houghton village is located to the eastern side of the site. The boundary of the Great Houghton Conservation Area, which contains the grounds of Great Houghton Preparatory School, also abuts the eastern boundary of the site.
- 3.4 Public Footpath KU9, which links Great Houghton to Bedford Road at the edge of the Brackmills Estate, runs through the application site from its southeast corner to the northern boundary. A dismantled railway line, which now serves as a footpath and cycle route (National Cycle Route 6), runs the southern boundary of the site and is lined with

trees and shrub vegetation. There is a residential property, Little Norway located adjacent to the south west corner of the site. A further public right of way runs along the north-western boundary of the site and provides a footway / cycleway connection between Bedford Road and the Brackmills Industrial Estate.

4. PLANNING HISTORY

4.1 No recent or relevant planning history upon the application site.

5. PLANNING POLICY

5.1 Development Plan

Section 38(6) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires a planning application to be determined in accordance with the Development Plan unless material planning considerations indicate otherwise. The Development Plan for the purposes of this application comprises the Northampton Local Plan 1997 saved policies and, whilst not yet adopted, weight can be attributed to the Submitted West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy (as subsequently modified).

5.2 National Policies:

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) states that the Government is committed to securing economic growth (Paragraph 18); Paragraph 19 states that the planning system should operate to encourage and not act as an impediment to sustainable growth. Paragraph 56 notes that good design is a key aspect of sustainable development and is indivisible from good planning whilst Paragraph 64 states that permission should be refused for development of poor design that fails to take the opportunities available for improving the character and quality of an area and the way it functions.

Paragraph 109 notes that the planning system should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by protecting and enhancing valued landscapes and by providing net gains in biodiversity where possible. Planning decisions should aim to avoid noise from giving rise to significant adverse impacts on health and quality of life as a result of new development in accordance with Paragraph 123 and should limit the impact of light pollution in accordance with Paragraph 125.

Paragraph 131 states that Local Planning Authorities should take account of the desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets. When considering the impact of a proposed development on the significance of a designated heritage asset, great weight should be given to the asset's conservation (Paragraph 132); consent should be refused when substantial harm to or total loss of significance would be caused unless substantial public benefits would be achieved (Paragraph 133). The effect of an application upon the

significance of a non-designated heritage asset shall be taken into account with balanced judgement being required in decision-making as regards the scale of any harm or loss to its significance (Paragraph 135).

5.3 Northampton Local Plan 1997 (Saved Policies)

E1 – ‘Landscape and Open Space’ requires new development to respect the character and structure of the landscape.

E6 – ‘Greenspace’ requires that planning permission only be granted for new development when the function of designated greenspace is not unacceptably prejudiced.

E9 – ‘Locally Important Landscape Areas’ requires special importance to be attached to the effect of proposed development upon the landscape.

E19 – ‘Implementing Development’ requires any adverse effect of development to be allowed for or appropriately mitigated against.

E20 – ‘New Development’ requires the design of any new built development to adequately reflect the character of its surroundings and to ensure adequate standards of privacy, daylight and sunlight.

E26 – ‘Conservation Areas’ requires development to either preserve or enhance the character and appearance of designated conservation areas.

E40 – ‘Crime and Vandalism’ requires development to pay adequate regard to the need to deter crime and vandalism.

5.4 Supplementary Planning Guidance

Planning Obligations Strategy SPD (February 2013)

5.5 Other Material Considerations

Submitted West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy (as subsequently modified).

Weight can be given to the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy (JCS), this would be significant where a policy has received few representations and unresolved objections are not considered likely to have a significant bearing on the strategy of the Plan. The JCS provides an up to date evidence base and considers the current Government requirements for plan making, being prepared in full conformity with the NPPF. The plan has been the subject of an examination in public and the findings of the Inspector are awaited.

Policy SA – ‘Presumption in favour of Sustainable Development’ requires local planning authorities to take a positive approach to determining development proposals.

Policy S1 – ‘The Distribution of Development’ requires that development be concentrated primarily in and adjoining the principal urban areas of Northampton.

Policy S7 – ‘Provision of Jobs’ requires that provision will be made for a minimum net increase of 28,500 jobs in the period 2008-2029 in order to maintain a broad balance between homes and jobs and to maintain a diverse economic base.

Policy S8 – ‘Distribution of Jobs’ requires the majority of new job growth to be concentrated within the principal urban area of Northampton.

Policy S10 – ‘Sustainable Development Principles’ requires development to achieve the highest standards of sustainable design and to be designed to improve environmental performance and energy efficiency.

Policy S11 – ‘Low Carbon and Renewable Energy’ requires major development to contribute to reductions in carbon emissions. Proposals should be sensitively located and designed to minimise potential adverse impacts on people, the natural environment, biodiversity, historic assets, should mitigate pollution and should achieve a minimum rating of at least BREEAM Very Good standard.

Policy BN1 – ‘Green Infrastructure’ requires that measures to enhance existing and provide new green infrastructure provision be designed and delivered sustainably.

Policy BN2 – ‘Biodiversity’ requires that the ecological assessment of sites be carried out where development has the potential to harm sites of ecological importance and states that development will be supported when a net gain in biodiversity is achieved.

Policy BN4 – ‘Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits Special Protection Area’ requires that new development will need to demonstrate that there will be no significant adverse effects upon the integrity of the Special Protection Area.

Policy BN5 – ‘The Historic Environment and Landscape’ requires that the settings and landscapes of designated and non-designated heritage assets will be conserved and enhanced in recognition of their individual and cumulative significance. Heritage and landscape features, such as conservation areas and significant historic landscapes, that contribute to the character of an area should be sustained and enhanced.

Policy INF2 – ‘Contributions to Infrastructure Requirements’ requires that development will only be permitted if the necessary on and off-site infrastructure that is required to support it, and mitigate its impact, is either already in place, or there is a reliable mechanism in place to ensure that it will be delivered.

6. CONSULTATIONS/ REPRESENTATIONS

6.1 Consultation of local neighbours and consultees has been undertaken and a number of responses have been received in respect to N/2014/0068. The consultation has included two re-consultation exercises following the receipt of additional information pursuant to a request from the Council for further information pursuant to Regulation 22 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (2011). The latest 21-day re-consultation period is due to expire on 17th July 2014 (following the publication of this Committee Report). Any further responses received shall be reported to Members through the Addendum. Representations received to-date are summarised as follows:

6.2 **NBC Environmental Health:** In terms of contamination, the site investigation report submitted with the application is considered to be satisfactory in its scope and methodology. Parts of the site have yet to be investigated; therefore suitable planning conditions are suggested.

In relation to noise, the survey and assessment methodology followed is considered to be appropriate. Issues associated with the use of reversing sirens have been considered and the layout provides shielding by the building to noise sensitive premises. The implementation of noise mitigation measures should be conditioned. The developer’s purchase of ‘Little Norway’ is a positive step in ensuring that noise protection is provided for this site.

In relation to air quality, a statement of intent in respect to air quality mitigation measures has been submitted and precise measures need to be finalised, which could be conditioned.

The lighting details that have been provided detail a framework and methodology for a further fuller submission on lighting – the standards that need to be met are agreed. Suitably worded planning conditions, to include the requirement for a detailed lighting scheme to be submitted, should be imposed in the interests of appropriately controlling illumination.

6.3 **NBC Conservation:** The key issues are whether the proposed development retains the special interest of the setting of the listed buildings and preserves or enhances the character and appearance of the setting of the Great Houghton Conservation Area. It is possible to understand Great Houghton within its wider context and there is a green ‘buffer zone’ between the village of Great Houghton and the

urban / industrial development surrounding Northampton, this would be permanently obliterated by the proposed development (and the bund designed to mitigate its impact). There would be a significant detrimental impact upon the character and appearance of the Great Houghton Conservation Area. The development therefore needs to be considered in light of paragraphs 132 and 133 of the NPPF where 'substantial public benefits' that outweigh the 'substantial harm' to the setting and context of the heritage assets would need to be demonstrated. The 50 additional jobs in the locality are not seen as proportionate to the size and scale of the development. The re-modelling of the landscape bund is not considered to mitigate the impact of the development upon the setting of the heritage assets.

- 6.4 **NBC Arboriculture:** Due to the loss of high quality trees along the northern boundary to accommodate the entrance road and gatehouse, it is felt that the application should be refused. The overall principle of development is however acceptable and the reconfiguration of the entrance should be looked at so as to accommodate these trees. An Arboricultural Method Statement would be required to be secured via condition should the application be approved.
- 6.5 **NBC Urban Design:** The layout and location of the proposed development is related to the very functional nature of the existing Brackmills Industrial Estate. Mitigation by way of the earth bunding (of up to 18m in height) and landscaping is designed to screen views of the warehouse from Great Houghton and the proposed diverted footpath. Concerns are raised with the impact of such major landform on long distance views from the edge of Great Houghton and how it affects the setting of Great Houghton, its conservation area and listed buildings. Revising the design and integration of the bund offers the scope to create a lower structure that appears to be more natural in form and more appropriately landscaped.

The revised proposals, including the re-profiled bund, effectively follow the advice given by the independent landscape consultants. It needs to be considered if these revisions satisfy heritage concerns. There are concerns about the impact of the development on Little Norway. No details have been submitted in respect to the potential omission of a contrasting eaves trim to the building.

- 6.6 **NCC Development Management:** The development shall lead to additional demands being placed upon the Fire and Rescue Service resources, a contribution towards local fire and rescue infrastructure costs should be sought or, alternatively, sprinkler systems should be installed throughout the development. New developments also generate a requirement for additional fire hydrants.
- 6.7 **NCC Highways:** The Transport Assessment along with the addendum documents are considered to be acceptable subject to the implementation of all of the proposed mitigation measures at affected junctions. The Travel Plan is approved. The proposed highways

access and stopping-up arrangements are acceptable subject to a planning condition securing the work. No objections in principle to the diversion of public footpath KU9.

- 6.8 **NCC Archaeology:** A geophysical survey and targeted trial trenching were requested at pre-application stage to inform the Environmental Statement. It is clear from the work that has been undertaken that the south eastern part of the proposed development area contains a distinct and contiguous area of archaeological activity. The site also contains an extensive area of ridge and furrow with various orientations. The ridge and furrow is very well preserved in places and while not selected as nationally important does form part of the landscape of the area. The proposed development will have a detrimental impact upon any archaeological deposits present; this does not however represent an over-riding constraint on the development provided that adequate provision is made for the investigation and recording of any remains that are affected. A programme of archaeological work should be secured via condition should the application be approved, to include detailed drawings and methodologies with regard to construction activities.
- 6.9 **Highways Agency:** The Agency is content to lift its original holding objection. Arrangements for the payment of an appropriate contribution towards the Northampton Growth Management Scheme have been agreed.
- 6.10 **English Heritage:** Objection; the open character of the development site along with the ridge and furrow cultivation remains makes a strong positive contribution to the rural setting and historic interest of the Conservation Area of Great Houghton. The proposals would result in substantial harm to the setting of the Conservation Area and its listed buildings.
- 6.11 **Anglian Water:** A surface water management strategy should be secured via condition should planning approval be granted
- 6.12 **Environment Agency:** Initial objection on flood risk grounds. Following the submission of additional information, the surface water drainage for the site has now been explained in full detail. The majority of the site is to be positively drained through the surface water system and the discharge from the site is not increased. The original objection is withdrawn. A planning condition should be attached to any approval securing compliance with the submitted Flood Risk Assessment.
- 6.13 **Natural England:** The application site is in close proximity to the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits Special Protection Area (SPA) / Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), which is a European site afforded protection. The proposals would not represent a loss of supporting habitat to over-wintering birds. A series of surveys have been undertaken to prove this; there are no other likely impacts upon the SPA. No objections subject to the proposed development being

carried out in strict accordance with the details of the application as submitted.

