

MINUTES OF THE PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE HELD ON 6TH MAY, 2014

Present: Councillor Mrs J A Bell (Chair) and
Councillors E Bell, B Burn Snr, B Burn Jnr,
Mrs H Cahill, R Meir, Miss S Morrison,
I Paul, K Shaw, G A Shepherd, C Snowball,
R Whitehead,

Observer: Councillors Mrs G Bleasdale

Apologies: Councillors R Arthur, S Cudlip,
Mrs S Forster, N Page, K Younger

1. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Members were reminded prior to the start of the meeting of the need to disclose any interests, prejudicial or personal, in accordance with the Code of Conduct.

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 8TH APRIL, 2014

RECOMMENDED the Minutes of these meetings, copies of which had been previously printed and circulated to each Member, be approved and signed as a correct record by the Chairman

3. TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS ISSUES

a) Highway Services Weekly Update

The Committee considered the Highway Services update for week commencing 28th April, 2014 on which the Seaham locations had been highlighted.

RECOMMENDED the Council note the information now reported.

b) Terrace Green

It was reported that work had been completed on the Terrace Green and the site had been left in a deplorable state which was not enhancing the sea front. Members were advised that the Deputy Town Clerk had contacted the County Council to request this area to be turfed, however it appeared from signage displayed in the area that seeds had been planted, which would mean it would not be visually appealing for a while.

A Member also expressed concern that two fairground rides had been sited on the Terrace Green over the weekend and the Town Council had not been made aware of this. The Town Clerk explained that this had been brought to the attention of Members by the Deputy Town Clerk and subsequently a letter had been sent to the County Council to advise of the Town Council's opposition to this proposal on the grounds of the potential damage that could be caused to this site. The County Council had, however, as landowners, appeared to authorise their presence on this occasion.

RECOMMENDED:

- (i) The Council note the information now reported in relation to the seeded area on the Terrace Green.
- (ii) A letter be sent to Durham County Council to ask why the Town Council's views had not been taken into consideration when allowing the fairground rides to be sited on the Terrace Green and why the Town Council had not been advised in advance that this proposal was to go ahead.

4. **ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES**

a) **Access Newsletter**

RECOMMENDED the Council note DEFRA's Access Newsletter issue 61 which was published in April, 2014.

b) **Pollution of Coastal Waters**

RECOMMENDED Mr Latimer's correspondence dated 25th April, 2014 in relation to the above issue be noted.

5. **GENERAL ISSUES**

a) **Neighbourhood Protection Team Updates**

RECOMMENDED the Council accept the Neighbourhood Protection Team Performance Report for Seaham dated March, 2014 and note the revised Neighbourhood Protection Structure.

b) **Police and Crime Commissioner's Newsletter – April, 2014**

RECOMMENDED the April edition of the Police and Crime Commissioner's Newsletter be noted.

5. **LICENSING ISSUES**

Prior to the consideration of the following two items, Councillors E Bell and Mrs J A Bell both declared an interest and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.

a) **New Premises Licence**

The Committee considered an application for a new premises licence for the sale of alcohol and late night refreshment up to 1 am each morning for Gills Fry Fry on North Terrace and noted that the last date for representations to this application was 13th May, 2014.

In discussion Members felt that the sale of alcohol to be taken away from the premises would be detrimental to the area and could encourage anti-social behaviour. There may also be an increase in debris in the form of empty cans and bottles being discarded along the sea front and on the Terrace Green.

RECOMMENDED Durham County Council's Licensing Authority be advised of the Town Council's objections to this application for the reasons outlined.

b) Variation of Premises Licence

The Committee considered details of an application for variation of a premises licence which had been submitted by Aldi Stores Ltd.

RECOMMENDED the Council note the information now reported.

6. PLANNING ISSUES

a) Monthly List

RECOMMENDED that the list of planning applications referred to all Councillors since the last meeting, namely 5281 to 5287 as circulated be noted.

7. PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT AT DALTON HEIGHTS

Prior to consideration of the following item, Councillor Mrs G Bleasdale left the meeting.

The Committee was advised that some Members and the Town Clerk had attended a public consultation event today in respect of the proposal by Bellway Homes to build a residential development and public parkland on the land to the south of the Dalton Heights estate. Details of this development had been previously circulated to Members. Bellway Homes Ltd had also indicated that they would be happy to attend a future meeting of the Town Council to deliver a presentation on the proposals and an invitation to attend the next Arts and Information meeting to be held on 20th May had been extended to them. A Member clarified that part of the development would be within the County Council's Deneside Ward.

In discussion the following concerns were voiced:

- (i) The location of where the proposed road from the development was to exit onto the main road was questioned as this road had experienced two serious accidents in recent weeks.
- (ii) It was also questioned why this development was not to be built on a brownfield site but was proposed for the green belt.

- (iii) Feedback was only being sought by Bellway Homes via the consultation events or through social media and it was felt a greater section of the community should be consulted.
- (iv) Why was this development not included within the Durham County Plan?

RECOMMENDED the Council endorse the action taken in extending an invitation to Bellway Homes for a representative to attend the next meeting of the Arts and Information Committee to be held on Tuesday, 20th May, 2014.

8. PRESS OPPORTUNITIES

RECOMMENDED the Council note that no press opportunities existed from this meeting.