

## **Daventry District Council – Approved Motions 2015-2020**

### **25<sup>th</sup> February 2016**

Ofcom, in their Connected Nations 2015 report said, up to 1.5 million rural households will have to wait two to three years before they can get a “minimum” internet speed. Ofcom argues that internet speeds of at least 10 megabits per second is the “minimum ... required by the typical household” with multiple devices to get a good service to stream programmes and access websites.

Research backed by 121 MPs published called for a radical overhaul of the internet market and calls for the break-up of the “monopoly” that BT holds on the cable network.

Progress on rolling out superfast broadband across Daventry District is disappointing.

The latest available Superfast Northamptonshire Briefing indicates that little over 12,000 premises out of 35,000 premises in total benefit from Superfast Broadband.

There appears to be no clear programme to roll out to the remaining premises.

Indicative programme plans show roll out to some other areas of the District either by December 2016 or December 2017.

Large geographical areas are shown as ‘not yet confirmed’ for Superfast Broadband delivery.

Business is booming with 717 new Companies launched in Daventry District last year as Northamptonshire sees a greater percentage of growth than London or Manchester.

We are a District that is open for business, NCC needs to support our growth, giving the people and new Businesses of our District confirmed dates of the remaining roll out of the Superfast Broadband programme.

Therefore it is resolved that the Council makes strong representations to Northamptonshire County Council to clarify the Superfast Northamptonshire programme for Daventry District and make every effort for a speedy delivery, and that representations are also made to the Digital Economy Minister.

### **RESOLVED:**

That the motion be supported.

### **18<sup>th</sup> May 2016**

May I request that this council sends a letter to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second, by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and of her other Realms and Territories, Queen, Head of Commonwealth, Defender of Faith.

To congratulate her Majesty on the longevity of her reign and that in the face of this ever changing world she has managed not only to keep our Commonwealth of Nations together but has increased its membership.

This, I will add, without any rules and regulations regarding the governance of those Nations and any threat to their own Sovereignty.

**RESOLVED:**

That the motion be supported.

**28<sup>th</sup> July 2016**

Although no increase in Hate Crime has occurred in Northamptonshire, various groups have expressed concerns about the rise in Hate Crime in other areas of the country following the referendum.

We are proud to live in a tolerant and diverse Country. Racism, Xenophobia and Hate Crimes have no place in our Society. This Council condemns these unequivocally. We must not allow hate to become acceptable. The Council with its partners must work to ensure we have the support and resources to prevent Racism, Xenophobia and Hate Crime. We publically condemn any such attacks and make it clear the Council will take any necessary steps to tackle this. We reassure people living in our area that they are valued members of our Community.

**RESOLVED:**

That the motion be supported.

**27<sup>th</sup> July 2017**

This Council resolves to write to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government asking for a revision of Part 3, Class Q of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (As amended).

This legislation gives permitted development rights to those wishing to convert agricultural buildings into residential accommodation. It allows barns and other agricultural buildings which may be unsuitable for modern farming methods and/or have fallen into disrepair to be renovated as homes. It can thus save buildings which add to the rural landscape from dereliction.

However, it also gives rights to convert modern buildings, which are often still in legitimate agricultural use and not redundant for agricultural purposes which visually may add little, or even detract, from the rural character of an area when converted into homes. Additionally, despite the requirement for planning permission to be obtained for a replacement agricultural building – this does not seem to be a deterrent to abuse of the system as up to three dwellings are so lucrative the applicant submits for a further agricultural building arguing this is (now) agriculturally necessary so another modern building appears in the rural landscape.

Recently we have become concerned by further abuse of the PD right/system whereby permission is obtained under Part Q, but using the "fall back" position concept, applicants seek to trade this up to a new dwelling in open countryside arguing that it would be visually less harmful so more desirable to demolish the existing building which would be ugly, as houses and that a new build purpose designed house-in its place should be granted. While a local planning authority is not obliged to approve applications of this nature, it may feel allowing a new build in a rural area is a lesser evil than an ugly conversion, and in this way are being held to ransom.