- 6.14 **Northants Police:** No formal objection, security tested doors and windows are proposed in addition to secure boundaries and CCTV. Uniform lighting levels should be provided in addition to full cycle storage details; these could be secured via condition.
- 6.15 **Western Power:** No objections on the basis that the developer contacts Western Power prior to work commencing in order to discuss any alterations to the electricity network.
- 6.16 **The Ramblers Association:** No objections to the application. The proposed diversion of Public Footpath KU9 is accepted, which should be constructed to a minimum width of 1.8m and be an all-weather surface. Any new planting should be implemented in such a way so as not to obstruct the footpath.
- 6.17 **South Northants Council:** No objections in principle, but concerns relating to the suitability of this particular site and the impact of the development upon the rural character of the area. Alternative sites should be considered fully before any approval is granted.
- 6.18 **Great Houghton Parish Council:** Objection to the application. The scheme would permanently destroy an important rural setting and the quality of life of Great Houghton villagers. The site is unsuitable for a development of this scale and type. The development would not be sustainable and would be in non-compliance with the National Planning Policy Framework and with saved Local Plan policies. The Parish Council is supportive of the needs of major local employers, but the consideration of the application must assess other implications, such as environmental, social and heritage aspects. It is believed that other, more suitable, sites are available in the Northampton area.

It should be made clear what form of screening is proposed to the disused railway line, appropriate drainage in this area of the site needs to be considered. Further investigation into alternative sites is required. A future concern would be if the new bespoke premises were vacated in the future, it would be difficult to find a new occupier. The submitted emissions report does not address the cumulative effect of the increase in traffic movements. It is not felt that the issue of additional traffic movements and associated congestion have been adequately addressed. The loss of significant trees along the boundary is unacceptable.

- 6.19 **Little Houghton Parish Council:** Objection to the application. Congestion on the A428 is already severe; the additional traffic from the proposed facility shall make the situation intolerable. Any increase in traffic can only lead to greater risk of accidents and more 'rat run' traffic through Little Houghton.

- 6.20 **Hardingstone Parish Council:** Objection, a development of this size and function would be totally unsuitable for the site in non-compliance with local planning policies.
- 6.21 **Brackmills Industrial Estate Business Improvement District (BID):** Support for the application subject to measures being secured to ensure both nil detriment to the current business community and a further security enhancement to the estate, including cycle path upgrades and highway junction enhancements
- 6.22 Objections have been received from 58 different addresses as a result of the three separate consultation exercises. In addition a petition of objection to the scheme has been submitted signed by 358 local residents. The comments / objections that have been received can be summarised as follows:

2, 8, 11, 14, 18, 24, 26 Atterbury Way; Chartlands, 9 Cherry Tree Lane; 5, 10 Dobson Close; The Old Rectory, 5, 7, 7A, 17, 32A, 32B, 36A, 45, 46, 48, 75 High Street, Gt. Houghton; 7, 10 Keats Close, Gt. Houghton; 3, 14, 15, 20, 21, 29, 43 Limefarm Way, Gt. Houghton; 1, 3 Rectory Close, Gt. Houghton; 1, 2, 7 Paget Close, Gt. Houghton; 1A, 5, 7, 12, 18, 24A The Green, Gt. Houghton; 2, 8, 35 Willow Crescent, Gt. Houghton; 1A, 20A Willow Lane, Gt. Houghton; 2, 3, 4, 5, 11, 12, 14 Wymersley Close, Gt. Houghton; 18 Canal Lane, Deanshanger; Blue Goose Property Company Limited, Capstone, Forest Hill, Oxford; ProBike Ltd, Sterling Business Park, Brackmills.

- The proposals are contrary to national and local planning policy, the development would not be sustainable. The site is allocated as green space and as a special landscape area and should be retained in these capacities.
- Inadequate justification has been provided as to why alternative sites cannot be considered.
- The development would extend beyond the boundaries of the Brackmills Industrial Estate and would encroach into an important 'buffer zone' located between the estate and the village. The scheme would provide for a major step towards settlement coalescence.
- The proposals, in light of their scale, would have an adverse visual impact. The proposed bund would provide for a huge visually unappealing wall of earth and would only mitigate in selected places.
- The historic ridge and furrow landscape would be destroyed.

- The setting of the Great Houghton Conservation Area would be adversely impacted upon and the rural character of the area would be lost.
- The proposals would set a precedent for other similar inappropriate developments.
- If built and subsequently vacated the development would be an unnecessary and permanent blot on the landscape.
- The numbers of jobs associated with new warehousing are relatively low. The application represents an amalgamation of existing operations and would provide limited job creation that would be unable to provide adequate justification for the development.
- The proposals would exacerbate traffic congestion most notably along the A428. Pedestrian safety would also be adversely impacted upon.
- The scheme would exacerbate flood risk concerns in this area of the town; the site requires appropriate drainage.
- The development would have adverse air quality impacts, particularly given the high number of HGVs that would visit the site.
- It is unclear if adequate car parking is to be provided and how many HGV movements will be necessitated; the development will impact upon the highway network.
- The development would lead to light and noise pollution, particularly given the proposed 24 hour use of the site. Noise complaints have already been made from residents in Great Houghton related to industrial noise emanating from the estate; this problem would be exacerbated. The proposed mitigation measures are unclear.
- The scheme would have an adverse impact upon natural habitat along the dismantled railway line, for example, where potential bat habitat would be adversely impacted upon through tree losses.

6.23 In respect to the footpath diversion application (N/2014/0545), notwithstanding the lack of any requirement to undertake consultation of residents at this stage, objections have been received from 4 addresses and can be summarised as follows:

1 Rectory Close; 36a High Street; 35 Willow Crescent; 15 Winchester Road.

- The current route constitutes a direct path whilst the new route would be longer, indirect, meandering, dark and isolated sandwiched between a bund and the school.
- The new path would be subject to poor air quality and noise pollution from adjacent industrial operations.
- It would be irresponsible to locate the footpath adjacent to school playing fields.
- The sole reason for the diversion is to locate a development that is in contravention to local planning policy.

7. APPRAISAL

Principle of development

- 7.1 The NPPF advises that applications must be determined in accordance with the development plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise. The Framework places considerable importance on the need to have an up-to-date development plan and that where the development plan is out of date Local Planning Authorities are advised to grant planning permission unless any adverse impacts of doing so would demonstrably outweigh the benefits, when assessed against the policies of the Framework as a whole.
- 7.2 As stated in Paragraph 18 of the NPPF, the Government is committed to securing economic growth in order to create jobs and prosperity – significant weight should be placed on the need to support economic growth through the planning system.
- 7.3 The proposals have a named intended end occupier, this being Carlsberg who is an existing commercial operator in Northampton and one of the town's long established major employers. The company employs approximately 300 employees at its brewery site, a further approximate 200 employees within its UK Headquarters on Bridge Street and a further approximate 180 employees at its National Distribution Centre at Swan Valley. It is estimated by the applicant that the proposed development would constitute financial investment in the town of £35-40 million.
- 7.4 It is stated within the applicant's submission that the development would be expected to create 50 new jobs whilst safeguarding and consolidating Carlsberg's existing operations across the town, which would become focussed to this site. These new employment opportunities would be provided alongside multiplier effect jobs in the supply chain and support services. Furthermore, Carlsberg's existing National Distribution Centre at Swan Valley would be vacated following transition to the new premises, therefore providing a prime-located 28,000 sqm facility for the potential occupation of other businesses.

- 7.5 The scheme would sit comfortably alongside the strategic framework provided by the submitted policies contained within the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy, which set out requirements to provide for a minimum of 27,500 additional jobs to complement planned housing growth in the period 2008 - 2029.
- 7.6 A critical element of establishing the principle of development is the consideration of alternative sites for development. The process of examining alternative sites and development options is also a specific requirement of the EIA Regulations (2011). As detailed within the submitted Environmental Statement (ES), potential alternative sites for assessment were informed by (and restricted to) Carlsberg's specific accommodation requirements. These requirements are set out in the ES and include the site being of an approximate 20 ha in size and able to accommodate a single warehouse building of 60,000 sqm. Furthermore, convenient access to the strategic highway network is necessary whilst any site would be required to be immediately available to meet Carlsberg's operational timescales, i.e. occupancy and operation by autumn 2015.
- 7.7 The research that has been undertaken in respect to alternative sites is contained within the ES and is informed by the opinion of commercial agents. This work identified five sites with potential for immediate strategic scale warehouse development and, in addition, has noted the proposed strategic employment site allocation (as part of the submitted WNJCS) at Junction 16 of the M1. The five identified sites are situated at Milton Ham (15.23 Ha), Pineham (12.4 Ha); Brackmills (10Ha) and Grange Park (9.4Ha and 7.5Ha). These have been discounted in the ES for reasons of either lack of availability (i.e. owned / controlled by other strategic businesses) or because they are not of sufficient size to accommodate the scheme.
- 7.8 Following initial assessment of the ES, it was acknowledged that the majority of the work undertaken in respect to alternative sites is robust; it is accepted that there is a distinct lack of potential and available employment sites that meet the specific requirements of Carlsberg. Notwithstanding this, it was noted and communicated to the applicant that further justification was required in respect to specific sites that have been put forward for allocation as strategic employment sites as part of the Joint Core Strategy site selection process. These sites are namely Junction 16 of the M1 and the proposed Pineham extension. Pineham was one of the five sites initially identified by the applicant, but was discounted on size limitations, the site has subsequently been extended from 12 ha to 34 ha. Given the scale/extent and apparent suitability of these sites, it was felt that they needed to be comprehensively appraised whilst factoring in reasonable timescales for availability and occupational requirements.
- 7.9 The applicant, in response to the Council's request for further information, has submitted further letters of justification that seek to tackle the reasons for selecting the application site and to provide

further site-specific analysis in respect to discounted sites. It is stated that Carlsberg require practical completion no later than the end of second / early third quarter of 2015 based on agreed corporate timings for the delivery of the new facility. It has been explained that, following recent investment into the Northampton Brewery, stock holding requirements have grown and have necessitated the increased use of outside storage locations throughout the town. The existing distribution centre at Swan Valley has approximately half of the required capacity, which would be provided in full by the proposed development. The present operation, it has been explained, is considered inefficient and unsustainable in this context.

- 7.10 The potential use of the Junction 16 site has been discounted by Carlsberg for a number of reasons. There is multiple land ownership across the site, which would have implications in the context of how expediently the land could be brought forward for development, i.e. the promoters of the site would need time to acquire the land and to prepare pre-application surveys and reports before submitting a planning application. Furthermore, these procedures would be dependent upon the site becoming allocated via a favourable outcome of the WNJCS Examination in Public.
- 7.11 It has also been stated that the new facility must be located within 5km of the brewery so as not to require to be bonded by HMRC, which would have implications in terms of the future efficient operation of the warehouse. The Junction 16 site does not fall within this specified distance. An administrative burden would be placed upon Carlsberg because every movement of stock from the brewery to the site would need to be reported on a daily basis to HMRC and the duty liability would arise at the point the beer left the brewery.
- 7.12 The proposed Pineham extension has also been discounted by Carlsberg. The site was initially considered and discounted for the reason that it was not large enough to accommodate Carlsberg's requirements. The site area has recently been extended. However, it has been stated that the indicative configuration of the site shows that it is unlikely to provide the critical dimensions required, no further specific details have been provided on this point and at the time of writing the report are awaited and will be reported as an addendum. Carlsberg's corporate timescales for delivery would also be compromised, it is analysed that delivery would be some 12-18 months behind their business strategy requirements, again further information on this issue is awaited and will be reported as an addendum.
- 7.13 Subject to receiving this additional information formally in writing, it is considered that sufficiently robust information has been provided to demonstrate that realistically deliverable sites (that meet the individual requirements of the identified end occupier) are not available. It is accepted, subject to the additional information, that both of the potential sites identified for individual assessment by the Council are not in the position to be developed imminently. Neither site has yet

been formally allocated nor have preliminary pre-application discussions commenced. There would undoubtedly be delays associated with readying the sites for development and the applicant has raised doubts that the Pineham site would offer appropriate dimensions within which to accommodate development.

- 7.14 Whilst further information is awaited on the Pineham site, it is concluded that alternative site options have been comprehensively explored and that no reasonable alternatives exist. The named end-occupier has demonstrated and applied adequate flexibility in respect of their occupational requirements when discounting potential other sites for the development.
- 7.15 In the context of the work done to discount alternative sites, it should be noted that the application site, whilst not allocated for business use, is located directly adjacent to the designated Brackmills Industrial Estate and existing employment uses. The orientation of the layout of the proposed development would ensure that the warehouse would have a direct operational relationship with the industrial estate. The northern elevation would incorporate the main areas of activity; i.e. the office element and the majority of the proposed loading docks.
- 7.16 Whilst the application site has a direct relationship with the Brackmills Industrial Estate and the scheme would clearly provide economic growth in order to create jobs and prosperity in compliance with the NPPF and the target for job creation identified in Policy S7 of the submitted WNJCS, it must be noted that there are other key considerations and site constraints that need to be factored into the decision-making process, not least the site's Local Plan allocation as 'Greenspace' and as a 'Locally Important Landscape Area' and its proximity to Great Houghton Village and its designated heritage assets. These specific matters shall be considered in the following sections of this report.

