**Minutes of a meeting of the Development Scrutiny Committee of Sandy Town Council held in the Council Chamber at 10 Cambridge Road, Sandy on Monday 16 July 2012 commencing at 7.30 pm.**

**Present:** Cllrs Mrs S Lunn, K Lynch, C Osborne, M Pettitt, D Sharman, Mrs S Sutton, G White (Chairman)

**Absent:** Cllrs J Ali, R Smith and Mrs S Sutton.

**In Attendance:** Cllrs Aldis, Jackson, Mrs M Runchman and the Deputy Town Clerk.

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| **1** | **Apologies**Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Ali, and Sutton. |
| **2** | **Declarations of Interest**There were none. |
| **3** | **Planning Applications** The following planning application had been received from Central Bedfordshire Council for comment and was reviewed by the committee.1. **Planning Application CB/12/02354/FULL** First floor extension to rear and erection of detached double garage adjacent to front at **19 Mill Lane, Sandy, Beds.**

**It was resolved:** to make no objection and to support the proposed development. |
| **4** | **Minutes of previous meeting** **It was resolved:** to approve the minutes of meeting of the Development Scrutiny Committee held on Monday 2nd July 2012 as a correct record of proceedings. |
| **5** | **Consultation on Central Bedfordshire Development Strategy** |
|  | The Chairman informed members that the development strategy is a draft and is likely to be amended. The Chairman also advised members that the development strategy is a lengthy document and a condensed version would be more appropriate for Town Councils. Development Scrutiny Committee meeting on 16th July 2012.**Central Bedfordshire Draft Development Strategy**The Development Scrutiny Committee has been requested to make some observations on the above-mentioned document to assist the town council to respond to Central Bedfordshire Council’s consultation exercise. The following list of our comments is not necessarily exhaustive.1. As we have said in previous consultation exercises it is difficult for us as laypeople and volunteers to comment on a document of this length and complexity. A précis consultation document would have been very helpful.
2. To the extent that parts of the document apply exclusively to other parishes and have no implications for Sandy, we would not wish to comment.
3. We are in agreement with the Vision for Central Bedfordshire and the strategic objectives set out at Pages 11 - 13. We particularly endorse objectives 6 and 8.
4. Sandy Town Council has adopted the Sandy and Beeston Town Plan published in 2011 by the independent Town Plan Steering Group following extensive public consultation and this document will continue to have an input into our approach to development issues.
5. Sandy Town Council also supports the independent Sandy Town Team established in response to the Portus Report on the state of our High Streets and views it as a partner in securing the future of our town centre. We welcome initiatives from the unitary council intended to achieve that objective.
6. We broadly support those draft policies which are of general application to the extent that they are consistent with our resolved positions and our Town Plan.
7. We do not currently support or envisage our settlement boundaries extending beyond the physical constraints imposed by the A1, the railway, the river and the flood-plain.
8. Having previously experienced the late delivery or non-delivery of social and community infrastructure associated with new developments we welcome the commitment in this document to their timely delivery in future. (Policy 21)
9. Mindful of recent threats to resources in Sandy we welcome the unitary council’s intention to safeguard existing open space and leisure facilities. (Policy 22)
10. We support increasing the capacity for access to Sandy railway station by sustainable modes. (Policy 27) We would also like to see the overall capacity for parking at the station increased and measures taken to reduce inappropriate parking in residential streets by commuters.
11. We share the unitary council’s recognition in this document of the important contribution of tourism to the local economy. We would welcome the unitary council’s support and acknowledgment that Sandy Town Council has continued to maintain, for the benefit of the whole district, one of only two tourist information centres in Central Bedfordshire.

The Development Scrutiny Committee recognises that the Town Council may wish to add to, and/or subtract from this list. We note for example that the document makes no mention of the problems associated with the A1 highway in Sandy. |