

Droitwich Spa Town Council

MINUTES of the meeting of the **PLANNING COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, St Richards House, Victoria Square, Droitwich Spa, on Monday 29 July 2019 at 6.00pm.

PRESENT: Councillor G Duffy – Chairman
Councillor GR Brookes- Vice Chairman
Councillor G Beale
Councillor E Bowden
Councillor J Grady
Councillor RP Hopkins
Councillor A Humphries
Councillor AM Sinton
Councillor WT Moy (Ex officio)

NON-MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillors, Mrs C Bowden, Mrs JM Chaudry, Mrs K Fellows, DJ Morris, RJ Morris and CM Murray.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillor DM Craigie

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were none received.

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85. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor RJ Morris declared a non- pecuniary interest in application reference 19/01457HP- 29 Nuffield Drive, Droitwich Spa WR9 0DJ for the reason that he used to be a Town Council Committee member with the applicant – former Town Councillor Mr C Sarfo.

86. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD ON 1 JULY 2019.

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning Committee held on 1 July 2019 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

87. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Councillor RP Hopkins abstained from the vote in decision making for application reference 19/01476/HP- 31 Waterside, Droitwich Spa, WR9 8UL.

Councillors E Bowden and AM Sinton abstained from the votes in decision making for application reference 17/02334/OUT- Casa Colina, Newland Road, Droitwich Spa, WR9 7JQ & application reference 18/02558/FUL- Land at Yew Tree Hill, Newland Road, Droitwich Spa.

RESOLVED That the comments of the Planning Committee upon the planning applications received from Wychavon District Council, appended as a schedule to these Minutes, be approved.

That the proposal from Councillor RP Hopkins be acted on for the Town Clerk to contact Wychavon District Council planning

department in writing and express disappointment that an inaccessible attachment was an associated document for planning case reference 19/01457/HP. Whilst this was corrected following invention on 29 July 2019 the concerns raised are that whilst inaccessible the document appeared unchecked & was not available for free access in the public domain.

88. AMENDED PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Amended planning applications – 17/02334/OUT, Casa Colina, Newland Road, Droitwich Spa, WR9 7JQ. Residential development of land of up to 9 dwellings following the removal of the existing dwelling. Amendment dated 2 July 2019 stipulates that the site boundary should include access from Woodland Way. This application was discussed and resolved for response as part of the listed schedule of planning application considered under minute reference 87.

89. DECISIONS OF THE LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY

(A) Approval Notices: Wychavon District Council, the Local Planning Authority, has issued 6 approval notices, 5 of which did accord with the recommendations of the Town Council.

The application which did not accord is Application reference number 19/000738/FUL – Garage blocks and vacant land, Drovers Way, Droitwich Spa. Councillor RP Hopkins expressed concern to the Chairman that a commitment had been made to residents attending the Town Council Planning Committee public participation before the meetings on 10 June and 1 July 2019 that the application would be called to Committee at WDC by the local District Ward Member, in this case Councillor G Duffy himself. Furthermore it was expressed that this assurance had not been met and the residents would appear to have been let down and misled. Councillor G Duffy responded that the Developer representative (Fortis Living) and the planning case officer from WDC had contacted him the next morning (2 July 2019) to explain that the amended plans for the application did include options to resolve neighbour’s concerns. For this reason Councillor Duffy had decided not to call the application to Committee and neither to request a site visit. It was also noted in general discussion that the Town Council had not been consulted by WDC with the aforementioned amended plans for the application and that the residents with concerns would not have been notified of the subsequent “delegated” granting of the planning permission decision made on 12 July 2019. Councillor Hopkins stated that the main point of contention was the erection of suitable perimeter fences which would hopefully resolve the concerns satisfactorily.

(B) Refusal Notices: Wychavon District Council, the Local Planning Authority has issued one refusal notice in the intervening period since the last DSTC Planning Committee meeting held on 1 July 2019 for application reference 19/00515/OUT- erection of 5 dwellings, Yew Tree Farm, Newland Road, Droitwich Spa, WR9 7JQ.

90. VEHICLE ACTIVATED SPEED WARNING SIGNS (VAS)

To note that Pursuant to Minute reference 18 of the Town Council, Planning Committee meeting held on 10 June 2019. To confirm that two further portable VAS locations have been suggested by Worcestershire County Council Highways Officer with the option to grant the requisite licences. These follow assessments of various requests submitted for consideration of additional sign locations in the general proximity.

- Briar Mill between Westwood Road and Ombersley Road. Lamp post 16 near to the High School entrance/exit to enable two direction facing for traffic approaching the school gate from the bus terminus and Westwood Way.
- Tagwell Road vicinity of St Peters playing fields. Lamp post 13 near Adrian Close to enable two direction monitoring on this narrow section.

- The request for consideration for a location on Westwood Road adjacent Park Way is not considered suitable for road safety reasons given the proximity of the mini roundabout intersection with Briar Mill and Westwood Way.
- To consider the generous contribution offer from Councillor RJ Morris to expend £3510.00 of his County Council Divisional Ward Funding to purchase an additional portable VAS for use exclusively on Westwood Way and Westwood Road in Droitwich Spa. The request requires a resolution in order to make provision for a commitment to order and pay with the manufacturer prior to receipt of the Divisional Monies.

