

MINUTES OF THE PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE HELD ON 12TH JANUARY, 2016

Present: Councillor C Snowball (Chair) and Councillors Mrs M R Baird, E Bell, Mrs J A Bell, B Burn Snr, B Burn Jnr, S Cudlip I Paul, B Taylor, R Whitehead, K Younger

Apologies: Councillors Mrs H Cahill, Mrs S Forster, K Shaw

Observer: Councillor R Arthur, Mrs G Bleasdale

In the absence of the Chair, the Vice-Chair Councillor C Snowball took the Chair.

(Councillor C Snowball in the Chair)

Prior to commencement of the meeting the Chair advised members of this Committee and members of the public that in line with the amendment to 'the public bodies (admission to meetings) act 1960', which came into force in August, 2014, parts of this meeting may be recorded by photographic, video and audio means.

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 1ST DECEMBER, 2015

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

3.1 Dawdon Dene Railway Viaduct

The Council was asked to note copies of correspondence received prior to the festive break which were distributed to Councillors in December 2015. The correspondence gave notification of works scheduled to be carried out by Amey on Tuesday 22nd December 2015.

RECOMMENDED the Council note the information.

3.2 Proposed Part-time 20 mph Speed Limit in the vicinity of Six Schools in Seaham

The Council was asked to note correspondence received from Durham County Council which gave notification of their intention to introduce a part-time speed limit in the vicinity of six schools in Seaham and which requested

any comments by 5th February 2016. In discussion, Members agreed wholeheartedly with the proposal however concerns were raised with regard to how the reduced speed limit would be monitored and enforced. Concerns were also raised with regard to any impact on the Fire Service responding from the fire station on Princess Road and also the consistency of approach of the crossing guards as some appeared to halt traffic for different reasons to their counterparts.

RECOMMENDED:

- (i) The Council note the information.
- (ii) Durham County Council be notified of the support of the Town Council for the proposal.
- (iii) The concerns of the Members be relayed to Durham County Council and a request be made for all of the school crossing guards to attend a refresher event at Seaham Town Hall to remind them of the protocols they all should follow.

4. PLANNING ISSUES

4.1 Monthly List

RECOMMENDED the list of planning applications referred to all Councillors since the last meeting, namely 5377 to 5382 as circulated be noted.

4.2 Resubmission Proposed Residential Development at Dalton Heights

Prior to consideration of the following item, Councillors Mrs G Bleasdale and S Cudlip left the meeting.

The Committee was advised that Bellway Homes had resubmitted its application for planning permission for a proposal to build a residential development and public parkland on the land to the south of the Dalton Heights estate. The resubmission indicates a reduction in the proposed number of properties from 135 to 75 and access to the development now appears to be from within the current Dalton Heights estate and not from the B1285, Stockton Road. The deadline for comments is 28th January 2016. In discussion, Members acknowledged that the Town Council had previously objected to the original application and that concerns were with regard to road safety implications at that location.

RECOMMENDED this item is deferred for consideration to enable a suitable response to be submitted prior to the deadline.

5. RISK ASSESSMENTS – PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

The Council was reminded of the requirement as part of the corporate governance

processes for risk assessments to be undertaken in relation to various activities. At regular intervals Members had been provided with reports on progress made in this area and the Committee was advised of the process involved in carrying out initial assessments made of risks in a range of planning and environmental activities. The Committee noted the process followed in assessing the risks.

RECOMMENDED the Council formally agree to accept the risk assessments covering the various items now reported.

6. PRESS OPPORTUNITIES

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