Design & Landscaping

- 7.17 The Northampton Local Plan was adopted in June 1997. The application site is allocated as 'Greenspace' under Policy E6 of the Local Plan. The policy states that planning permission should only be granted where the proposed development would not unacceptably prejudice the function of such areas. In accordance with the schedule of sites identified as Greenspace (Appendix 2 of the Local Plan), the specific area containing the application site serves to create space between development and surrounding areas and is important to maintain in order to reduce future impact of development upon surrounding areas.
- 7.18 The site is also designated as a 'Locally Important Landscape Area' under Policy E9 of the Local Plan. This requires special importance to be attached to the effect upon the character of such areas when considering the impact of proposed development upon the landscape.

In the supporting schedule of landscape characteristics that make each area locally important (Appendix 28 of the Local Plan), it is acknowledged that the site provides one of the few areas of 'ridge and furrow' within the boundary of Northampton and, as such, provides historically important landscape and an appropriate setting for the village of Great Houghton.

- 7.19 Whilst Policies E6 and E9 of the Local Plan still hold relevance, more recent policy changes such as the NPPF and the WNJCS as submitted for examination are a relevant and material consideration. Policies E6 and E9 do however demonstrate a degree of compliance with the contents of the NPPF and WNJCS. Most specifically paragraph 109 of the NPPF notes that the planning system should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by protecting and enhancing valued landscapes and by providing net gains in biodiversity where possible. The WNJCS, under Policy BN5, states that heritage and landscape features that contribute to the character of an area should be sustained and enhanced and also recognises the importance of ecological resources on individual sites.
- 7.20 Incorporated within the ES is the chapter 'Landscape & Visual Resources', which sets out the methodology and assessment criteria adopted and the likely significant landscape and visual effects which will arise as a result of the proposed development. It is recognised as part of this work that the land within and adjoining the site serves an important function in providing a break / buffer between the existing edge of the Brackmills Estate and Great Houghton.
- 7.21 A detailed visual assessment was undertaken as part of the ES work in order to identify receptors that have a viewing opportunity over, towards or within the site so as to establish the approximate extents of the visibility of the site. It is analysed within the ES that existing development on the Brackmills Industrial Estate together with established hedgerows along the A428 corridor reduce viewing opportunities from the west and north. The main views towards the application site, which are most likely to be sensitive to the development of the site, are from residences and receptors that have restricted views towards the site from the edge of Great Houghton. Furthermore, Little Norway adjoins the western site boundary and would be afforded close-proximity views. There would also be views from public rights of way that extend through or in close proximity to the site.
- 7.22 A number of key landscape design issues are identified within the ES. In order to address views towards the proposed development, particularly from the edge of Great Houghton and public footpaths to the south east, the need to screen the development whilst positively assimilating the necessary ground modelling and earthworks with the existing landscape and topography are highlighted as key issues.

- 7.23 In the context of Policies E6 and E9 of the Northampton Local Plan, which designate the site as 'Greenspace' and as a 'Locally Important Landscape Area' respectively, the ES notes that the encroachment of the development within these designated areas would be permanent and irreversible. The inclusion of a significant swathe of mounding and associated landscape proposals around the south and east of the site would however significantly reduce and mitigate these specific effects. A buffer would be maintained between the resultant extended Brackmills Industrial Estate and Great Houghton, with the reduction in physical size and width of this area being compensated for by the strong and enduring landscape edge that would be provided.
- 7.24 It is concluded within the ES that the operational effects of the development upon visual receptors (including the nearest settlements and public rights of way) would be 'Minor / Moderate Adverse' when factoring in the residual effect of the implementation of the proposed landscape framework (including bunding / earthworks).
- 7.25 In light of the significant size and scale of the proposed development and associated earthworks, the Council commissioned external consultants (+PlusUD) to undertake an Independent Landscape & Design Review (Review). This was for the purpose of examining (from the professional perspective of a landscape architect) the landscape and urban design case put forward by the applicant within the application and accompanying ES.
- 7.26 The Review has highlighted that the proposals have a logical strategy, in that the west and north facing sides of the newly proposed building represent a functional response to the wider industrial estate environment whilst, to the south and east, an engineered bund would be intended to reduce the full impact of the building mass recognising the sensitivity of the setting of Great Houghton.
- 7.27 Within the Review, it is noted that the scheme represents a significant change when compared to the existing view from Viewpoint K (view west from Public Footpath KU9 at the western edge of Great Houghton). Notwithstanding the historical context of the view towards Northampton, it is noted that the screening and earthworks could provide the Great Houghton Conservation Area and Listed Buildings with a greater sense of removal from the encroaching urban edge of Brackmills Industrial Estate. It could therefore be considered beneficial in the context of preserving the rural independence and setting of the village.
- 7.28 A key recommendation of the Review was that the design and profile of the bund is revisited in the interests of providing natural contouring and a variety of gradients. Such re-design would offer the opportunity to soften the hard top edge profile of the bund, which would be at its most visible during the first ten years following development (i.e. before the new associated landscaping has matured).

- 7.29 The applicant, in response to the findings of the Review, has accepted that re-profiling could soften the appearance of the bund. Revised details, consisting of a levels plan, landscape strategy and photomontage, have been submitted and re-consulted upon. The visualisation indicates clear variations in the ridge height of the bund, whilst still providing comprehensive visual screening to the building. +PlusUD has confirmed that the modified approach is far more convincing and is appropriate in their view.
- 7.30 In association with the re-profiling of the bund and in accordance with the recommendations of the Review, the Landscape Strategy has also been revisited by the applicant. The proposed native woodland planting would be concentrated to the outer slopes of the bund. Such planting would be used to reinforce existing planting gaps alongside the dismantled railway link (that runs the southern side of the application site), this would provide suitable mitigation to soften the impact of the bund along this footway / cycleway link. Planning conditions would be required to secure the final specification and subsequent implementation of soft landscaping.
- 7.31 A further design recommendation raised in the Review is that any contrasting eaves trim and related decoration, which could unwittingly emphasise the top of the building against the sky, is removed from the detailed design. This would appear to be an appropriate recommendation in the interests of minimising the visual impact of the proposed development. A planning condition would be applied should planning permission be granted to secure full details / samples of external-facing materials. The applicant has agreed that any coloured trim could be omitted from the final design.
- 7.32 It is acknowledged that the visual / landscape impact of the scheme upon the residential receptor of Little Norway would be pronounced. The built extent of the development would however be situated approximately 250m away from the eastern boundary of Little Norway. The development would not therefore be overbearing or overshadowing in this context. A 5m 'green wall' would be erected upon the boundary between Little Norway and the proposed external storage yard, this would aid noise mitigation (see 'Noise' section below) as well as providing an appropriate visual barrier to the service yard in the interests of safeguarding residential amenity. The detailed specification of the 'green wall' would be secured via condition. It would be located approximately 20m from the nearest external façade of Little Norway so as not to have an overbearing effect in its own right.

Heritage

- 7.33 It is recognised within the NPPF that heritage assets are an irreplaceable resource that should be conserved in a manner appropriate to their significance. As highlighted within paragraphs 132 and 133 of the NPPF, when considering the impact of proposed development on the significance of a heritage asset, great weight

should be given to the asset's conservation with any harm or loss requiring clear and convincing justification. Substantial public benefits would be required to outweigh any substantial harm.

- 7.34 The submitted ES lists the designated heritage assets located in close proximity to the application site and assesses the role of the development site in the context of contributing to the significance and setting of these heritage assets. This work concludes that the development site plays a negligible role in contributing to the significance of each listed building, including the Grade II* Listed Church of St. Mary located 220m west of the development site.
- 7.35 The ES concludes that the development site plays a minor role in respect to the conservation area because there are no significant views from the conservation area over the development site, although it does provide a degree of separation between the town and the village. The proposed woodland landscaping works, as they mature, would aid in creating a barrier between the development site and conservation area.
- 7.36 English Heritage has objected to the application, they are of the opinion that the open character of the development site along with the ridge and furrow cultivation remains makes a strong positive contribution to the rural setting and historic interest of the Conservation Area of Great Houghton. They consider that the scale and extent of the proposed development would constitute substantial harm to the setting of the Conservation Area of Great Houghton and its listed buildings.
- 7.37 The scheme has also received objections from the Council's Conservation Section. Although the conclusions of the Independent Landscape Review have been noted, Conservation has stated that, although views and visual considerations are significant, these are not the only relevant elements of setting. The surroundings in which a heritage asset is experienced should be the principle consideration, for example, changes to built surroundings and spaces, changes to skyline and changes to general character. The development would necessitate the loss of an important green buffer zone that frames the setting of Great Houghton as a separate entity to the town of Northampton. The scheme, it is stated, would constitute substantial harm to the setting of the Great Houghton Conservation Area and its listed buildings.
- 7.38 In respect to the ridge and furrow landscape that would be lost to the development, it is first important to note that this feature constitutes a non-designated heritage asset – it is not selected as nationally important (as confirmed by NCC Archaeology). Although its loss would be regrettable, it is not considered that there would be a significant adverse impact upon the village of Great Houghton.
- 7.39 The Independent Landscape & Design Review has noted that, notwithstanding the proposed development, a ridge and furrow field would be retained between the newly proposed bund and the nearest

dwellings in Great Houghton. In support of the application, the applicant's heritage consultants have noted that the village exhibits a historical settlement pattern developed over time along a straight axis. In this context the agricultural and rural setting of the village plays a minor role in creating or adding to the significance of designated heritage assets. This is consistent with the findings of the Review where it is noted that the village is inward looking and enclosed with very little general outlook over the ridge and furrow landscape.

- 7.40 The adverse impact of the development upon the setting of the Great Houghton Conservation Area and its listed buildings (designated heritage assets) and the weight to be afforded to this adverse impact is critical to the decision-making process on this application. Both English Heritage and the Council's Conservation Section have identified 'substantial harm', which is at odds with the conclusions of the relevant section of the ES.
- 7.41 As part of a request for further information from the applicant under Regulation 22 of the Environmental Impact Regulations, it was requested that the applicant revisit and amend their proposed mitigation measures in this area to deal with English Heritage's concerns. The resultant statement (Cgms Consulting, 28th April) reiterates the findings of the ES and states that less-than-substantial harm would result. The additional submission concludes that, in their view, the agricultural and rural setting of the conservation area formed by the application site, whilst playing a role in creating the significance of the conservation area, does not form a major part of its significance.
- 7.42 Referencing back to paragraphs 132 and 133 of the NPPF, substantial harm to designated heritage assets should only be justified by substantial public benefits. In this instance, as outlined within the 'Principle of development' section of this report, the development would serve a long-established major employer within the town and would constitute major, multi-million pound investment to the benefit of the local economy.
- 7.43 The applicant has been accommodating in terms of factoring in the requests of the Council's appointed independent landscape professionals and it is considered that the re-profiled bund approach offers an acceptable scheme in landscape and visual terms.
- 7.44 It is acknowledged that the economic benefits of the scheme should not automatically take precedence over all other factors, a balanced planning decision should be made with appropriate weight being afforded to the key issues. English Heritage, as well as the Council's Conservation Section, provides professional and well-researched advice that should always be duly considered and weighted in planning decisions. In this case however, which is finely balanced, it is considered that in light of the confirmation received from the Council's appointed independent landscape consultants that they consider that the re-profiled bund is acceptable in landscape and visual terms, the

appropriate recommendation is for the approval of the application (subject to the due consideration of the remaining issues to be discussed below).

