



GRENDON UNDERWOOD PARISH COUNCIL

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| EXTRA-ORDINARY MEETING 03 | PROPOSED THIRD PRISON at Grendon Underwood |
| Held on: 15/02/2021 at: 19:00hrs | Location: REMOTE |
| PRISON OBJECTION MEETING | |
| Steering | GU Parish Council Cllr Kim Moloney (Chairman); Edgcott Parish Council, Chairman, Cllr Peter Harper |
| Invitees | Buckinghamshire County Council Cllrs A. Macpherson & Branston, |
| | There were 51 attendees in all. |
| P03/01 | <p><u>Purpose of Meeting</u> Further to the end of a twice extended consultation period on 5th February 21, and two previous open meetings arranged by the Parish Councils of Grendon Underwood & Edgcott, this third meeting, and one to follow on Tuesday, 16th February 2021, has been called to update residents on the work carried out in preparation for an Outline Planning Application from the MoJ expected before the end of February 21. It is also intended to provide residents with the necessary 'tool kit' for how best their involvement can be integrated into a focused and planning oriented campaign of opposition.</p> |
| P03/02 | <p><u>Introduction by the chairman</u> The Chairman welcomed & thanked all attending this third of a planned programme of meetings designed to ensure local residents are kept up to date with work going on behind the scenes in preparation for a concerted campaign in opposition to the potential development of a third prison in Grendon Underwood.</p> <p>She also advised a 'tool kit' is in preparation designed to give residents the necessary guidance for making sure their involvement is personal to them and how best it can be integrated into & enhance this focused and planning oriented campaign of opposition.</p> <p>She advised the membership of a working party carrying out extensive preparatory work to allow a rapid and focused response to any Outline Planning Application forthcoming as Cllr Kim Moloney, Chairman GUPC, Cllr Peter Harper, Chairman EPC, Cllr Andy Benfield, Cllr Paul Jackman, Roger Behagg, Rod Baker, Cllr Steph Gassor, Parish Clerks. She also gratefully acknowledged the extensive professional and qualified expertise provided to the working group from members of the community.</p> <p>The Chairman confirmed the meeting would be recorded and participation is taken as consent to be identified during the meeting. The recording, the presentation & chat box will be posted to council websites.</p> |
| P03/03 | <p><u>Background Overview.</u> On 3rd December 2020, the Parish Councils of Grendon Underwood (GUPC) & Edgcott (EPC) Council were forwarded a letter from Lynda Rawsthorne, Prison Infrastructure Director at the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) giving notice of their intention to apply for planning permission to build a third, (Cat C, 1440, possibly 1680 bed) prison on the same site as the two existing (Cat A & Cat D) prisons in Grendon Underwood. The MoJ gave further notice of a consultation period from 3rd December to terminate on 23rd December 2020, later extended to 20th January 2021 at the request of local MP and further extended to 5th February 2021 to allow MoJ more time to respond to queries.</p> <p>February 2021- It is expected this exercise was an attempt to facilitate approval of an Outline Planning Application to be submitted during February 2021, which, if approved, would allow full approval by Summer 2021, work to commence early 23 & completion in 2025.</p> <p>10th December 2020 - Grendon Underwood Parish Council hold an emergency preliminary Fact Finding Meeting identifying overwhelming opposition.</p> <p>19th January 2021 – Grendon Underwood Parish hold second meeting in collaboration with Edgcott Parish Council to establish the scale of what we face.</p> <p>15th February 2021 the Parish Councils of Grendon Underwood and Edgcott hold this the third meeting to update residents on preparation status.</p> |
| P03/04 | <u>Executive Summary</u> |

A resident gave an update presentation identifying work done, and on-going, in regard to those planning principles that would be relevant to a well-focused, planning oriented opposition campaign once the MoJ submits the Outline Planning Application to the Planning Authority.

He expressed the thanks of the working party for all the support, expertise & professional advice from many in the community.

From a case study of how MoJ gained approval for Full Sutton prison, he gave an overview of the strategy the MoJ used and what we should expect for Grendon - they initially gain Outline Planning Permission, but with 25 conditions attached, which is standard practice for large developments. Subsequent to the approval of the outline planning application at Full Sutton, the MoJ submitted a further and significantly different planning application. The new application increased the number of prisoner places, the total number of buildings that would be erected and significant differences in design and layout compared to the initial application. Because outline approval had been previously granted the modified application was also approved in spite of grossly contravening the conditions placed on the outline approval.

A comparison of the Full Sutton case and the Grendon situation was shown. It was also emphasised how the Planning Authority assess planning applications in terms of weighing up the balance between advantages of the proposed development versus the potential damage.

Previous local applications taken to appeal had been studied for common themes.

A full list of dos & don'ts in how to object was provided and which will form the basis of an objection tool kit being prepared for residents.

He stressed the importance of multiple resident objections but that they must be relevant to the planning criteria and not be in the form of a petition or template letter – these will have no weight in the planning balance.

Cllr Branston was of the opinion that quality of objection is more important than quantity.

Whilst confirming objections must be related to valid planning criteria, Cllr Macpherson did suggest giving the Planning Authority some idea of the sheer scale of the personal impact this development may well have on individuals and that could have a powerful effect on planners.

