NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

AREA PARTNERSHIP 6 (EAST HUNSBURY, NENE VALLEY & WEST HUNSBURY)

Thursday, 20 February 2003

PRESENT:

Elected Members
Councillor Judith Lill (Chair) East Hunsbury Ward, NBC
Councillor Jill Hope West Hunsbury Ward, NBC
Councillor David Hugheston-Roberts West Hunsbury Division, NCC
Councillor Phil Larratt East Hunsbury Ward, NBC

Residents
Peter Barclay Hardingstone Parish Council
Beryl Beasley West Hunsbury
Peter Beasley West Hunsbury
Yvonne Chapman West Hunsbury
Bob Copping West Hunsbury
Phil Foster West Hunsbury
Barbara Fothergill Upton
Roy French West Hunsbury
Chris Garfirth West Hunsbury
Brendan Glynane Delepre
Michael Harvey
Graham Kirk West Hunsbury
Mary Kirk West Hunsbury
Joyce Lee West Hunsbury
Peter Lewis West Hunsbury
Sylvia Lightburne West Hunsbury
Michael Meaden West Hunsbury
J Mooryman West Hunsbury
N J Mooryman West Hunsbury
Brian Stone West Hunsbury
Marie Thubron West Hunsbury
Eric Ventham West Hunsbury

Agency Representatives
David Alderson Head of Planning, Transportation and Regeneration, NBC
John Harvey Assistant Head of Planning, Transportation and Regeneration (Transportation)
Chris Jordan Head of Community Environmental Services, NBC
Shirley Vaughan Policy Officer, NBC
1. **APologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Hill, C Lill, R Warr and B Hoare.

2. **Minutes of the Meeting Held on 6 November 2002**

Subject to the amendment of “B Slane” to “B Stone” in the list of attendees, the minutes of the meetings held on 4 November 2002 were agreed.

3. **Matters Arising**

Regarding item 4 – New School Complex for Wootton Fields Update – M Thubron enquired as to whether there would be any public consultation regarding the tendering process.

Councillor Larratt reported that this was a County Council matter. Northampton Borough Council will be consulted regarding the Planning aspect of the project.

Regarding item 5 – St Crispins and Upton Development Update – D Alderson reported that there was land set aside of health provision facilities, but the actual provision of services was a Health Service issue. The level of contribution provided by the Developer is fair.

Councillor Larratt commented that fears of non-provision until the development is fully occupied are valid, and asked that **representatives from the Primary Care Trust be invited to the next meeting**.

Councillor Hope added that there was a national shortage of NHS dentists, so the situation in Northampton was unlikely to change.

Councillor D Hugheston-Roberts commented that the number of extra journeys made as a result of the development was likely to be approximately 20,000. He added that he was due to meet with County Council Officers next week.

He also commented that Duston Reservoir would definitely be overwhelmed by the additional water run off from these and future developments.

Northamptonshire County Council had employed a Hydrologist, who was looking into this issue with a view to producing a preliminary report in March.

3.1 **Greener, Cleaner Northampton - Update**

S Vaughan thanked those who had attended the focus meeting and reported that the information gathered was currently being analysed.

The next stage would be looking at the resourcing of developments.

Progress had been made regarding the litter bin and chewing gum issue, and Park Rangers were being given powers to enforce anti-fouling bylaws.
P Lewis expressed concern at the damage being done to Hunsbury Hill by contractors dragging abandoned cars across the grass and leaving debris.

S Vaughan reported that the Borough Council was looking at the parks as part of its Condition of the Town Review.

**C Jordan undertook to look into the work of the contractors used to remove abandoned vehicles.**

B Copping commented that there was no Police presence in this area, and B Stone enquired as to whether this area still shared its Beat Officer with Spencer Ward.

Councillors Larratt and Hope reported that a new Beat Officer had been appointed that his name was PC Steve Fox.

In Answer to a question regarding the information on trees circulated, C Jordan reported that the Borough Council has approximately 40 cleansing operatives, and that the work of cleansing and ground maintenance teams was being looked at with a view to improving services.

C Garfirth commented that cleansing was currently being carried out before the refuse collection instead of after. S Vaughan reported that this had been raised at the focus meeting and was in the programme to be addressed. C Jordan added that refuse collection worked on a 4 day cycle, whereas cleansing worked on a 5 day cycle. This meant that this was not a straightforward problem to solve.

C Jordan invited anyone seeing newspapers being dumped to report it to the Borough Council. Batches can be identified, so the problem can be traced back to the perpetrator

Y Chapman expressed concern about discarded refuse in Hunslett Lane.

**C Jordan undertook to look into the problem.**

**3.2 DEVELOPMENT AT JUNCTION 15A, M1 - UPDATE**

D Alderson reported that the planning application had been refused by the Borough Council's Planning Committee, an appeal had been submitted and the subsequent Public Inquiry was due to be held on 10 June at the Guildhall. The Inspector had been advised to allow 4 days for the proceedings.

East Hunsbury Residents’ Association had been given Rule 6 status, and so would be allowed to participate in the Inquiry.

The Air Quality Management Area had been designated and includes the area around the site. The Air Quality Contour may be pushed towards the residential area as a result of this development.

Planning Officers are to meet with Appellants in March to identify areas of agreement to save time, and will also identify areas of gain if the appeal is upheld.
Another application (Outline) has been submitted. This is often a tactic used by developers to establish a principle. The Borough Council has issued an Article 32, which requires the applicant to provide all of the necessary details. An appeal has also been lodged against this, and will be heard with the original appeal on 10 June.