Consequently, this Council believes that Class Q permitted development rights should be restricted to agricultural buildings which are:

- Predominantly constructed of stone or brick;
- Are more than 35 years old.
- Demonstrably redundant for agricultural purposes and have been used for that agricultural purpose for at least 10 years.
- It should be made clear that permissions under Part Q cannot be used as an argument to allow up to 3 new build purpose designed dwellings to be built instead.

This Council asks the Secretary of State to review Class Q legislation and make the proposed amendments.

**RESOLVED:**

That the motion be supported.

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This Council fully welcomes the proposed arrival of the "outstanding" Ofsted rated Sponne School into Daventry Town as we continue to play our part in supporting all education partners to improve the overall offer to students.

It is vital that all students have a local choice of educational opportunities in order to achieve individually positive working lives as the District continues to attract more and more varying job opportunities.

**RESOLVED:**

That the motion be supported.

**22<sup>nd</sup> February 2018**

This Meeting:

Resolves that Daventry District Council should take all reasonable steps to alleviate the difficulties that TDECL tenants face as a result of DDC's decision to sell their homes;

Recognises that, although proposals made to tenants are in accordance with the terms of their tenancy agreements, the marketing of the TDECL scheme, with references to 'Houses for Life', the provision of "a first-class experience to all our tenants" and the assurance of having a landlord owned by a local authority, gave many tenants a false impression that their tenancies would be long-term;

Therefore resolves to put plans for house sales on hold to allow time for DDC to consider what amendments to its plans might be made to ease the difficulties faced by tenants.

While this meeting may not be in a position to take decisions on possible amendments to DDC's plans, believes that measures which should be considered should include:

- Immediate sales only being made when tenants voluntarily decide to surrender their tenancies;
- A longer period for tenants to decide whether they wish to express and interest in buying their homes and to consider their options, including the possibility of shared ownership;
- The offer of financial incentives to tenants (e.g. equivalent to a number of month's rent) who agree to surrender their tenancies over the coming two years;
- Early repayments of deposits to those who agree to move to enable them to pay deposits on alternative accommodation;
- For a period of a number of years:
  - A suspension of sales of homes of people who suffer from disabilities, serious health problems or other acute domestic difficulties until suitable arrangements can be made for them;
  - Sales only to be made to buyers prepared to buy to let, with amendments to tenancy agreements to offer tenants security of tenure for a period (say, six months) after the change in ownership;
- Renewed efforts to sell the estate in whole or in part to (a) housing association(s), reviewing, if necessary, the asking prices for properties to achieve sales in the interests of DDC and tenants.

The Meeting also notes that the TDECL properties have been an extraordinarily successful investment for DDC and that, with rising house prices, any delay in the proposed sales could result in a higher price being achieved, and consequently a higher revenue income on the reinvestment of proceeds.

**RESOLVED:**

That this meeting resolves to refer the sale of TDECL properties in Middlemore to Scrutiny and Improvement Committee for further investigation and report back to July Full Council.

Whilst awaiting the outcome of the review this meeting resolves that the sale of the properties is put on hold and TDECL continue to operate to protect the Council's interests.

### **26<sup>th</sup> July 2018**

This Council recognises the excellent and crucial work undertaken by Reach for Health which is the operating name of Daventry Health Rehabilitation Trust, a registered charity, and which provides health rehabilitation for people who have suffered a major health trauma or are living with long term or life long illness. This charity has been able to establish itself with currently some 2,400 user visits per month (excluding those that attend specialist classes that they operate) and has substantial recognition from local GPs and hospitals. This is a unique facility where demand for its services is growing year on year and which is now facing a situation that may well threaten the future continuation of the charity and all the benefits it provides.

Their existing premises in High March, Daventry are fairly old, expensive to operate and rapidly becoming too small for the continuing increases in demand for their current services - with plans to expand their Cardio Rehab, C.O.P.D. and Stroke programmes which are carried out in conjunction with Northampton General Hospital. They have already reached agreement on the potential location of a new building located on the North East corner of the Daventry & District Sports Trust site in Western Avenue, Daventry which will provide a sustainable future for the future health and wellbeing for our residents.