Archaeology

- 7.45 The submitted ES is supported by archaeological information contained within the 'Cultural Heritage' chapter. An initial geophysical survey of the site has been followed by a programme of trial trenching. The trenching recorded evidence of settlement activity dating from the middle Iron Age to Roman periods focussed on the higher ground to the southern end of the application site. The recorded below-ground remains present are not considered to be of the highest significance (i.e. of national importance) to warrant their preservation in-situ, but are important in a local and regional context.
- 7.46 NCC Archaeology has commented upon the archaeological work undertaken and has noted that the south eastern part of the proposed development area contains a distinct and contiguous area of archaeological activity. The building and proposed land-works will impact upon these remains, but this does not represent an overriding constraint to development. This is subject to adequate provision being made for the investigation and recording of any remains that are affected, which can be conditioned. The programme of archaeological work shall need to provide detailed drawings and methodologies with regard to construction activities.

Highways & Rights of Way

- 7.47 Contained within the 'Transport and Access' Chapter of the ES is a Transport Assessment (TA) and Travel Plan (TP). The TA considers the potential transport and highways impact of the proposals including the impact of the development generated traffic on the capacity and safety of the surrounding road network and the implications for public transport, pedestrian and cycling movements.
- 7.48 The scheme would include a number of transport measures and improvements. The off-site highway improvements proposed would involve kerb realignment and lane marking alterations to the Bedford Road / Rushmills Road and Bedford Road / Liliput Road roundabouts in the interests of offering increased capacity and reduced queuing. Furthermore, carriageway widening is proposed to the eastbound Bedford Road exit arm from the Barnes Meadow Roundabout to offer reduce morning peak hour queuing. A financial contribution towards highway improvements on the A45 corridor as part of the Northampton Growth Management Strategy (NGMS) is also proposed.
- 7.49 The access into the site would be provided via an extension to the existing southern arm of the Liliput Road roundabout that already serves the new Brackmills Point development. This would provide HGVs with access to parking, loading bays and an external storage

area within the site. A car parking facility would be provided to the northern side of the site with separate access points provided from Weddell Way and from the main access route into the site. A pedestrian access bridge would provide a direct route from the car park to the office element of the proposed distribution centre without conflict with HGV movements.

- 7.50 The submitted TA has assessed the baseline situation on site, including acknowledgement of the good location of the site in the context of being able to encourage cycle-based travel (proximity to designated routes) and travel by bus (good accessibility to frequent local bus services). The TA also contains comprehensive trip generation forecasts in the interests of quantifying the impact of the development upon the local transport system. The forecasts have been based upon empirical data from surveys of similar development elsewhere and information provided from Carlsberg as regards their anticipated operations. This data has been used in specific junction analysis (the coverage and test scenarios of which were agreed with the Local Highway Authority). The results of this work have informed the scope of the off-site highway improvement works required to ensure at least a nil-detriment impact from the development in terms of junction and highway capacity.
- 7.51 The Local Highway Authority (LHA) has confirmed that the TA (with supporting addendum documents) is fit for purpose, subject to the implementation of all of the mitigation measures outlined within the TA. The submitted Travel Plan, the detail of the proposed access into the site and the internal layout of the site have also been approved by the LHA subject to conditions requiring the applicant to undertake such highway improvement works in accordance with a formal Section 278 Agreement to be entered into with the LHA.
- 7.52 It is confirmed within the TA that the proposed level of car parking (307 spaces); lorry parking (177 spaces) and cycle parking (40 spaces) has been led by consideration of the Local Highway Authority's standards and the operational requirements of Carlsberg. The levels proposed appear commensurate to the type and scale of development proposed and have drawn no objections from the Local Highway Authority.
- 7.53 The applicant is seeking to permanently divert Footpath KU9 to enable its re-alignment to avoid interference with the built extent of the proposed development and associated earthworks. The Council may by order authorise this diversion if satisfied that it is necessary to enable development to be carried out. The Local Highway Authority has no objections in principle to the proposed re-alignment, subject to being provided with a copy of the draft order before it is made. The Ramblers Association also have no objections in principle subject to any new pathway being constructed to an appropriate specification.
- 7.54 It is considered that the proposed re-alignment of the footpath is appropriate. The re-alignment is logical so as to ensure that the

footpath is a level and readily useable route. The visual impact of the development is proposed to be mitigated via significant earthworks to provide a bund around its southern and eastern sides. The new route would avoid the steep topography of the bund's slopes, as it would essentially run the perimeter of this feature.

- 7.55 The diversion would not unduly inconvenience users of the footpath, its re-alignment would not greatly increase the distance of the route so as to prejudice its usability. Furthermore, it is proposed that the route be upgraded from a grassed link to a 2m wide tarmac surface with concrete edgings. Should planning permission be granted, an order would be made under Section 257 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. This would be formally consulted upon. The order, if opposed, would not take effect unless confirmed by the Secretary of State.

Tree Retention

- 7.56 The Council's Arboricultural Officer has noted that the proposed access alignment would necessitate the removal of high quality tree specimens along the northern boundary of the site. It was requested that the access alignment be revisited in the interests of potentially retaining existing trees in this location. The applicants have however confirmed that there is no scope to re-align the access route because of the space constraints of the site. It is acknowledged that the loss of trees along the boundary is regrettable. The scheme however, in overall terms, would see a great increase in tree cover through new tree planting, including high-quality tree planting around the entrance to the site. Planning conditions would be imposed to secure the full details of proposed tree / hedgerow retention, new planting and future maintenance, as well as an Arboricultural Method Statement to secure full details of works and protection measures to be undertaken to retained trees across (and adjoining) the site.

Ecology

- 7.57 The Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA (Special Protection Area) / Ramsar site is an internationally designated series of water bodies that serves important populations of breeding and over-wintering birds. The closest part of the SPA lies approximately 400m to the north of the northern boundary of the application site. Furthermore, the national importance of this feature is also recognised via its designation as a SSSI due to the nationally important breeding and over-wintering populations of birds and wet woodland habitat.
- 7.58 Development of the application site shall not result in the direct loss of habitat within the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA / Ramsar. However, the capacity of such to support internationally important species can be dependent upon their surrounding habitats. Accordingly the ES is supported by over-wintering bird surveys (undertaken between the months of October and December), no bird

species of special interest were recorded as part of this survey and it is concluded within the ES that it is reasonably unlikely that the application site is used by significant numbers of golden plover or lapwing.

- 7.59 Natural England within their consultation response has confirmed that the applicants have undertaken appropriate work to demonstrate that the site is not used by any bird species for which the Ramsar site was designated. Natural England has also advised that the proposals, if carried out in strict accordance with the details of the application, will not damage or destroy the interest features for which the site was notified; the SSSI designation does not represent a constraint in determining this application.
- 7.60 Further to the bird survey work referenced above, the application is supported by a suite of additional survey work relating to various protected and notable species including Badgers, Bats, Great Crested Newts, Reptiles and Water Voles. It has assessed through the ES that the scheme would not provide for any residual adverse effects upon existing fauna. The creation of woodland, grassland and wetland habitats as well as the provision of green infrastructure would provide for enhanced breeding and foraging habitats for such species.
- 7.61 A single active badger sett has been identified within the confines of the application site. The sett is however located outside of the main proposed development areas and, subject to precautionary construction activities being undertaken, it is considered that any potential disturbances to the sett can be mitigated. In terms of residual operational impacts, optimum foraging habitat would be provided and previous commuting routes maintained.
- 7.62 It should be noted that the survey work highlighted the presence of Great Crested Newts (GCNs). A series of aquatic surveys were carried out upon a total of five ponds located either within the application site or within 500m of the site's boundary. The presence of GCNs was confirmed in one of the ponds; a small shallow field pond located within the site adjacent to its western boundary.
- 7.63 In light of the recorded presence of GCNs and the proposed loss of the affected pond as part of the development proposals, it is clear that the development would have an adverse impact upon the local great crested newt population and would result in the permanent loss of breeding habitat (to be replaced by hardstanding / buildings).
- 7.64 A Mitigation Strategy has been drawn up by the applicant in the interests of ensuring that the GCN population is maintained. This Strategy includes the establishment of a receptor area (including purpose-built ponds and enhanced habitat) to receive any captured GCN and a methodology for trapping and translocating any GCNs from the currently affected pond. It is stated within the ES that, once habitat

enhancements have become established, it is expected that the proposals will result in a moderate beneficial impact to GCNs.

- 7.65 In terms of the bat survey work that has been undertaken, it was established that no bat roosts were confirmed within any of the trees on site, with tree species exhibitive of significant potential for roosting being subject to detailed inspection. Bat activity levels were recorded as generally low with the site offering no more than local value for foraging and commuting bats.
- 7.66 During the surveys, a single occasionally-used small common pipistrelle roost was recorded in association with one of a group of farm buildings to be demolished as part of the development. It has been acknowledged by the applicant that an appropriate Natural England licence would be required to facilitate the loss of this roost, which would need to be mitigated by way of a series of bat boxes to be placed upon retained trees within the site, the programme of which can be secured via condition.

Noise

- 7.67 The submitted ES contains a chapter entitled 'Noise & Vibration', which provides an assessment of the likely significant effects of the proposed development upon nearby sensitive receivers. The operational effects of the development have been modelled based upon the proposed scheme layout, proposed on-site levels, predicted traffic flows and observations, measurements and vehicle logs provided at a similar existing Carlsberg depot in Warrington. This work was undertaken in relation to day-time and night-time periods.
- 7.68 It should be noted that inherent noise mitigation is provided by the scheme's design. The development would be set behind excavated material to form a bund around the southern and eastern sides of the development. Furthermore, the building would be orientated such that the loading bays would face away from Great Houghton.
- 7.69 There is a history in the area of adverse noise impacts emanating from the reversing beepers of delivery vehicles. Within the ES it has been confirmed that delivery vehicles over which Carlsberg have operational control would be fitted with broadband reversing beepers in place of traditional narrow band high pitched beepers. Vehicles operated by external contractors form approximately 25% of the total number of vehicles. There would also be rubber-matting applied to external loading areas. A formal Management Plan for the control of night time noise would need to be secured via planning condition should the application be approved.
- 7.70 Maximum noise levels from individual events at night were factored in to the operational assessment. At all receivers in Great Houghton Village, the predicted façade noise levels are below the appropriate

noise level (in accordance with WHO guidelines) for people sleeping in rooms with windows open.

- 7.71 At Little Norway however, where the benefits of the inherent noise protection would not be felt, a suite of further measures would be required to specifically mitigate adverse noise impacts. These would consist of a 5m 'green wall' barrier at the boundary between the development site and Little Norway to be extended at 3m in height along the boundary to the new car parking area. A 2m barrier to the external yard area would also be required. Final barrier / boundary treatment details would be secured via condition. Furthermore, a high-specification acoustic glazing system for Little Norway's windows and a mechanical ventilation system would need to be installed.
- 7.72 The applicant has provided evidence that they have agreed with the present owner / occupier of Little Norway an option to purchase the property should planning permission be granted. This situation provides the necessary assurances that the proposed specific measures to Little Norway (i.e. glazing and ventilation) can be installed in order to provide satisfactory residential living conditions for any future residential occupants of the premise.
- 7.73 The production and implementation of a Noise Mitigation Scheme to protect residential amenity would be secured via an obligation within the S106 agreement. This Scheme would secure the implementation of agreed noise mitigation measures prior to the commencement of development – this timeframe for implementation is critical in the context of mitigating against the impacts of the development at both construction and operation stages. Post-works compliance testing to ensure that the residual internal noise levels at Little Norway comply with appropriate levels as specified within the ES would also be secured through the S106. This approach is supported by the Council's Public Protection Section.

Lighting, Air Quality & Contamination

- 7.74 The Council's Public Protection Section has reviewed the relevant sections of the ES in respect to the environmental matters of lighting, contamination and air quality. The 'Lighting' chapter of the ES provides a framework and methodology for a further detailed submission of lighting. This future submission would include plots and calculations to demonstrate compliance with the appropriate 'Institute of Lighting Engineers' standards outlined within the ES.
- 7.75 The importance of securing an appropriate bespoke lighting scheme was also highlighted in the Independent Landscape Review, to ensure that the proposed 24 hour operational use of the site does not have any detrimental effects in the context of light pollution. It is considered that this matter can be satisfactorily dealt with via planning condition.