Anyone who was interested was invited to attend the Public Inquiry.

Councillor Larratt emphasised the importance of people attending to show their opposition to the application. He added that the Local Plan Review Working Party had expressed strong views about the need to have a quality development on this site.

Regarding the Air Quality monitoring equipment, D Alderson reported that specialist consultants will be engaged if needed.

4. LOCAL ISSUES - GENERAL DISCUSSION

(A) M Thubron expressed concern at the dumping of rubbish in the nature reserve on Hunslett Lane.

She also commented on grass being left to grow over paths, making them difficult to walk along.

_C Jordan undertook to look into the rubbish dumping situation and J Harvey undertook to pass on comments regarding the footpaths to the Highways Maintenance Section._

(B) G Kirk commented on the condition of parkland behind Foxbury Close, which included damaged trees blocking footpaths.

Councillor J Lill reported that she had been informed that Hunsbury was in the programme for attention in 6 months. _She undertook to chase this up._

(C) Concern was expressed regarding the condition of the pavements along Ladybridge Drive, which was dangerous for wheelchair users, and the underpass, which was prone to flooding.

(D) Concern was also expressed regarding a refuse skip which had been left in Green Lane for months, despite reports to the Borough Council.

5. ROAD SAFETY

5.1 BRACKMILLS

J Harvey reported that the Red Route Sub-Committee had granted Brackmills Red Route status at its meeting on 11 February 2003, and that the County Council had drawn up an action plan for improvements.

_Members requested that this issue be discussed further at the next meeting of the Area partnership, and that the Police be invited to participate._
5.2  PRESTON HEDGES SCHOOL

J Harvey reported the receipt of a letter from the County Council reporting that the road had not yet been adopted.

The road humps had been placed there by the developers to slow vehicles down and reduce damage to the road while work continued. He had been told that the developers were about to finish the road and would be removing the road humps beforehand.

Once the road is adopted, only road humps that meet Government standards would be placed there.

The meeting discussed various solutions to the problem of the road being left without restrictions until after adoption by the County Council.

Members commented on the need to ensure the safety of pedestrians.

**J Harvey undertook to take the issue forward to the County Council.**

6.  PROVISION OF SKATEBOARD PARKS

C Jordan reported that the Borough Council had set up a Member / Officer Working Party to look into whether skateboard parks are wanted in Northampton, and if so, where.

A letter was circulated which asked people to consider the issue and forward comments to the Borough Council.

Councillor Hope (a member of the Working Party) reported that the Borough Council was looking to an extensive provision of skateboarding facilities in Northampton. She added that each skateboard park would cost £30,000 - £40,000 to build, which meant that funding would be a significant issue.

She informed the meeting that issues to be considered when deciding where a skateboard park would be placed included:

- The level of youth nuisance in the area
- Noise
- Insurance
- Safety.

The Working Party’s deliberations will include looking at how other local authorities had addressed the issue.

Residents expressed concern that areas with little or no youth nuisance would be unlikely to get a skateboard park placed nearby.
They also made suggestions as to where additional funding may be available. D Alderson reported that, while Tesco had declined when asked to provide a skatepark, the company had agreed to help with fundraising through its Community Initiative.

Concern was also expressed regarding the issue of territory and the slim chances of any single facility being shared by youths from different parts of the Town.

D Alderson and C Jordan assured the meeting that the Borough Council would carry out full risk assessments and follow the relevant guidelines if these facilities are to be provided.

7. MILTON KEYNES AND SOUTH MIDLANDS STUDY

D Alderson reported that the Study (commissioned to consider how housing problems in London and the South East could be alleviated) had recommended a 50% growth in Northampton.

On 5 February, John Prescott had announced that the Government would be moving ahead with the Study “Sustainable Development and Building for the Future”. Northamptonshire County Council would play a co-ordinating role.

The meeting was informed that the Borough Council had taken a stance, and had circulated leaflets setting out its position that if there was to be growth, the Borough’s boundaries would need to be extended in order to properly manage, plan and protect the land around the edges of Northampton.

The next key stage would be the issue of Regional Planning Guidance in June, which would lay out the number of houses allocated to each district. There would then be a Public Inquiry in December 2003.

Northampton Borough Council had already undertaken to ensure that consultation would reach local people.

Members commented on the recommendations and the Borough Council’s position on this issue.

P Barclay commented that this was a re-run of the exercise carried out 35 years ago.

D Alderson reported that the Study points to the economic success of Northamptonshire, which now seems to be an attractive area to live. Northampton was not seen as just a dormitory town for London.

8. MULTI-MODAL TRANSPORTATION STUDY

J Harvey reported that the Multi-Modal Transportation Study had been carried out by Arups, Northamptonshire County Council and English Partnerships in partnership.
The Study was currently in the problem identification stage.

Various issues had been grouped together to form three strategies:

- Road-based strategy
- Public transport strategy
- Demand management strategy

The solution would, in all likelihood, be a mixture of the three.

Phase 2 consultation would be carried out in March 2003, and would include a Citizens’ Panel of 60 residents.

The meeting was informed that further information could be found on the Study’s website: www.northamptonmms.org.uk.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There were no items.

10. KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE NEXT MEETING

- St Crispins and Upton Development
- Road Safety - Brackmills

11. DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 8 July 2003, at Wootton Primary School, to begin at 7.30pm.

The meeting concluded at 9:30 pm
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