This Council therefore resolves that its Officers report back to the next Strategy Group on options available to the Council, conducting due diligence checks as usual, to help achieve the completion of this new centre by July 2020.

### **RESOLVED:**

That the Motion be supported

### **21<sup>st</sup> February 2019**

That this Council supports the award of a 100% grant to Staverton Parish Council in connection with Traffic Calming measures.

We ask that this Council notes that Northamptonshire is in unprecedented times and soon local government in its current format will cease to exist and a unitary organisation will evolve. As a consequence of this change, all spending by the County Council has been stopped by way of a section 114 order. A casualty of this order has been the project Staverton PC have been working on in Partnership with NCC.

The Staverton project: aims to provide traffic calming measures, through the installation of signs, vehicle activated displays, reduced speed limits and installation of a village gateway on the through road - A425 and will work as an extension of the recently approved Warwickshire policy to reduce traffic speeds up to the Warwickshire/ Northamptonshire border on the A425.

The project has been designed in collaboration with and sanctioned by NCC Highways department and will include legal and Section 50 licence costs.

Confirmation has been received from NCC that in light of the section 114 order Warwickshire have agreed to partially fund both the Traffic Regulation Order for the revision of the speed limit from the county boundary to the 30mph limit in Staverton and that they will also fund the necessary signing works in the Northamptonshire section. This project is an opportunity for Warwickshire funding to be used within Northamptonshire. The grant application is for the shortfall of £16212.66 following the section 114 order.

Once the project is complete the proposal is for Staverton PC to precept the village in order to establish some form of planting along the length of the 30mph speed limit to present a scheme of enclosure in a built-up area, possibly an avenue of trees.

DDC confirmed on the 29th January that they were able to award £8,400 towards the project however, they could not offer the full amount of funding requested due to the high demand of applications.

These unprecedented times have given rise to the exceptional circumstances whereby if Staverton PC are not awarded a 100% grant then these works will not go ahead and external funding from outside the District will be lost and a valued project that will improve the safety of residents who travel within and through the Parish will not go ahead. The shortfall is £7,812.66 which taken as a percentage of DDC's overall budgets is negligible.

At the February Strategy group, it was reported that capital receipts shown in the Capital Programme have been updated to reflect recent Council decisions and CIL funding proposals. Of the £0.640m forecast spend below budget, as at the end of quarter 3, £0.187m was forecast as 'true' underspend. If this forecast is in line with the final outturn at year end, this funding would be released with a corresponding increase in capital reserves balances.

In light of the exceptional circumstances detailed, the small amount SPC ask for in comparison to DDC's overall budgets, the available capital reserves, and more importantly the fact the project is a safety project, we ask that members support this motion.

**RESOLVED:**

That the Motion be supported.

**15<sup>th</sup> May 2019**

The Council, noting (1) that the view of the County Council is that delivery of a new school at Buckton Fields is, "absolutely essential in ensuring NCC can continue to meet its statutory obligations of providing a sufficiency of school places in this area of the county from September 2021 onwards", due to a projected deficiency of primary school places after that date and (2) that the project is wholly developer funded,

profoundly regrets the decision of the Department For Education to fail to commit support enabling the primary school at Buckton Fields to open in September 2020.

The Council invites the DfE to confirm that it will take the necessary steps to ensure opening of the school in September 2021.

**RESOLVED:**

That the motion be supported.

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Climate emergency

This Council notes that:

the impacts of climate breakdown are already causing serious damage around the world.

that the 'Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C', published by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in October 2018, (a) describes the enormous harm that a 2°C average rise in global temperatures is likely to cause compared with a 1.5°C rise, and (b) confirms that limiting Global Warming to 1.5°C may still be possible with ambitious action from national and sub-national authorities, civil society and the private sector.

that all governments (national, regional and local) have a duty to act, and local governments that recognise this should not wait for their national governments to change their policies;

that strong policies to cut emissions also have associated health, wellbeing and economic benefits;

and that, recognising this, a growing number of UK local authorities have already passed 'Climate Emergency' motions.