- 7.76 A Site Investigation Report was submitted to accompany the planning application, which is considered to be satisfactory in both its scope and methodology. There would however be standard planning conditions required to secure further site investigation of, as yet, non-investigated areas of the site and subsequent potential remediation activities.
- 7.77 In respect to air quality considerations, the 'Air Quality' chapter of the ES assesses the likely air quality effects from the construction and operation of the proposed development. The significance of potential dust impacts during construction (predominantly from proposed earthworks) is assessed as being 'Minor Adverse' prior to mitigation.
- 7.78 A suite of mitigation measures, including screening during demolition and earthworks, sensitive positioning of site compounds, dampening of haulage routes and the use of dust suppression covers are detailed within the ES as well as within a Construction Management Framework Plan. It is considered that, in the interests of protecting the amenity of the area, a detailed Construction Management Plan to specify the precise measures and construction programme to be followed be secured via planning condition. This would ensure that the significance of construction impacts would be 'Negligible'.
- 7.79 In regards to operational air quality impacts, NBC Public Protection has confirmed that the assessment methodology used in the ES is appropriate, which monitors changes in the concentrations of pollutants associated with the operation of the development based on forecast traffic flows. It has been demonstrated that, in the most part, negligible increases in air pollution would result prior to mitigation. The work has highlighted the potential for small impacts on already sensitive properties located within the nearest designated Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) – namely A45 London Road.
- 7.80 The ES references mitigation measures such as initiatives contained within the submitted Travel Plan that align with the Council's emerging Low Emissions Strategy, such as a commitment to reduce single occupancy car trips and the promotion of car sharing schemes. Notwithstanding these commitments, NBC Public Protection requested that a mitigation strategy be formalised in accordance with the Council's emerging Low Emissions Strategy, which outlines that mitigation measures should be provided in all cases of significant development. The applicant has provided a Mitigation Statement, which constitutes a statement of intent and refers the implementation of transport and energy efficient mitigation measures. It has been confirmed by NBC Public Protection that a schedule of the precise measures to be employed on-site can be secured via condition.

Flood Risk & Drainage

- 7.81 The application site is wholly located within Flood Zone 1; i.e. the lowest risk flood zone where the annual probability of flooding from rivers is considered to be less than 0.1%. In light of the major nature of

the application, the submitted ES is supported by a Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) to explain the methods proposed to control the flood risk proposed by the development and sets out the overall drainage strategy for the development.

- 7.82 The Drainage Strategy that has been formulated include provisions for proposed car parking area to be afforded porous paving, the provision of a swale at the south-western corner of the site and the installation of an underground storage structure beneath the proposed service and storage yard area (with controlled outflow to an open section of watercourse). The Environment Agency (EA) within their consultation response has confirmed that the majority of the site would be positively drained through the surface water system – ultimately the discharge from the site is not increased. The EA has requested that a planning condition be imposed to any approval so as to secure the proposed drainage strategy specification.

Sustainability

- 7.83 A Sustainability Statement has been produced and accompanies the application. This statement has sought to address the requirements of emerging Policies S10 and S11 of the Joint Core Strategy. A BREEAM pre-assessment of the development has been undertaken to demonstrate that a 'Very Good' rating can be achieved by the scheme.
- 7.84 The Statement specifies that a combination of different Low and Zero Carbon (LZC) technology sources are proposed to be utilised to provide for a minimum of 10% of the predicted energy demands of the development. These technology sources constitute air source heat pumps, solar thermal tubing and roof-mounted solar photovoltaic panels. A planning condition would be required to ensure compliance with the submitted Sustainability Statement including provisions for post-occupation assessment to demonstrate the achievement of 'Very Good' and 10% of energy demands through LZCs.

Crime & Security

- 7.85 The application has been met with a positive consultation response from Northants Police. Secure boundary treatments are proposed in addition to a high-specification CCTV system. A lighting scheme would be conditioned with a requirement to provide adequate levels of lighting uniformity across the site in the interests of aiding the effectiveness of the CCTV system and deterring crime.

S106 Legal Agreement

- 7.86 By reason of the scale and type of development, a Section 106 Legal Agreement is required. The Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations specify three key legal tests in ascertaining whether a particular obligation can be requested. These specify that obligations should be:

- i) Necessary to make the development acceptable in planning terms;
- ii) Directly related to the development; and
- iii) Fairly and reasonably related in scale and kind to the development.

- 7.87 The applicant has agreed to make financial payments to mitigate the off-site infrastructure requirements arising from the development. A Northampton Growth Management Scheme (NGMS) contribution of £104,844 would be paid in light of the impact that the development would have upon the strategic road network.
- 7.88 A payment of £356,875 towards enhancing and/or maintaining improvements to green infrastructure and sustainable forms of transportation in the area would be made, as would payments towards the provision of new bus shelters (and their maintenance once installed) and the monitoring of the approved Travel Plan (totalling £30,000). A Noise Mitigation Strategy (as detailed in the 'Noise' section above) would also be secured through the S106, as would a construction training scheme (including a payment of £42,000 to administer the scheme) in accordance with adopted policy.
- 7.89 The County Council has requested a payment for the provision of fire services. There is no adopted development plan policy support for this request and it is not clear what facilities would be addressed by this obligation. The new Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations, as discussed previously, also prevent the pooling of S106 funds to deliver infrastructure. For these reasons it is not considered that this request can be supported. The County Council have also requested that twelve fire hydrants be provided. This is a matter that would be addressed under the relevant building regulations and therefore does not need to be replicated as part of the planning process.

8. CONCLUSION

- 8.1 The proposed development would secure economic growth and additional job opportunities, would appropriately mitigate against its impacts upon the strategic and local road network would safeguard residential amenity and biodiversity and would not unacceptably prejudice the function of designated green space and the significance of designated heritage assets and is therefore in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework, Policies E1, E6, E9, E19, E20, E26 and E40 of the Northampton Local Plan and Policies SA, S1, S7, S8, S10, S11, BN1, BN2, BN4, BN5 and INF2 of the Submitted West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy.
- 8.2 The footpath diversion is necessary to enable the development granted planning permission under N/2014/0068 to be carried out in accordance with the approved details.

9. CONDITIONS

(1) The development hereby permitted shall be begun before the expiration of three years from the date of this permission.

Reason: To comply with Section 91 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

(2) The development hereby permitted shall be carried out in accordance with the following approved plans: Location Plan (028 Rev P1); Proposed Site Layout (024 Rev P21); Gatehouse Details (029 Rev P4); Unit Plans (030 Rev P6); Office Plans (031 Rev P5); Unit Elevations (032 Rev P4); Unit Sections (033 Rev P5); Unit Roof Plan (037 Rev P2); Proposed Car Park Bridge (038 Rev P1); Security Kiosk Details (039 Rev P2); Secure Store Details (040 Rev P1); Cycle & Smoking Shelter Details (041 Rev P1); Highway Access (300); Drainage Strategy (301 Rev C); Drainage Details (302); Proposed Levels, Sections and Volumes (303 Rev B); Highway Access Sections (304); Highway Access Detail (305).

Reason: For the avoidance of doubt and to accord with the terms of the planning application.

(3) Prior to the first occupation of the development a Management Plan for the control of night time noise (between the hours of 2300 and 0700), which shall reference measures to control reversing sirens and the provision of rubber matting to external loading areas shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority; development shall be implemented and maintained in accordance with the approved Management Plan at all times thereafter.

Reason: To protect the amenities of adjacent residents from potential sources of noise in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework.

(4) Full details of the method of the treatment of the external boundaries of the site together with individual plot boundaries shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority, implemented prior to the occupation of the buildings hereby permitted and retained thereafter.

Reason: To ensure that the boundaries of the site are properly treated so as to secure a satisfactory standard of development in accordance with Policy E20 of the Northampton Local Plan.

(5) Prior to the first occupation of the development, full details of the treatment of the external boundaries of the site, of the external perimeter boundary of the distribution centre and of the perimeters of the external yard storage area shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority and shall be retained at all times thereafter.

Reason: In the interests of safeguarding both visual and residential amenity in compliance with Policy E20 of the Northampton Local Plan.

(6) The development hereby approved shall not be brought into use until the internal and off-site highway works have been completed in accordance with the details shown on the approved plans numbered 12-0560 300; 12-0560 301C; 12-0560 302; 12-560 303B; 12-0560 304; 12-0560 305; NTT/2226/002 P2; NTT/2226/003 P1; NTT/2226/004 P1; NTT/2226/005 P1 and site layout plan numbered 024 Rev P21. Thereafter, the site access and car parking areas shall be maintained free from obstruction and available for use whilst ever the use subsists.

Reason: To ensure a satisfactory standard of development in the interests of highway safety in accordance with the guidance contained within the National Planning Policy Framework.

(7) Prior to the first occupation of the development the pedestrian / cycle route that runs the north-western boundary of the application site shall be resurfaced to a standard width of 3m and shall be equipped with measures to restrict vehicular entry in accordance with details to be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority and retained at all times thereafter.

Reason: In the interests of promoting sustainable development accessible by non-car modes of transport in compliance with the guidance contained within the National Planning Policy Framework.

(8) Full details of the proposed surface treatment of all roads, access and parking areas and footpaths including their gradients shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority prior to the commencement of construction work on site. Development shall be carried out in accordance with the approved details.

Reason: To secure a satisfactory standard of development in accordance with Policy E20 of the Northampton Local Plan.

(9) Development shall not commence until a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The CEMP shall include the following:-

- a) the management of traffic during construction: to address site access, routes within site kept free from obstruction, wheel washing, travel plan for construction workers, loading and unloading, vehicle parking and turning areas, a scheme for prevention of surface water discharges onto the highway;
- b) location of access points for site traffic;
- c) detailed measures for the control of dust during the construction phase of development;
- d) the location and size of compounds;
- e) the location and form of temporary buildings, adverts and hoardings;

- f) details for the safe storage of any fuels, oils and lubricants;
- g) construction of exclusion zones to prevent soil compaction for large scale planting areas, public and school playing fields, and remediation of any soil compaction;
- h) a scheme for the handling and storage of soil as a result of earthworks;
- i) details of the methods of protection of trees, hedgerows and water features;
- j) a scheme for the protection of areas of ecological interest and for the mitigation of any possible harm to such areas;
- k) details of any temporary lighting;
- l) details of hours of operation.

Reason: To ensure that appropriate consideration is given to environmental assets and safeguard the amenities of the locality in accordance with the NPPF.

(10) Prior to the commencement of the construction of the development, details of the materials to be used in the external finish of the building shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. Thereafter, the development shall be implemented in accordance with the approved details.

Reason: To ensure that the external appearance of the development is satisfactory in accordance with Policy E20 of the Northampton Local Plan.

(11) Notwithstanding the approved details, the materials submission to satisfy Condition 7 shall include for the omission of any contrasting coloured eaves trim to the distribution centre.

Reason: To ensure that the external appearance of the development is satisfactory in accordance with Policy E20 of the Northampton Local Plan.

(12) Prior to the first occupation of the development, further to the submitted 'Carlsberg Low Emissions Mitigation Statement' (27th May 2014), a full schedule of the mitigation measures to be employed on-site shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority; development shall be implemented and operated in accordance with the full schedule of approved mitigation measures at all times thereafter.

Reason: To ensure that the air quality impacts of the development are properly mitigated against in accordance with the guidance contained within the National Planning Policy Framework.

(13) Prior to the first occupation of the development hereby permitted a Lighting Scheme shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local

Planning Authority and development shall be implemented and subsequently operated in accordance with the approved Scheme at all times thereafter. The Scheme shall provide data on the predicted lighting levels (including the vertical illuminance and uniformity levels) at all sensitive premises. The levels of illuminance shall not exceed the appropriate guide levels in the 'CIE Guide on the Limitation of the Effects of Obtrusive Light from Outdoor Lighting Installations: CIE 150:2003'; the development is situated in Environmental Zone [E2/3] for the purposes of this assessment.

Reason: In the interests of safeguarding residential amenity, enhancing site security and to minimise any potential impacts upon foraging / commuting bats in compliance with Policies E20 and E40 of the Northampton Local Plan and the guidance contained within the National Planning Policy Framework.

(14) Prior to the commencement of development a Mitigation Strategy detailing the measures required to safely remove any great-crested newts that may be present within the development area shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority, development shall be implemented in accordance with the approved details. The Mitigation Strategy shall include details of the provision and specification of two new ponds to be constructed at the southern edge of the application site (as depicted upon the approved Site Layout 024 Rev P21) and details of an appropriate Natural England European Protected Species Derogation Licence to undertake the Mitigation Strategy.

