

THE FUTURE OF HISTORIC BARNs - A PLANNING APPRAISAL

The Committee were informed that Essex County Council were concerned about the future of many old attractive farm buildings which had outlived their usefulness. A copy of a brochure which had been produced by the County Council was available for inspection. This set out the historical significance of the Essex barn, the practical implications of conversion to alternative uses and positive guidelines to assist planning authorities in making decisions as to their future.

It was reported that Policies 8 and 17 in the Rural Areas District Plan encouraged the retention of barns of architectural or historic merit. Possible alternative uses suggested by the County Council depending on the location, siting, condition and design of the building in question included housing, community or leisure uses, museums, restaurants and light industrial or craft workshops.

The Committee were informed of the various policies which the County Council commended to district planning authorities as Supplementary Planning Guidance.

RESOLVED - (a) That the County Council be congratulated on the preparation and content of this brochure.

(b) That the contents of Appendix 'C' to the Head of Planning Services' report be adopted as Supplementary Planning Guidance for future development control purposes.

PUBLIC INFORMATION LEAFLET NO. 2 - CONSERVATION AREAS

Pursuant to Minute 54 (i) (19.9.83) copies of the second public information leaflet which had been prepared were circulated in draft. The leaflet described in a simple question and answer form how Conservation Areas were chosen, where they were in the district and the implications of designation for local residents.

It was reported that copies of the first leaflet in the series had now been sent to all parish and town councils, local amenity societies, the press, the Citizens Advice Bureaux and libraries.

RESOLVED - That Information Leaflet No. 2 - Conservation Areas be approved for printing and circulation.

PLANNING CONTROL AND CROWN LAND

Pursuant to Minute 25 (6.6.83) it was reported that the Law Office of the Department of the Environment had now issued a statement that it was not open to third parties to apply for planning permission in respect of Crown Land when there was no interest in the land held otherwise than by or on behalf of the Crown. Until such an interest had been created in Crown Land, it was not subject to the Town and Country Planning Act 1971.

This meant that any party seeking to purchase Crown Land could not make a normal planning application but had to rely on informal consultation with local authorities to find out what type of development would be acceptable.