This Council therefore resolves to establish a 'Climate Emergency Working Group' whose remit will be to examine how DDC, through its actions, can provide leadership to local communities in seeking ways of reducing harmful emissions. This Council envisages that the programme of the Working Group will include (but not be confined to):

Reviewing and appraising the work that DDC is already doing to reduce greenhouse gas emissions;

Considering the case for requiring all DDC-owned buildings (where reasonably possible) to have solar panels;

Considering the feasibility of requiring all new homes (where reasonably possible) to have solar panels (with the onus being on developers to provide evidence should when solar panels are not deemed to be feasible);

Examining DDC's investment portfolio with a view to recommending the termination of any investments which are in environmentally damaging commercial activities;

Spreading the message about the need for action to protect the environment.

The Climate Emergency Working Group will consist of

A politically-balanced group of councillors;

A number of residents selected following a public invitation to join the Working Group (to include young people with environmental concerns);

Any local climate-change experts whom the Working Group may wish to co-opt.

- an amendment was proposed and seconded (P = Cllr Brown, 2 = Cllr Gilford) – and duly carried as the substantive motion.

This Council notes:

- that the impacts of climate breakdown are already causing serious damage around the world.
- that the 'Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C', published by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in October 2018, (a) describes the enormous harm that a 2°C average rise in global temperatures is likely to cause compared with a 1.5°C rise, and (b) confirms that limiting Global Warming to 1.5°C may still be possible with ambitious action from national and sub-national authorities, civil society and the private sector.
- that all governments (national, regional and local) have a duty to act, and local governments that recognise this should not wait for their national governments to change their policies;
- that strong policies to cut emissions also have associated health, wellbeing and economic benefits;
- and that, recognising this, a growing number of UK local authorities have already passed 'Climate Emergency' motions.

This Council therefore resolves to ~~establish a 'Climate Emergency Working Group'~~ urgently refer the matter to Scrutiny & Improvement for a task panel to be convened at the earliest available opportunity to investigate whether DDC is doing all that it can to minimise its impact upon the environment and ~~whose remit will be to~~ examine how DDC, through its actions, can provide leadership to local communities in seeking ways of reducing harmful emissions.

This Council envisages that the programme of the ~~Working Group~~ task panel will include (but not be confined to):

- Reviewing and appraising the work that DDC is already doing to reduce greenhouse gas emissions;
- Considering the case for requiring all DDC-owned buildings (where reasonably possible) to have solar panels;

- Considering the feasibility of requiring all new homes (where reasonably possible) to have solar panels ~~(with the onus being on developers to provide evidence should when solar panels are not deemed to be feasible);~~
- Examining DDC's investment portfolio with a view to recommending the termination of any investments which are in environmentally damaging commercial activities;
- Spreading the message about the need for action to protect the environment.

The ~~Climate Emergency Working Group~~ **task panel** will consist of

- A politically-balanced **cross-party** group of councillors;
- ~~A number of residents selected following a public invitation to join the Working Group (to include young people with environmental concerns);~~
- Any local climate-change experts **or residents** whom the Working Group **task panel** may wish to co-opt.

There being no further amendments, it was

#### **RESOLVED:**

That the amended motion be supported.

#### **5th December 2019**

~~We~~ **This Council** understands **notes** that the Evelyn Wright care home is on the county councils draft budget for closure **due to the anticipated costs of approximately £800,000 to carry out immediate remedial works identified as well as further additional amounts for necessary modernisation works.**

~~We have~~ **Daventry has** already lost The Grange care home and to lose another will have serious consequences for the residents in the care home as well as their families, **although it is noted that NCC has indicated that it will place existing care home residents in other homes and that care needs will be re-assessed to ensure any alternative accommodation is suitable and meets their needs.**

**It is further noted that Northamptonshire Adults Social Services (NASS) have made staff and residents aware of the scale of the work required and have explored options to move residents into other care homes. Some residents may wish to remain living in the Daventry area and there are some residential spaces available in another care home service close by, run by Shaw Healthcare, as well as other care providers.**

~~When the county council closed the Grange care home they said that there will be another built but there is nothing in their consultation stating this will happen.~~

~~Will this council therefore agree~~ **This Council therefore resolves** to liaise with the county council to see what provision ~~can~~ will be provided in Daventry town as a matter of urgency

#### **RESOLVED:**

That the amended motion be supported.