Reason: To ensure appropriate protection is afforded to protected species in accordance with the guidance contained within the National Planning Policy Framework.

(15) Prior to the commencement of the demolition of buildings on site a Mitigation Strategy detailing the measures to be put in place to ensure that the risk of harm to bats during demolition is minimised shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority, demolition shall be implemented in accordance with the approved details. The Mitigation Strategy shall include details of replacement bat boxes to be sited on retained features to provide alternative roosting opportunities and details of an appropriate Natural England European Protected Species Derogation Licence to undertake the Mitigation Strategy.

Reason: To ensure appropriate protection is afforded to protected species in accordance with the guidance contained within the National Planning Policy Framework.

(16) Development shall be implemented in full accordance with the Mitigation measures outlined on pages 8-9 of the submitted Confidential Badger Survey Report (January 2014).

Reason: To ensure appropriate protection is afforded to protected species in accordance with the guidance contained within the National Planning Policy Framework.

(17) No construction shall take place until there has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority a detailed scheme of hard and soft landscaping for the site. The scheme shall include indications of all existing trees and hedgerows on the land and details of any to be retained.

Reason: In the interests of amenity and to secure a satisfactory standard of development in accordance with Policy E20 of the Northampton Local Plan.

(18) All planting, seeding or turfing comprised in the approved details of landscaping shall be carried out in the first planting and seeding seasons following the occupation of the building or the completion of the development, whichever is the sooner, and which shall be maintained for a period of five years; such maintenance to include the replacement in the current or nearest planting season whichever is the sooner or shrubs that may die are removed or become seriously damaged or diseased with others of similar size and species, unless the Local Planning Authority gives written consent to any variation.

Reason: In the interests of amenity and to secure a satisfactory standard of development in accordance with Policy E20 of the Northampton Local Plan.

(19) No vegetation clearance or tree felling shall take place within the bird breeding season, which runs from March to August inclusive, unless (i) the site has been inspected by an ecologist and assessed to be free of nesting birds (ii) the Local Planning Authority has received formal notification from the ecologist that no nesting birds are present and (iii) the Local Planning Authority has agreed in writing that vegetation or tree felling can begin.

Reason: To ensure appropriate protection is afforded to nesting birds in compliance with the ecological guidance contained within the National Planning Policy Framework.

(20) Prior to the commencement of development an Arboricultural Method Statement (AMS) shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The AMS shall provide details of the tree protection measures to be installed for the duration of construction works, work to retained trees to facilitate the permission granted and full details of surface level works where it conflicts with the Root Protection Areas of those trees to be retained.

Reason: To ensure a satisfactory standard of development in compliance with the guidance contained within the National Planning Policy Framework.

(21) Within three months of the commencement of development a Green Infrastructure Management Plan shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority; development shall be implemented in full accordance with approved details. The Plan shall ensure the provision of corridors of movement for wildlife, ensure that there will be no adverse effects upon protected species and shall provide details of the management

responsibilities and maintenance schedules for all soft landscaped areas within the site to ensure the sensitive long-term management of site habitats.

Reason: In the interests of safeguarding biodiversity in compliance with the guidance contained within the National Planning Policy Framework.

(22) Development shall be implemented in full accordance with the approved Sustainability Statement (December 2013), which demonstrates the achievement of at least a BREEAM 'Very Good' rating and the provision of on-site Low and Zero Carbon (LZC) technologies to meet at least 10% of the predicted energy demands of the development. Within 6 months of the first occupation of development a post-construction assessment shall be undertaken to demonstrate compliance with the approved Sustainability Statement and submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: To ensure the delivery of a sustainable development in compliance with the guidance contained within the National Planning Policy Framework.

(23) No development shall take place within the application site indicated until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by the local planning authority.

Reason: To ensure that features of archaeological interest are properly examined and recorded, in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework.

(24) Development shall be implemented in accordance with the approved Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) prepared by THDA Limited Consulting Engineers, dated December 2013, and the following mitigation measure detailed within the FRA to be fully implemented prior to first occupation and subsequently in accordance with the timing / phasing arrangements embodied within the scheme:

- Limiting the surface water run-off generated by the site as shown on drawing 12-0560-301 Rev C so that it will not exceed the run-off from the undeveloped site and not to increase the risk of flooding off-site.

Reason: To prevent flooding by ensuring the satisfactory storage / disposal of surface water from the site.

(25) Notwithstanding the approved details, the earthworks/bunding to the southern and eastern sides of the main building shall be constructed in strict accordance with the ground levels specified upon approved plan 'Proposed Levels, Sections and Volumes' (303B).

Reason: In the interests of safeguarding visual amenity in accordance with the guidance contained within the National Planning Policy Framework.

INFORMATIVES FOR THE APPLICANT

(1) The applicant is responsible for applying for all necessary permissions for 'stopping up' the existing highway along with any fees, paperwork or construction work associated with any 'stopping up'.

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 N/2014/0068 & N/2014/0545

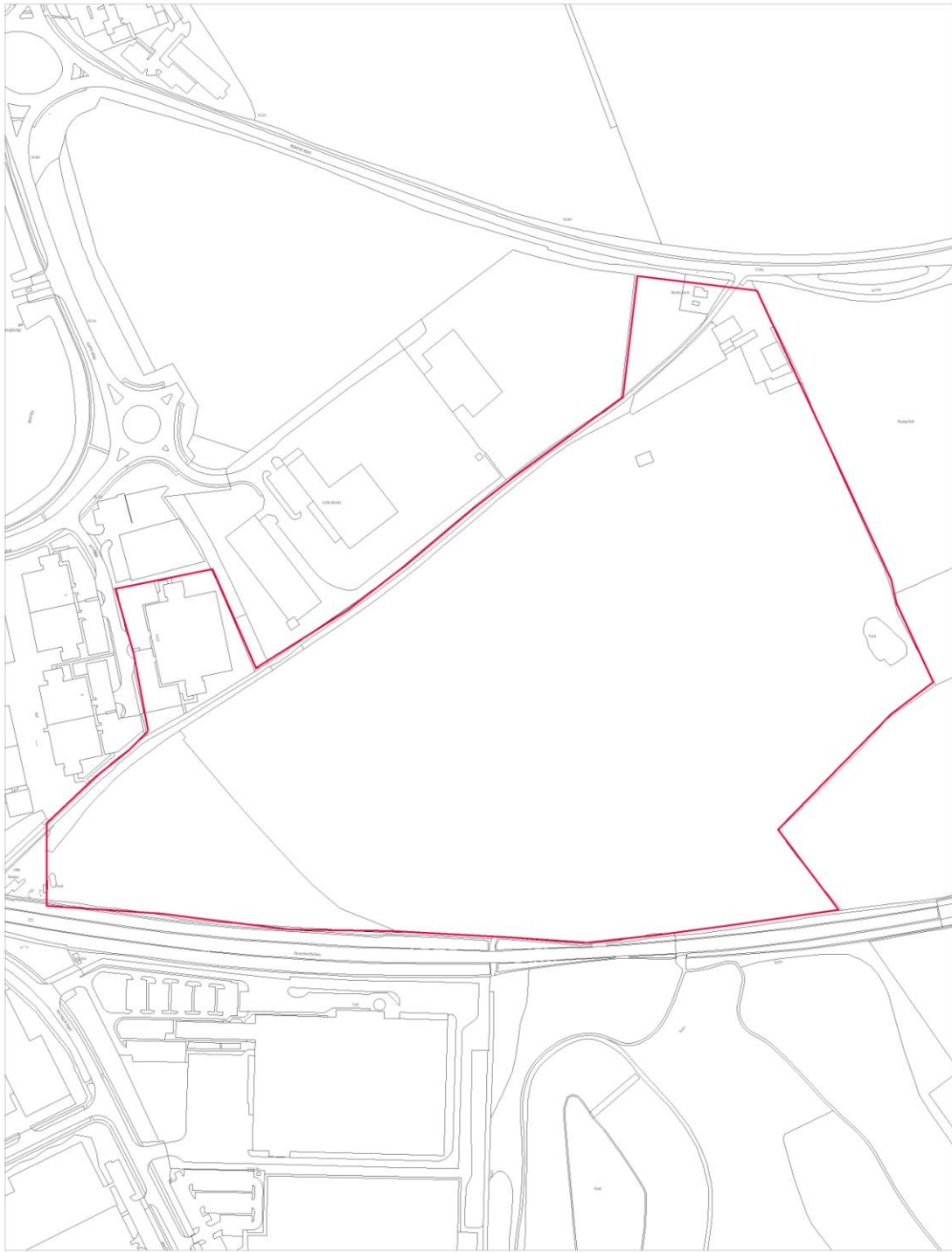
11. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

11.1 None

12. SUMMARY AND LINKS TO CORPORATE PLAN

12.1 In reaching the attached recommendations regard has been given to securing the objectives, visions and priorities outlined in the Corporate Plan together with those of associated Frameworks and Strategies.

Location Plan for N/2014/0068



Name: SW
Date: 9th July 2014
Scale: 1:3500
Dept: Planning
Project: Site Location Plan (Committee Report)

Title
Development land south of Bedford Road off Liliput Road

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Location Plan for N/2014/0454



Name: SW
Date: 9th July 2014
Scale: 1:1250
Dept: Planning
Project: Site Location Plan (Committee Report)

Title
Development land south of Bedford Road off Liliput Road

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PLANNING COMMITTEE: 17th July 2014
DIRECTORATE: Regeneration, Enterprise and Planning
HEAD OF PLANNING: Susan Bridge

N/2014/0519 **Change of use from offices (Use Class B1) into 10 bedroom house of multiple occupation (Sui Generis) including alteration to windows on front and rear elevations (increase of 3 persons from planning permission N/2013/0931) at 24 York Road, Northampton**

WARD: Castle

APPLICANT: Mr Gary Bees
AGENT: Rod Kilsby Partnership

REFERRED BY: Head of Planning
REASON: Previous application was determined at Planning Committee

DEPARTURE: No

APPLICATION FOR DETERMINATION :

1. RECOMMENDATION

1.1 REFUSAL for the following reason:

The applicant has failed to demonstrate that the proposal would have satisfactory parking arrangements to cater for the 10 occupiers leading to increased parking pressure on nearby streets to the detriment of highway safety contrary to the aims of Paragraph 32 of the National Planning Policy Framework.

2. THE PROPOSAL

2.1 Planning permission was granted for a change of use of an office building (use class B1) to large house in multiple occupation for 7 occupiers (Sui Generis use) in 2013. This current planning application

seeks to increase the number of occupiers from 7 to 10 occupiers. The application provides a total of 8 bedrooms, with communal kitchen, lounge and dining room in the basement. The proposal spans all 4 floors of the building and also includes minor alterations to the front window at ground floor and rear/front basement windows to double glazed. The applicant has commenced work converting the premises in line with the previous permission. He has also submitted a Management Plan in support of their application detailing how he intends to deal with refuse provision, cleaning, cycle storage and tenant behaviour within the property.

3. SITE DESCRIPTION

- 3.1 The site consists of a 4 storey terraced building on the western side of York Road sandwiched between residential flats on one side and offices on the other. The area is mixed use in character. The site is located close to the northern boundary of the St Giles Conservation Area and within a Safeguarded Employment Zone in the CAAP. The building has been vacant since April 2011. The property has a reasonably large private rear garden over 60 square metres in area. There is no off road car parking associated with the property.

4. PLANNING HISTORY

- 4.1 N/2013/0931 Permission for 7 person House in Multiple Occupation granted at Planning Committee in October 2013. The application was subject to planning condition restricting the maximum number of occupiers to 7. This was for a total of 7 bedrooms with lounge and kitchen/dining room in the basement.

5. PLANNING POLICY

5.1 Development Plan

Section 38(6) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires a planning application to be determined in accordance with the Development Plan unless material planning considerations indicate otherwise. The Development Plan for the purposes of this application comprises Northampton Local Plan 1997 saved policies, Northampton Central Area Action Plan, and whilst not yet adopted, weight can be attributed to the Submitted West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy (as subsequently modified).

5.2 National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

A number of areas of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) are pertinent to this application. In particular, paragraph 14 states that on matters where there are no up to date development plan policies, the presumption in favour of sustainable development takes

precedence. Paragraph 17 requires that new developments be of a good standard of design and secure a satisfactory standard of amenity.

