

Planning Committee

Thursday 5 April 2012

PRESENT:

Councillor Mrs Bowyer, in the Chair.
Councillor Mrs Nicholson, Vice Chair.
Councillors Mrs Aspinall, Browne, Churchill, K Foster, Mrs Foster, Stevens, Tuohy, Wheeler and Williams.

Apologies for absence: Councillors Delbridge and Vincent

Also in attendance: Peter Ford – Lead Planning Officer, Mark Lawrence – Lawyer, Ross Jago – Democratic Support Officer.

The meeting started at 1.00 pm and finished at 2.40 pm.

Note: At a future meeting, the committee will consider the accuracy of these draft minutes, so they may be subject to change. Please check the minutes of that meeting to confirm whether these minutes have been amended.

108. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest made by Councillors relating to items under discussion at this meeting in accordance with the code of conduct.

109. **ELECTION OF CHAIR**

Councillor Mrs Bowyer and Councillor Stevens were nominated for the position of Chair. Following a vote it was agreed that Councillor Mrs Bowyer was appointed as Chair for the remainder of the municipal year 2011-2012.

Councillor Browne and Councillor Mrs Nicholson were nominated for the position of Vice-Chair. Following a vote it was agreed that Councillor Mrs Nicholson was appointed as Vice-Chair for the remainder of the municipal year 2011-2012.

110. **MINUTES**

Agreed the minutes of the meeting held on 8 March 2012.

111. **NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY FRAMEWORK**

The Assistant Director of Planning services gave a verbal update on the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). Linked to the announcements in the Budget Statement on 21st March 2012 the NPPF was published by the Government on 27th March 2012 and came into force as a material planning consideration on that date for all planning applications.

It was highlighted that the NPPF replaces all of the National Planning Policy Statements, but that other guidance from government remained in place. Officers indicated that in their opinion the Plymouth Local Development Framework was 'in conformity' with the NPPF because it planned positively for growth, new jobs and new homes, was based on an extensive, continually updated, evidence base, covered all of the policy areas included in the NPPF and therefore carried the full weight of the Development Plan in determining planning applications.

Agreed that the Assistant Director of Planning Services would consider the comments of the Planning Committee and make appropriate future arrangements for a further more detailed briefing.

CHAIR'S URGENT BUSINESS

112. **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

There were no questions from members of the public.

113. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR CONSIDERATION**

The Committee considered the following applications, development proposals by local authorities, and statutory consultations submitted under the Town and Country Planning Act, 1990, and the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990.

113.1 39 MERAFIELD ROAD, PLYMPTON, PLYMOUTH. 12/00169/OUT.

(Dr Kathryn Woolaway)

Decision:

Application **GRANTED** conditionally.

(At the invitation of the Chair, the Committee heard representations against the application from Councillor Mrs Beer, ward member).

(At the invitation of the Chair, the Committee heard representations against the application).

(At the invitation of the Chair, the Committee heard representations in support of the application).

114. **OBJECTION TO TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NO. 484 - PARKER CLOSE, PLYMPTON, PLYMOUTH.**

Jane Turner, Tree Officer, provided the Committee with a report regarding an Objection to the making of Tree Preservation Order No.484, Parker Close, Plympton, Plymouth.

Agreed to confirm Tree Preservation Order No. 484 without modification.

115. **PLANNING APPLICATION: 05/I071/OUT - APPROVAL TO SEEK A SECTION 106 DEED OF VARIATION.**

Agreed to instruct the Assistant Director for Planning Services to undertake a deed of variation which amends the existing 106 Agreement as discussed in the report, to allow the public transport contribution for the development to be integrated with, and be delivered in tandem with, the Local Sustainable Transport Fund programme.

116. **BENCHMARKING OF PLANNING SERVICES**

The Assistant Director of Planning provided a presentation on a benchmarking exercise comparing the value for money and productivity of the service against comparable authorities, it was reported that Planning Services -

- (a) supported the 4th highest population and had the 4th highest number of planning applications;
- (b) had the lowest Planning and Development expenditure;
- (c) was first in the group for plan making productivity and plan-making;
- (d) was first in the group for major and minor applications determined in time;
- (e) was seventh in the group for planning application productivity (or third when the complexity of applications was factored in);
- (f) had the second lowest expenditure for Building Control;
- (g) was fifth on the percentage of applications decided by delegated powers.

The presentation was noted and the Chair of the Planning Committee asked Peter Ford, the Head of Development Management, to thank all the staff for their hard work.

117. **PLANNING APPLICATION DECISIONS ISSUED**

The Committee received a report of the Assistant Director of Development (Planning Services) on decisions issued for the period 28 February to 26 March 2012, including –

- Committee decisions
- Delegated decisions, subject to conditions where so indicated
- Applications withdrawn
- Applications returned as invalid

Please note that these Delegated Planning Applications are available for inspection at First Stop Reception, Civic Centre.

118. **APPEAL DECISIONS**

The Committee received a schedule of decisions made by the Planning Inspectorate on appeals arising from the decisions of the City Council.

119. **EXEMPT BUSINESS**

There were no items of exempt business.

SCHEDULE OF VOTING (Pages 1 - 2)

PLEASE NOTE

A SCHEDULE OF VOTING RELATING TO THE MEETING IS ATTACHED AS A SUPPLEMENT TO THESE MINUTES.