## **8<sup>th</sup> October 2020**

### **Council notes:**

The publication by Government of the White Paper, 'Planning for the Future' on 6 August 2020, which sets out proposals on reforms to the planning process for the future. There are important points which this council wishes to note:

1. That the vast majority of planning applications are given the go ahead by local authority planning committees, with permission granted to around 9 out of 10 applications.
2. That research by the Local Government Association has said that there are existing planning permissions for more than one million homes that have not yet been started.

In addition, Council is concerned that the proposals seek to:

1. Reduce or remove the right of residents to have their say on applications in their communities.
2. Grant automatic rights for developers to build on land identified as 'for growth'.
3. Remove section 106 payments for infrastructure and their replacement with a national levy.

Furthermore this Council Notes:

1. The Royal Institute for British Architects called the proposals 'shameful and which will do almost nothing to guarantee delivery of affordable, well-designed and sustainable homes'. RIBA also said that proposals could lead to the next generation of slum housing.
2. The reforms are opposed by the all-party Local Government Association.

We therefore ask that this council:

1. Agree via Strategy Group a full response to the white paper consultation outlining specifically the negative impact that these revisions will have on local involvement/engagement in planning matters.
2. The Leader of the Council writes on behalf of this council to the Minister of State for Housing & Planning and to our local Member of Parliament expressing our concerns in line with the agreed response set out above.
3. The Council shares these responses with all Members.

### **RESOLVED:**

That the amended motion be supported.

## **18<sup>th</sup> February 2021**

### **Safety rail for A361 footpath**

This Council recognises that the footpath alongside the section of the A361 below the dam of Drayton Reservoir is hazardous because:

- The A361 is used by much heavy traffic travelling between Daventry and the M1, M6 and A14;

- That section of the road is relatively narrow and there have been many reports of large lorries mounting the kerb to pass each other;
- Although there is a 40 mph limit on that section of the road, traffic often travels faster because of the dip in the road between the Middlemore and Northern Way roundabouts;
- The footpath is used by many school children walking to Ashby Fields School and to the secondary schools in town, as well as people travelling to work or for shopping.

It also notes that, in November and December 2018, 673 people signed a petition asking for a safety rail alongside the footpath.

This Council therefore

- resolves to ask DDC Officers to continue discussions with NCC Highways as a matter of urgency with the aim of securing a commitment to the erection of a safety rail, or to the provision of an alternative means of improving the safety of pedestrians, before the transfer of responsibilities to the new West Northants Council, and
- requests that a report on these discussions is given at the meeting of the Council on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

**RESOLVED:**

That the Motion be supported.

**18<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

This Council proposes a vote of thanks to recognise the hard work and achievements of all staff and members throughout the 47 years of Daventry District Council's existence.

This Council further recognises:

- The significant contribution of its Chairman, and leader of over 20 years, Cllr Chris Millar, along with his colleagues, many of whom had served not just the Council but their communities for a significant amount of time. This Council wishes him and all those who are retiring from public life the very best for the future.
- The long service and achievements of the Chief Executive, Ian Vincent, and all those who have served with him on the Senior Management Team, helping this Council to deliver a legacy of thriving services and healthy finances to the new West Northamptonshire Council.

We hope that all staff at Daventry District Council enjoy successful and fulfilling careers, whether at West Northamptonshire Council or elsewhere, and we commend them on their service to the residents of our district.

**RESOLVED:**

That the motion be supported, as amended.

This Council recognises the work of the people of Daventry District during the Covid-19 crisis; specifically, all the key workers and volunteers of the District who have selflessly put the interests of serving the public and supporting our communities above themselves, in responding to this unprecedented pandemic. There have been countless reports of individuals, organisations and community groups stepping up across Daventry District, whether providing a vital service or job, or by joining or forming groups to offer help and support to a local area. You have made us all proud to be a part of this community and we offer our heartfelt thanks and appreciation for this great work.

**RESOLVED:**

That the motion be supported.