

PARISH COUNCIL LIAISON MEETING Wednesday 20th January 2010

HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBER TOWN HALL PETERBOROUGH

The meeting was chaired by Cllr David Over

A presentation on the Budget for 2010/11 and the Medium Term Financial Plan was presented by John Harrison.

Outlining the 5 year Budget Plan Mr Harrison stated that the Future was not Bright. It was apparent that with continuing development there was less money available and more investment needed especially from the private sector. During years 10 and 11 it was predicted that the Budget would break even however during years 12, 13, and 14 a deficit was predicted which would result in more borrowing or an increase in the Council Tax.

The Council Tax is already fixed to rise during 2010 by 2.5%. Business rates were set by the Government and not the Council.

City Services were set up to make a profit and it was hoped to set up joint ventures with other Councils in order to become more efficient.

Village Design Statements

Details were presented regarding the status of Village Design Statements. It was pointed out that they still play an important part when considering Planning Applications however they now need to be incorporated as SPDs and that any design statement compiled before 2004 (*ours was adopted in 2007*) would now be considered as dead.

Neighbourhood Councils

An update was presented on the newly formed Neighbourhood Councils. Neighbourhood Management is a vehicle for improvement and change is a new idea for Peterborough but one that has worked well in other parts of the country. A series of Neighbourhood Council Meetings have been held during December and that a sum of £175,000 had been allocated to be split equally between the Neighbourhood Councils for improvements in their areas.

It is proposed that the Councils will meet Quarterly. (*ours is now known as Rural North*)

Site Allocations

Details were presented on the progress of the Site Allocations Document. This document is the only document that can allocate land for development. We are currently at stage 2 of the consultation process with stage 3 being the final decision and stage 4 where an Independent Inspector will investigate and give a final decision.

Parish Question Time

A question was raised regarding the switch to electronic Planning Application plans being sent out to Parish Councils. The general feeling was that paper plans were the most appropriate as it is often better to take a plan with you when viewing a particular site.

Also was the City Council going to pay for the necessary electronic equipment that Parish Councils would need?

Cllr Denis Batty