Paragraph 32 of the NPPF states that developments should be designed to allow safe and suitable access to a site for all people.

- 5.4 The NPPF does not offer specific guidance to Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) in respect of applications for the change of use from offices to a house in multiple occupation. It does however urge LPAs to plan for a mix of housing based on current and future demographic trends, market trends and the needs of different groups in the community (paragraph 50). Paragraphs 56 and 57 of the NPPF also encourage good design.

5.3 **Northampton Borough Local Plan**

Policy H30 (Houses in Multiple Occupation) is not relevant as it relates only to development within Primarily Residential Areas.

5.4 **Northampton Central Area Action Plan**

Policy 1 - Promoting Design Excellence

Encourages new development to be of good design and positively contribute to the area with regard to scale, materials and style. It also seeks to preserve and enhance the character, appearance and setting of central area heritage assets.

Policy 15 - Office and Business Uses

Promotes the central area as an office and business centre. Applications for change of use for uses outside Use Class B will only be approved where it can be demonstrated that the loss of employment will be outweighed by meeting the strategic objectives or that any office floor space is replaced as part of a mixed use proposal

5.5 **Other Material Considerations**

Submitted West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy (as subsequently modified)

An increasing amount of weight can be given to the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy (JCS), which provides an up to date policy basis as it fully considers the current Government requirements for plan making and is in full conformity with the NPPF. The plan has been the subject of an examination in public and the findings of the Inspector are awaited. The examination focused upon policies that had been the subject of unresolved objections.

Policy H6 of the JCS states that existing houses should be permitted to change to houses in multiple occupation in instances where they would not adversely impact upon the character and amenity of residential areas. Housing related policies in the JCS have also been formulated following an objectively assessed housing needs assessment. Given that this policy has not been the subject of any objection, it was therefore not debated at the examination and therefore must be given some weight in the determination of this planning application. Although H6 relates to changes from existing houses the thrust of the policy is still relevant given that the end use is the same (HMO).

5.6 **Supplementary Planning Guidance**

Northamptonshire County Parking Standards SPG 2003
Planning out Crime in Northamptonshire SPG 2004

6. **CONSULTATIONS/ REPRESENTATIONS**

6.1 **Public Protection (NBC)** No objections

6.2 **Private Sector Housing (NBC)** No objections

6.3 **Highway Authority (NCC)** The developer has failed to demonstrate that there is sufficient parking available to serve the development and therefore recommends refusal on highway grounds.

6.4 **Built Conservation (NBC)** Do not consider that the proposed increase would harm the conservation area. The only concern is the proposed changes to the ground floor front window given that replicating the other unsympathetic front windows is not ideal. We would be more comfortable with a traditional solution.

6.5 **Town Centre Conservation Area Advisory Committee** object on over-development

6.5 **Letters of objection received from numbers 23 York Road and 106-110 Abington Street (Sheinman's Opticians)**

- Concern on over-crowding
- Noise impacts late at night
- Detrimental impact on adjoining uses

7. **APPRAISAL**

Principle of development

7.1 Whilst the site is safeguarded in the CAAP for office uses, strategic objective SO7 in the CAAP also encourages the repopulation of the Central Area. The site has been vacant since April 2011, the applicant has confirmed via the letting agent that the site has been marketed

unsuccessfully for office with the lack of on-site parking making it less attractive for office tenants. The proposed use would bring a vacant unit back into active use in a sustainable location in the town centre and in line with the objective in the CAAP. It should be noted that changes to regulations (May 2013) would allow the vacant offices to be converted to residential use (class C3) without permission, although the owner would have to give a Prior Notification of their intention to change the use. Furthermore, planning permission was granted last year for the conversion to a house in multiple occupation for 7 people, therefore the principle of such a change of use has been accepted previously and the consideration here is the increase in number of occupants from 7 to 10.

Parking

- 7.2** The Highway Authority raise strong concerns regarding the lack of parking provision. Although it is acknowledged that the site is sustainable, being located within walking distance of town centre shopping area, bus station and car parks, it is considered that a total of 10 occupiers would generate a form of development requiring significant off street parking provision. The site under question has no off road parking at all and may force cars to park on nearby streets and even on the busy York Road leading to highway safety concerns and the detriment to the free flow of traffic on the public highway. Although a 7 person HMO has been approved in 2013 it is considered that the increased intensification to 10 occupiers would raise significant highway concerns and this would be contrary to Paragraph 32 of the NPPF.

Impact on amenity of neighbours and residential amenity

- 7.3** The property is large enough to accommodate the proposed 10 occupants. All habitable rooms would be large enough and offer sufficient outlook and light for future occupiers. Although the proposed rear ground floor bedroom is rather small being only 7.2 square metres in internal floor area it is considered large enough for a single occupier and meets the Private Sector Housing standards. It is considered that the effect on neighbours' living conditions in terms of noise and privacy would be acceptable bearing in mind the previous use as offices which could have more than 10 employees. Furthermore, as stated previously 7 residents has already been considered acceptable and an increase in 3 would not impact adversely on neighbour's living conditions. The property has a private garden area which is accessible to all future occupiers via the basement kitchen. The applicant confirms that they will provide adequate refuse storage to the rear of the site as indicated on the plans. It is not considered that the proposal is an over-development of the site. The applicant's Management Plan also details how they plan to work with the Police, neighbours and deal with cycle parking/refuse and general up keep of the HMO.

Over concentration of uses

- 7.4 From recent data collected, it is evident that there are other HIMOs on the same road. However these represent a small proportion of the properties (there are over 60 properties along York Road, out of which combined with Planning, Private Sector Housing and Council Tax records indicate that 3 are in HIMO use). It is not considered that the character of this street would be substantially affected bearing in mind there is a mix of other commercial uses on York Roa



Name: SW
 Date: 9th July 2014
 Scale: 1:1250
 Dept: Planning
 Project: Site Location Plan Committee

Title
24 York Road

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Impact on appearance and character of the St Giles Conservation Area

7.5 The proposed works to the external of the building are fairly minor in scale and therefore the effect on the Conservation Area is considered reasonably limited. The Council's Conservation Officer raises no objection on appearance and character of the designated area although he has some concern on the alterations to the front ground floor window which in their opinion are not ideal. However, given that the alterations reflect the design of the upper floor front windows and no objection was raised in the 2013 application it is considered that it would be unreasonable to object to the current submission.

8. CONCLUSION

8.1 Whilst the current proposal, is more intensive than the approved scheme of 7 occupiers it is considered that the property is of sufficient size to cater for the increased number of residents in terms of layout and room size. However due to the potential increased pressure on parking and fact that there has been no off street parking provided it is considered that the impact on highway safety would merit a refusal of planning permission that would outweigh the other factors raised above.

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 N/2014/0519

11. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

None

12. SUMMARY AND LINKS TO CORPORATE PLAN

12.1 In reaching the attached recommendations regard has been given to securing the objectives, visions and priorities outlined in the Corporate Plan together with those of associated Frameworks and Strategies.

| | | |
|--|------------------------|-------------------|
| Position: | Name/Signature: | Date: |
| Author: | Susan Bridge | |
| Development Control Manager Agreed: | Tracy Miller | 25/06/2014 |



PLANNING COMMITTEE: 17th July 2014
DIRECTORATE: Planning and Regeneration
HEAD OF PLANNING: Susan Bridge

N/2014/0482: Temporary use of land for car parking to serve 56-60 St Michael's Road

WARD: Castle

APPLICANT: Mr Nick Barltrop
AGENT: Mr Shaun Collins

REFERRED BY: Head of Planning
REASON: Application on Council owned land

DEPARTURE: NO

APPLICATION FOR DETERMINATION:

1. RECOMMENDATION

- 1.1 The application be **APPROVED** subject to conditions for the following reason:
- 1.2 The proposed temporary use of the site for car parking would not prejudice the long term regeneration potential of the site and would preserve the character and appearance of the Boot and Shoe Quarter Conservation Area in compliance with the guidance contained within the National Planning Policy Framework and Policy 1 of the Northampton Central Area Action Plan.

2. THE PROPOSAL

- 2.1 The proposal is to permit the continued use of the site for car parking on a temporary basis for a period of three years. Planning permission was last granted for a temporary car parking use in March 2011 (11/0023/S73WNN), this consent expired on 31st March 2014. The site first accrued planning permission to be used in this capacity in 1998.

3. SITE DESCRIPTION

- 3.1 The application site is located in an edge of centre position and constitutes undeveloped land surrounded by palisade fencing, walling and the back of factories on St Michaels Road. The car park is approached along Chapel Place which is only wide enough for a single vehicle as it runs north off of Abington Square. To the west are properties fronting Abington Square and to the north is St Michaels multi-storey car park. The space makes up one of a number of similar car parks in the surrounding area that largely serve local companies.

4. PLANNING HISTORY

- 4.1 *11/0023/S73WNN* Application to vary condition 1 of permission *07/0117/VOCWNN* dated 22/06/2007 for renewal of temporary planning permission for a further three years (Approved subject to conditions)
- 4.2 *07/0117/VOCWNN* Renewal of temporary permission for use of land as car park (Approved subject to conditions)
- 4.3 *N/2004/1510* Renewal of temporary planning permission *N/2002/1206* for change of use from car sales to car parking (Approved subject to conditions)
- 4.4 *N/2002/1206* Renewal of temporary planning permission 990824 for change of use from car sales to car parking (Approved subject to conditions)
- 4.5 *99/0824* Renewal of temporary planning permission 98/0642 (Approved subject to conditions)
- 4.6 *98/0642* Change of use from car sales to car parking at land at Chapel Place (Approved subject to conditions)

5. PLANNING POLICY

5.1 Development Plan

Section 38(6) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires a planning application to be determined in accordance with the Development Plan unless material planning considerations indicate otherwise. The Development Plan for the purposes of this application comprises the Northampton Local Plan 1997 saved policies and, whilst not yet adopted, weight can be attributed to the Submitted West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy (as subsequently modified).

5.2 Northampton Central Area Action Plan

Policy 1: Promoting Design Excellence requires all development within the Central Area to demonstrate a high design standard and to

preserve and enhance the character, appearance and setting of heritage assets, including designated conservation areas.

6. CONSULTATIONS/ REPRESENTATIONS

- 6.1 **NBC Conservation** - No objections to the temporary use of the land as car parking, this would have a neutral impact upon the character and appearance of the Boot and Shoe Conservation Area.
- 6.2 **NBC Public Protection** - No observations.
- 6.3 **Local Highway Authority** - No observations.
- 6.4 Notification letters were sent out to occupiers at adjacent premises, a site notice was displayed at the site and an advert was placed in the local press – no responses were received.

7. APPRAISAL

- 7.1 The land in question has not been allocated for any specific purpose within the Northampton Central Area Action Plan (2013). However, the site, owing to its central location, holds the potential to be redeveloped to add vitality and viability to this particular area of the town centre. At present there are no specific plans for redevelopment in place and it is unlikely that there will be comprehensive development in the short term.
- 7.2 The renewal of temporary planning permission for the use of the site as car parking for a further three years would not prejudice any possible opportunities for redevelopment of the site in the future. Furthermore, the car parking supports an important local business (Trickers) that links to the last vestiges of Northampton's boot and shoe manufacturing heritage.
- 7.3 The site is located within the town's Boot & Shoe Quarter Conservation Area. The Council's Conservation Section has confirmed that the continued temporary use of the site for car parking would have an acceptable neutral impact. The Local Highway Authority has sounded no observations.

8. CONCLUSION

- 8.1 The proposed temporary use of the site for car parking would not prejudice the long term regeneration potential of the site and would preserve the character and appearance of the Boot and Shoe Quarter Conservation Area in compliance with the guidance contained within the National Planning Policy Framework and Policy 1 of the Northampton Central Area Action Plan.

9. CONDITIONS

- (1) The use hereby permitted shall be discontinued on or before 1st July 2017.

Reason: In the interests of amenity as the Local Planning Authority consider the use is only acceptable as a temporary expedient.

- (2) The development hereby permitted shall be carried out in accordance with the following approved plans: Location Plan (BS168/01); Site Plan (BS1680/02); Parking Allocation Plan (BS1680/03).

