

Maidwell with Draughton Parish Council
DRAUGHTON CLUBROOM

Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on 9 October 2019

Present: Cllrs Calnan (Chair), Cornwell, Martin, Munro, Paybody and Sanders-Hewett

856. **Apologies for absence were received:** Cllr Wright and Cllrs Harris and Parker
857. **Declaration of Personal and Prejudicial Interests** under the Council's Code of Conduct related to business on the agenda – None received
858. **Open Forum** – There were nine people in attendance of whom three chose to speak about the WNSP Consultation. They had concerns about the proposed North-South Rail along the Brampton Valley Way, in particular the potential loss of amenity, damage to the countryside caused by both the rail itself and potential for linear development (including a possible new village) and the cost of the proposal. All spoke against the idea of the North-South Rail.
859. **To consider the Issues Consultation Document published by the local planning authorities in West Northamptonshire in preparation for a new West Northamptonshire Strategic Plan (WNSP) and to decide on a response, if appropriate.** Any response is due by 5pm on 11 October.

The Parish Council resolved to object to the idea of a North-South Rail on the following grounds:-

1. No material benefit to the public from linking the Midland Mainline and the West Coast Mainline.
2. The railway is unlikely to attract local users off the A508 more than a properly resourced and sophisticated bus service would do so and lower cost.
3. Commuters and residents are unlikely to find the train a convenient and time effective method of travel between Market Harborough and Northampton.
4. The present tunnels along the route would require complete restructuring.
5. The link through to Market Harborough station will require support from Leicestershire whilst the benefit to them appears doubtful.
6. There is no evidence of desire from business for the rail or industrial development along the route.
7. The rail has no bearing on the east-west concept of the Oxford Cambridge Arc as it does not provide east-west travel.
8. The Brampton Valley Way is a highly valuable and valued asset in the area, supporting leisure, health and well-being. Conversion of it to a railway will destroy it forever.
10. The proposal is contrary to a number of the other Objectives.

The Joint Planning Unit to be informed. Prop: Cllr Sanders Hewett, Sec: Cllr Martin. Unanimous

860. **Date and Time of Next Meeting** – The next meeting will be held on **Wednesday, 13 November 2019** at 7.30 p.m. at Loder Hall. There will also be another Extraordinary meeting at 7.30 p.m. on **Wednesday, 16 October** at Loder Hall to discuss (i) LED street lighting (ii) Daventry's Settlements and Countryside Local Plan (Part 2) and (iii) the telephone box at Harborough Road, Maidwell.

861. Meeting closed at 8.05 pm.

Mrs Anne Cowan, Parish Clerk
Maidwell with Draughton Parish Council
+447762 712039
maidwellwithdraughton@gmail.com

A. Cowan

S. Calnan
.....
Date: *13/11/19*
.....