

<b>Key Decision Required:</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>In the Forward Plan:</b>	<b>No</b>
-------------------------------	-----------	-----------------------------	-----------

## CABINET

9 MARCH 2011

### REFERENCE FROM COUNCIL

#### **A.2 POSSIBLE RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE VICINITY OF SLADBURYS LANE, HOLLAND-ON-SEA**

(Report prepared by Ian Ford)

#### **PART 1 – KEY INFORMATION**

##### **PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

To report to Cabinet a Question pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 14 submitted to the last meeting of the Council.

##### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report sets out a question pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 14 submitted by Mrs Daphne Chaplin of 39 Sladburys Lane, Holland-on-Sea to the meeting of the Council held on 8 February 2011 relating to possible residential development in the vicinity of Sladburys Lane, Holland-on-Sea and which was referred to the Cabinet by the Council for consideration in accordance with the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 14.9.

##### **RECOMMENDATION**

**That following consideration of Mrs Chaplin's question the Cabinet decide what action, if any, should be taken.**

#### **PART 2 – SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

##### **BACKGROUND**

At the meeting of the Council held on 8 February 2011 the following question pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 14 was put by Mrs Chaplin to the Executive Leader and answered and then, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14.9, stood referred to the Cabinet for consideration:-

“Sir, I live in Sladbury Lane, Holland-on-Sea and as a member of the Sladbury Lane Action Group I am speaking on behalf of my neighbours in Sladbury Lane and the many residents in the surrounding area.

We are all very concerned about the possibility of development in this area that will allow a large number of new properties to be built on the current green open space.

We are concerned that proposals will allow the Valley Farm Caravan Park to be extended right up to the back gardens of some properties.

We are concerned that the route of a new road, being proposed to relieve traffic in Sladbury Lane, appears to be sufficiently off the direct route that it may not achieve its objective in relieving traffic flows in Sladbury Lane.

May I ask the Leader if he will have the concerns of residents in this part of Holland-on-Sea investigated and hopefully resolved to allay our worries for the future?"

The Executive Leader gave the following answer to Mrs Chaplin's question:-

"My Officers inform me that the proposal in question, which was published for consultation as part of the Core Strategy and Development Policies Document last year, attracted a large number of formal representations from the community. Whilst I acknowledge that the prospect of major development in the area has caused a great deal of debate, I am very pleased that local people, have taken the time to put their views forward, in writing, as part of the consultation exercise – after all that is the whole point of the exercise!

The views of residents here, and in all parts of the District, are certainly being taken very seriously. Council Officers are currently analysing the numerous comments to carefully consider what changes to the document can or should be made to address people's views whilst recognising that there will need to be development, in some parts of the district, over the next 20 years for the Council to comply with national planning policies and legal obligations.

Until my Officers have completed this thorough analysis, it would be inappropriate for me to speculate as to what course of action the Council will take; but suffice to say that the view of the community will be taken into account.

Later this year, it is intended to publish a schedule of proposed changes to the Core Strategy and invite further comments in response to these changes, from the public and other interested parties. The document, proposed changes and comments received will then be considered by an Independent Inspector at a Public Examination, likely to take place towards the end of this year.

As I explained in my previous answer when my administration took control of this Council in May 2009 the LDF process was already well underway. We chose to stall the LDF process pending the General Election as we hoped that the Regional Spatial Strategy would then be abolished by the new government. The Regional Spatial Strategy imposed housing numbers upon us as a district whether we liked it not and seemingly with little or no regard for how realistic or achievable those numbers were. The new government made an immediate decision to scrap the RSS and we are now proceeding on our own, lower and hopefully more realistic housing numbers.

Councillor Guglielmi, the Planning Portfolio Holder, and Gary Guiver, the Development Plan Manager, attended a public meeting with local residents at which many of the issues were raised and indeed answers were given at the meeting.

Planning policy will always be controversial: there will always be pressure to grow and expand and develop and likewise there will always be resistance to keep things as they are. And the challenge for this Council, indeed for any Council, is to balance those competing demands whilst trying to create a district that is strong, sustainable and resilient. This Council, as I said in my previous answer, has gone above and beyond in respect of public engagement and consultation and certainly way further than the minimum

legal requirements and I would like to thank Mrs Chaplin and all those Holland-on-Sea residents who have taken the time and trouble to engage with our consultation process. Your voices will be heard.”

**BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR THE DECISION**

None.

**APPENDICES**

None.