

PUBLIC

**MINUTES** of a meeting of **IMPROVEMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - PLACES** held on Wednesday, 1 March 2023 in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Matlock.

**PRESENT**

Councillor S Bull (in the Chair)

Councillors J Siddle, A Clarke, N Gourlay, D Greenhalgh, D Murphy, J Nelson, P Niblock and R Redfern.

Also in attendance was Councillors B Bingham and S Swann.

**33/23 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (IF ANY)**

Councillor S Bull declared a personal interest in Item 37/23 as the local member for Ashbourne which included the ward of Sudbury referred to in the Minerals Local Plan.

**34/23 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 16 NOVEMBER 2022.**

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 November 2022 were confirmed as a correct record.

**35/23 PUBLIC QUESTIONS (30 MINUTE MAXIMUM IN TOTAL)**

There were no public questions.

**36/23 DERWENT VALLEY MILLS WORLD HERITAGE SITE**

Adam Lathbury, Head of Conservation, Heritage & Design, and Claire Brailsford, Director – Environment & Transport, attended the meeting to provide Members with information on issues relating to the appropriate stewardship of the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site (DVMWHS).

The Derwent Valley was inscribed as a WHS on 2 December 2002 and stretched from Derby in the south through to just south of Matlock Bath in the north. It was 24km/15 miles long and included Mason Mills, Cromford Mills, Cromford, Smedley Mills, Belper Mills, Numerous Model Farms, Belper, Milford, Darley Abbey Mills, Darley Abbey, Darley Park and the Silk Mill – now the Museum of Making. The River Derwent provided a unifying feature.

The Committee were informed of the International and National Governance of WHSs along with the Local Governance of DVMWHS which crossed 5 Local Planning Authorities (LPA): Derbyshire County Council, Derbyshire Dales District Council, Amber Valley Borough Council, Erewash Borough Council and Derby City Council. Members were provided with the funding arrangements and commitments and the current issues facing the DVMWHS.

In 2021 UNESCO had requested that HM Government provided a 'State of Conservation' Report for the DVMWHS. This was principally because of two erroneous planning applications. It was hoped that the DVMWHS would be removed from the State of Conservation reporting process, although experience from other WHSs shows that this was unlikely. The process brings an extra focus onto the appropriate stewardship of the DVMWHS. If over time the DVMWHS cannot show that it has addressed UNESCO's concerns the Site could be placed on the WHS 'In Danger' List. If action was not taken to remedy why it had been placed on this list, the Site could be struck from the World Heritage List – as happened with the historic docks in Liverpool. It should be made clear that the DVMWHS was a significant distance from being placed on the In Danger list.

The Partnership had just secured £71,000 from the National Heritage Lottery Fund (NLHF) to produce an alternative proposal for the North and East Mills site in Belper to that which had been submitted to Amber Valley Borough Council as LPA. The North and East Mills site was a key monument site in the DVMWHS and if the buildings' deteriorating condition was not appropriately addressed it was likely to reflect badly with UNESCO, especially while the Site was in a 'State of Conservation' reporting process. £10,000 from the Council, £20,000 from Historic England and up to £20,000 from the DVMWHS Partnership Reserve, held by the Council, had been secured as match funding to the NLHF Grant.

On behalf of the Committee, the Chairman thanked Adam Lathbury for his most interesting presentation.

**RESOLVED:**

That the Committee:

- a) Receives an annual update to developments on issues relating to the appropriate stewardship of the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site; and

- b) Members are updated on the latest positions regarding North and East Mills, Belper and Masson Mill, with the possibility of arranging a workshop to further consider the future of these buildings.

### **37/23 MINERALS LOCAL PLAN - UPDATE ON PROGRESS**

Michelle Spence, Development Plans Team Leader, and David Arnold, Assistant Director – Regulatory Services, attended the meeting to provide the Committee with an update on the latest position on the preparation of the Derbyshire and Derby Minerals Local Plan (MLP).

The Committee had received a report at the meeting on 27 July 2022 informing them of the purpose of the MLP and to provide an update on the latest position following the public consultation which had taken place in March/April 2022. This report summarised the progress that had been made since then and set out the current position.

To meet Regulations 19 and 35 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2021, the next stage of the process was for the two councils to publish a version of the MLP as proposed for submission to the Inspectorate (known as a pre-submission draft). The Regulation 19 consultation was the final stage of public engagement before the MLP was submitted to the Inspectorate for examination.

Officers had provided an update to the Derbyshire and Derby Development Plans Joint Advisory Committee (JAC) on 19 December 2022 on suggested alterations to the draft policies around the key themes of climate change, coal and hydrocarbons as compared to the draft policies contained in the previous consultation draft. The JAC had supported the alterations being worked up into a final form of policy wording for the pre-submission draft MLP to include:

- A strengthening of the climate change policy to require:
  - Proposals to demonstrate a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions directly associated with the development over its lifetime in line with national and local greenhouse gas targets.
  - Proposals for coal extraction to demonstrate net zero emissions from the outset.
  - Proposals to be accompanied by a climate change impact assessment setting out how measures to reduce emissions and adapt to climate change had been considered, incorporated and would be monitored and reported.

- The assessment to also include an assessment of whether there was a causal connection between the proposal and any impact on the environment associated with any indirect emissions and, whether this constituted a significant indirect effect of the proposed development.
- A presumption against the use of coal for the purposes of electricity generation and a requirement that proposals for coal extraction were 'net zero' for the whole lifetime of the development (including restoration and aftercare).
- A more precautionary approach to proposals for the exploitation of oil and gas involving hydraulic fracturing, with the inclusion of a separation distance requirement for such proposals to protect the local amenity, health, well-being and safety of nearby sensitive receptors, e.g. residences, schools, residential homes, hospitals etc. Where the distance proposed from a well site and associated infrastructure to sensitive receptors was 500 metres or less, proposals would not be supported in principle. These proposals would need to include a robust assessment of the adequacy of the proposed separation distances and any proposed mitigation measures to demonstrate the acceptability of impacts.

On 2 February 2023 Cabinet approved and supported formal publication of and public consultation on the Pre-submission Draft MLP which was attached at Appendix 2 to the report and the Plan was approved at the Council meeting on 15 February 2023.

The Chairman thanked Michelle Spence and David Arnold for their update.

**RESOLVED:**

That the Committee notes the update of the latest position regarding the preparation of the Derbyshire and Derby Minerals Local Plan.

**38/23 WORK PROGRAMME 2022-2023**

The Committee's work programme was presented and Members were invited to suggest possible items for the remainder of the municipal year 2022-23.

A draft work programme for 2023-24 had been put together and would be circulated to Members in due course, for their consideration and input.

**RESOLVED:**

That the Committee notes the 2022-23 work programme.

The meeting finished at 3.39 pm