Reason: For the avoidance of doubt and to accord with the terms of the planning application.

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

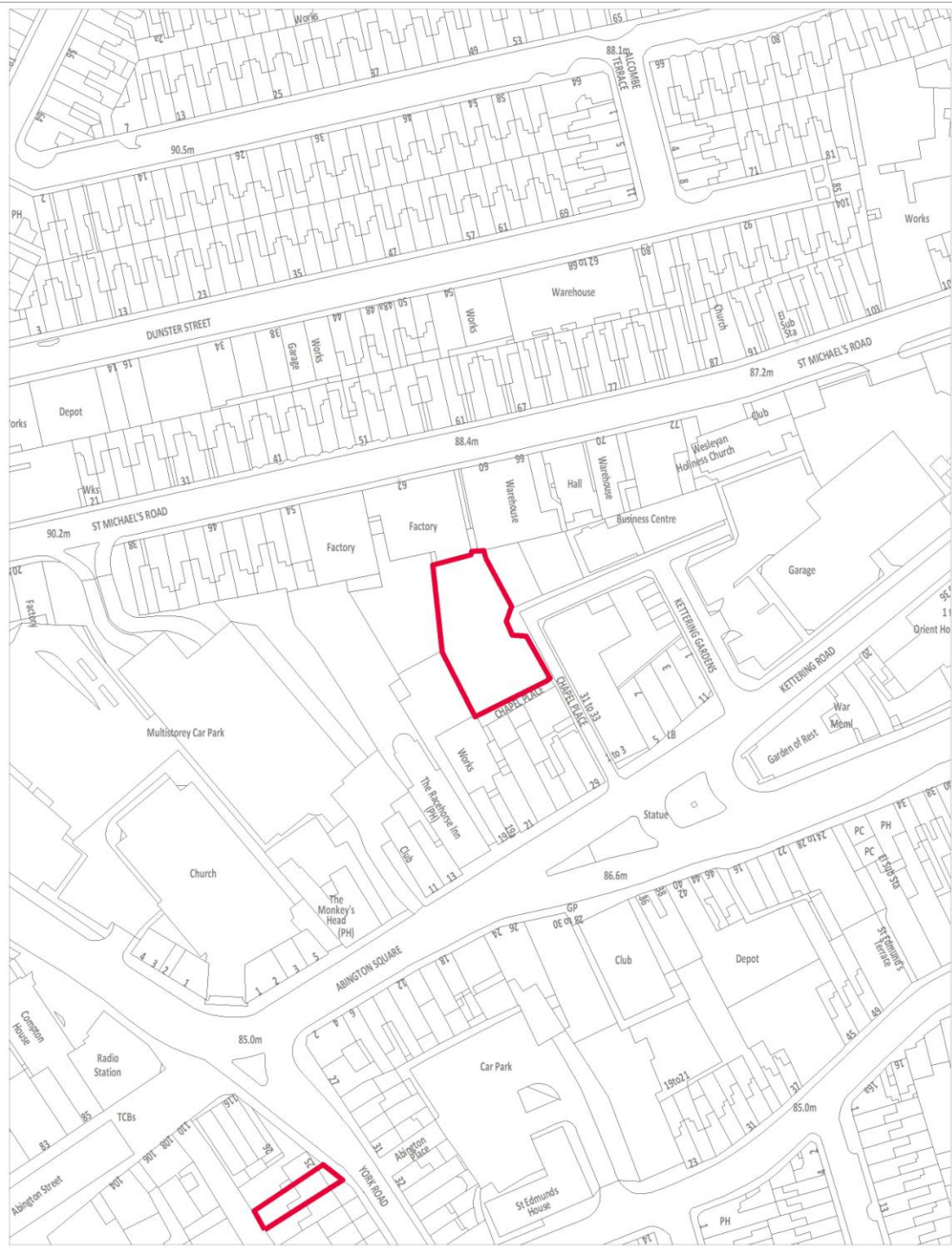
- 10.1 N/2014/0482

11. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 None

12. SUMMARY AND LINKS TO CORPORATE PLAN

- 12.1 In reaching the attached recommendations regard has been given to securing the objectives, visions and priorities outlined in the Corporate Plan together with those of associated Frameworks and Strategies.



Name: SW
 Date: 9th July 2014
 Scale: 1:1250
 Dept: Planning
 Project: Site Location Plan (Committee Report)

Title
Land at Chapel Place

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PLANNING COMMITTEE: 17th JULY 2014
DIRECTORATE: Planning and Regeneration
HEAD OF PLANNING: Susan Bridge

APP: Change of use of amenity land to garden area and erection of 1.8M high boundary fence and gate, John Ambidge Pensioners Hall, Arlbury Road, Northampton.

WARD: Brookside

APPLICANT: Blackthorn Good Neighbours
AGENT:

REFERRED BY: Head of Planning
REASON: Council Owned Land

DEPARTURE: NO

APPLICATION FOR DETERMINATION:

1. RECOMMENDATION

1.1 **APPROVAL** subject to conditions and for the following reason:

The development would have no undue adverse impact on the character and appearance of the area or on residential amenity or road safety and therefore accords with Policy E20 of the Northampton Local Plan and advice contained in the National Planning Policy Framework.

2. THE PROPOSAL

2.1 The application seeks planning permission to enclose an area of grassed, informal amenity space with a 1.8 metre high fence and to use this as garden in association with the existing adjacent pensioners' hall.

2.2 A pedestrian access gate would be provided from Arlbury Road.

3. SITE DESCRIPTION

- 3.1 The application site is located at the corner of Arlbury Road and Blackthorn Road. At present it is an open area of grass, forming an informal amenity space. To the west of the site is the pensioners' hall, while to the north are dwellings.

4. PLANNING HISTORY

- 4.1 No planning history.

5. PLANNING POLICY

5.1 Development Plan

Section 38(6) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires a planning application to be determined in accordance with the Development Plan unless material planning considerations indicate otherwise. The current Development Plan comprises of the East Midlands Regional Plan, the saved policies of the Northamptonshire County Structure Plan and Northampton Local Plan 1997.

5.2 National Policies:

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) encourages development which is of a high quality and sustainable.

5.3 Northampton Borough Local Plan

E20 – New Development. This policy encourages development which adequately reflects the character of its surroundings.

6. CONSULTATIONS/ REPRESENTATIONS

- 6.1 NBC Environmental Health have no objections to the application.
- 6.2 Northamptonshire County Council Highways have no objections
- 6.3 The Local Ward Member has no objections.

7. APPRAISAL

- 7.1 The application would result in the enclosure of an area of grassed open space. It is not considered that this space is of a high quality in terms of either contributing to the visual amenity of the area or providing a useable space.
- 7.2 Blackthorn Road is characterised by a wide roadway edged with grass verges. A grass verge would be maintained to the side of the proposed fence and as such it is considered that the prevailing character would be preserved.

- 7.3 At present the boundary to the side of the bungalow to the north of the site is formed by a fence and this would effectively be continued to form the boundary of the new garden area. The use of a fence to enclose the development is therefore considered to be acceptable.
- 7.4 The use of the land as a garden in association with the pensioners' hall is also considered to be acceptable as it is unlikely to generate any undue noise or disturbance to the detriment of residential amenity.
- 7.5 The Highway Authority have no objections from a road safety perspective.

8. CONCLUSION

- 8.1 It is considered that the development would have no undue unacceptable impacts and that planning permission should therefore be granted.

9. CONDITIONS

1. The development hereby permitted shall be begun before the expiration of three years from the date of this permission.

Reason: To comply with Section 91 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

2. The development hereby permitted shall be carried out in accordance with the following approved plans: Proposed Floor Plan, Proposed Floor Plan (Inc. Side Gate), Proposed Elevation & Proposed Elevation (Side Gate Entrance).

Reason: For the avoidance of doubt and to accord with the terms of the planning application.

3. Before development commences details of the colour and finish of the fence hereby permitted shall be submitted to and agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The development shall only be carried out in accordance with the agreed details.

Reason: In the interests of visual amenity and to ensure that the development will harmonise with its surroundings in accordance with Policy E20 of the Northampton Local Plan.

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

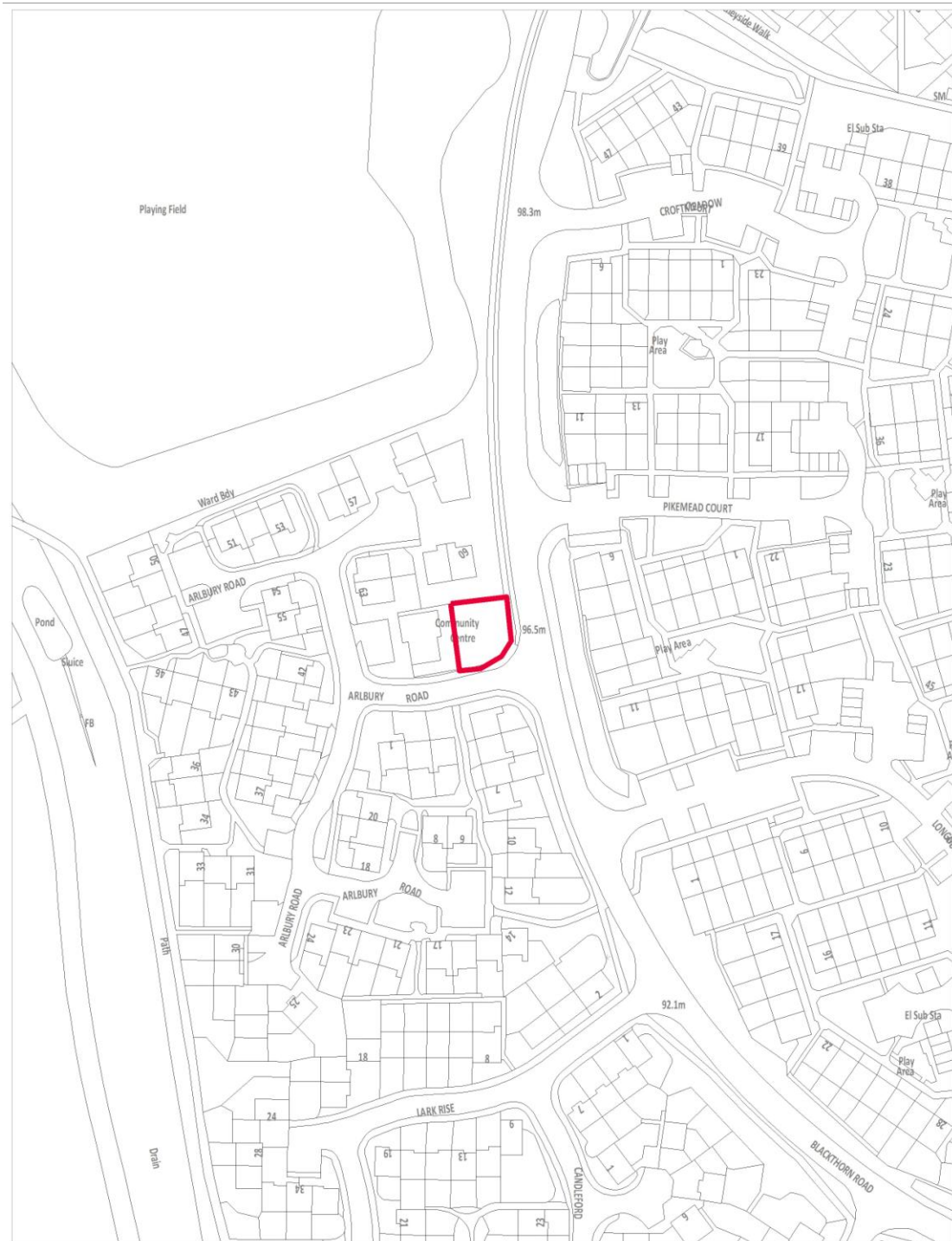
- 10.1 N/2014/0392.

11. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

12. SUMMARY AND LINKS TO CORPORATE PLAN

12.1 In reaching the attached recommendations regard has been given to securing the objectives, visions and priorities outlined in the Corporate Plan together with those of associated Frameworks and Strategies.



Name: SW
Date: 9th July 2014
Scale: 1:1250
Dept: Planning
Project: Site Location Plan (Committee Report)

Title John Ambidge Pensioners Hall, Arlbury Road

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