Councillor RP Hopkins raised further concerns about speeding on Westwood Road & misuse by motorists of the mini roundabout which intersects with Briar Mill and Westwood Way. Concern was expressed that the Highways Officer has assessed the incorrect location for the suggested additional VAS location in the vicinity of Park Way on Westwood Road and a request was made for the Town Clerk to arrange for a review and further inspection by the Highways Officer.

Councillor RJ Morris expressed the opinion that the aforementioned Briar Mill location (Lamp Post 16) was also unsuitable and that a similar request be made for the Highways Officer to assess an alternative location nearer to the Leisure Centre entrance. He also suggested that the Wychavon District Council, Community Safety Officer may be able to assist counter the problems associated with motorists misusing the mini roundabout at the intersection of Westwood Way, Westwood Road and Briar Mill.

RESOLVED That the Town Clerk contact the Highways Officer and arrange a joint reassessment of the following locations for portable VAS suitability and licencing.

- 1) Westwood Road in the vicinity of Parkway.
- 2) Briar Mill in the vicinity of the Leisure Centre

That the Town Clerk contact the Wychavon District Council, Community Safety Officer to enquire whether they can help manage the problem associated with motorists misusing the mini roundabout intersection of Westwood Way, Westwood Road and Briar Mill.

91. KERBSIDE PARKING ON THE HOLLOWAY

An update was received from Councillor J Grady regarding the increase of cars parked on the Holloway especially overnight and associated difficulties. The Town Clerk explained that existing yellow line sections of the road are enforceable through the Wychavon District Council, Parking Services Department traffic wardens. Should a review of further yellow line provision be considered necessary a formal request will be required through approaching the Traffic Management Team within Worcestershire County Council, Highways - Engineering Department. Councillor GR Brookes confirmed this was the procedure to follow. The Town Clerk added that vehicles causing an obstruction in any delineated section of the Highway was a matter for the Police to enforce and contact was recommended through the 101 telephone service for Local CSO Team attention.

A general discussion took place which considered that a formal review of the yellow line provision could lead to a reduction of available kerb side parking space which may adversely affect residents where there was already a shortage of off road parking in the neighbourhood. The assessment process would include full consultation should any changes be proposed following review. Various opinions were put forward including that the amount of kerbside parking on the Holloway, especially overnight does represent a collision risk for motorists, by forcing travelling vehicles in to the centre of the narrow and constrained roadway. The theory that parked cars

actually help suppress speeding was also discussed. It was noted that the West Mercia Safer Roads partnership do currently undertake periodic speeding enforcement activity on the Holloway. Councillor GR Brookes abstained from the vote.

RESOLVED That the Town Clerk contacts Worcestershire County Council, Highways Engineering Department to request a formal review of the yellow lines provision and any suitable road safety measures for the Holloway road in Droitwich Spa.

92. WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Town Centre Improvement Works. The Town Clerk reported that following advance notification by Mr T Godwin, Highways Officer from Worcestershire County Council on 15 July 2019 the anticipated improvement scheme for pavements and parking provision for the areas of Colman Road and Ombersley Street East are scheduled to be carried out between 12 August 2019 and 12 September 2019. Work is expected to take approximately two weeks within this timeframe and for the main part will take place between 8pm and 6am daily. The scheme will include the approach to the Salt Way underpass adjacent the Medical Centre. Provision is being considered to extend the pavement section marked as finishing at the junctions of Winnetts Lane & Heritage Way (adjacent Barclays Bank) further to join with Victoria Square (adjacent the bus shelter-pagoda).

In general discussion various concerns were made by Members that the proposal did not make sufficient provision for disabled person's parking space.

[The information was noted].

93. WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Road Traffic Act 1984 (as amended). Traffic Regulation Order to prohibit any vehicle from turning right out of Drury Lane, Martin Hussingtree northern access onto A38 Droitwich Road. The order will commence operation from 25 July 2019. *[The making of the order was noted]*

94. AMENDMENT OF PLANNING COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

As an additional agenda item Councillor AM Sinton requested to stand down from the Town Council Planning Committee with immediate effect for the remainder of the Municipal Year and to be replaced by Councillor Mrs C Bowden. This was explained as being Leader of the Town Council and a Member of the Wychavon District Council, Planning Committee can present a potential conflict of interest situation if not changed. Councillor AM Sinton also suggested that it would be useful to request Wychavon Planning Officers to present to the Town Council Planning Committee at a future opportunity and to help clarify the role of the Town Council as a consultee for planning matters. The Town Clerk noted this suggestion.

RESOLVED That Councillor AM Sinton be replaced as a Member of the Town Council Planning Committee with immediate effect for the remainder of the Municipal Year and be replaced by Councillor Mrs C Bowden

The meeting closed at 7.10 pm.

Chairman of Committee
9 September 2019

Chairman of Council
23 September 2019