It was confirmed multiple objections from within one household, including from minors, would be a positive contribution but must be individual, in their own personal language and directly related to the impact on the individual.

He gave an overview of recent activity of the working party and the extent of the expertise in sustainability, planning law, heritage, environment & ecology made available from local residents - followed by a summary of plans going forward.

It had been confirmed, from several qualified sources, that all that could be done at this stage has been done.

Buckinghamshire Councillor Angela Macpherson emphasised her ongoing commitment to oppose and congratulated the working party on the extent & quality of their work. She confirmed BC had opposed the proposal at Cabinet but that does not mean Planning must automatically oppose as well.

The chatbox was reviewed at length addressing all comments & queries.

The full unabridged transcript of the ZOOM Chatbox is shown in Appendix 1.

P3/05 Actions arising.

GU & Edgcott Parish Councils - A steering group, comprising the Chairmen and Clerks of both Councils, certain residents with specific skills that may be utilised from time to time to maximise experience & expertise resident in the villages- achieved and will continue to call meetings as necessary for as long as necessary.

To continue ongoing dialogue directly with designated MoJ liaison personnel, our MP, Buckinghamshire Council representatives, other Parish Councils, the school, the current prison governor and the many providers of qualified, experienced advice from local residents.

To post information and meeting records to council web sites.

To collate data into an objection 'tool kit' for residents.

The Council will present their findings at further open, public meetings and publicise timing, giving good notice, on the Parish Council web site at www.gupc.org.uk and through letter boxes with flyers.

MP, Greg Smith – will attend next meeting on 16th February 2021.

Buckinghamshire County Council – whilst BC opposed at a Cabinet Meeting on 25th January, the Leader has advised he is reluctant to object directly to their Planning Committee in the interests of cross department functional independence. Cllr Macpherson will continue to support opposition as soon as the application is submitted.

Residents - Resident are asked to wait for their objection tool kit to ensure a well co-ordinated & planning focused opposition campaign.

Then to input as many personalised objections as possible at the right time.

Appendix 1 – unabridged Zoom ChatBox

The following comments are transcribed directly from resident input during the meetings. There have been no amendments, corrections, modifications, abridgement, redaction or changes either by addition or omission such as to preserve inclusivity integrity.

Grendon Underwood Parish Council Open meeting 15th February 2021
Anonymous version – chat box

Chat box is now open for you to post questions and suggestions. Thank you.
19:34:10 Number of responses, should we be submitting multiple responses?
19:34:48 It's quality not quantity.
19:35:07 The land behind Hall cottages had a planning application turned down by the Secretary of State, how have you referred to that?
19:35:25 Make sure that whatever, you submit is not a carbon copy of other objections.
19:35:40 Assuming the quality is excellent , is it better to put in separate documents ?
19:37:34 I'm sure you will do this but.. recommend a focussed session, once planning submitted, purely to concentrate on planning specific objections which residents will need to tailor so it is not a response template
19:37:36 I think one solid response is better than different letters
19:38:07 Angela makes a great point
19:38:16 There are many birds listed on the RSPS endangered list red and amber use the habitat
19:38:27 Having had experience from my work in gaining planning permission at a power station in Oxford the submissions we had came in numbers but it was the actual content that was important and caused us to have to revisit plans to get approval.
19:39:34 so I would say one letter with concrete structured points in a professional manner is best from experience
19:40:01 letters that came across as emotional also diluted people's objections so sometimes evidence based is best
19:40:20 no expert but just from what we struggled with over the past 18 months at wor,
19:40:23 work
19:40:57 accepting we must have individual responses can we please have a bullet list of points thank you
19:41:54 This suggestion is unusual. My understanding is that the 'corporation' of the United kingdom was dissolved last year! It declared bankrupt. This being the case, does the MOJ report to the corporation of the UK? If so, they are an agency working on behalf of a corporation that no longer exists. Yes, this does sound a bit out there, but do we have legal help that could look in to this aspect? Companies house will show that the corporation of the United Kingdom has been dissolved along with all departments.
19:43:35 Those documents have important reasons why it was refused and these points should be used
19:45:02 We already have the document and it is being used.
19:45:53 Also the houses at Springhill were refused again these are guidelibe
19:46:04 That were refused under
19:46:22 is there an update on any FOI requests that have been submitted?
19:46:46 Guidelines not guideline spelling mistake
19:48:06 Have the houses on Spring Hill been turned down by Secretary of State? If so where is the report?
19:48:45 comment
19:48:49 Its been declined and under appeal can check for you
19:50:07 is there a continuing push to challenge the consultation process?
19:50:50 Perhaps disappointing that we have 51 only for the first meeting. We need too maintain the meeting
19:50:59 I did carry out a detailed review of the local cases, especially Hall Cottages
19:51:15 Maintain the momentum sorry!
19:52:10 Angela and Cameron can call into committee rather than officers decision
19:52:20 Do we need to raise the profile again?
19:53:15 Totally agree with you "kim
19:54:12 many thanks for the extreme effort you have made
19:55:42 Great team work thank you for all your hard work everyone
19:56:14 thanks for all your work
19:56:14 Thank you for all of your hard work
19:56:31 Thank you
19:56:34 Thank you
19:56:37 Thanks everyone - great briefing and update.
19:57:54 I'll email the responses to Gregs questions