

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 10 November 2014 at 6.00pm.

PRESENT: Councillor R E Murphy (Chairman)
Councillor T J Noyes (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor G R Brookes (Ex-officio)
Councillor Mrs P E Davey
Councillor E Harwood
Councillor K J Jennings

NON-MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillor M C J Barratt, Mrs G Noyes, A M Sinton and Mrs E A Taft.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillors Mrs M A Lawley and R J Morris (committee members) also Councillor R G Beale.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were none.

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151 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor G R Brookes declared an interest in Agenda Item 5(a) Planning Applications: W/14/02311/PP – Mrs L Naish, inasmuch as the Applicant's husband was employed at Councillor Brookes' company.

152 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD ON 13 OCTOBER 2014

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning Committee held on 13 October 2014 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

153 PRESENTATION BY MR STUART HEYWOOD, CIVIC SOCIETY – POTENTIAL FOR UNION LANE REGENERATION

[Handouts of the presentation were available at the meeting.]

The Chairman welcomed Mr Stuart Heywood and his colleagues from the Civic Society Mike Hazledene, Richard Taylor and George Leech, to the meeting. The Civic Society had been tasked by the Town Council to look at the redevelopment of the Union lane area, in the light of the likely closure of the Baxenden Chemical Works to establish local aspirations prior to the production by Wychavon District Council Planning Officers of planning guidelines for the nearby sites Netherwich Basin, Pipe Works site and the Railway Triangle.

Mr Heywood advised upon the Civic Society's ideas that had been prompted by the possibility of the availability of the coal yard some years ago, and which acknowledged the current limited interest in office developments whilst taking the opportunity to increase visitor interest/facilities in the area, to improve accesses to and from the station to the town and Netherwich Basin/Vines Park and to investigate the relationship with the adjacent North street commercial units and the town centre.

Individual Councillors debated the merits or otherwise of the suggestions, which included:

- a road link for where the north end of the Coal Yard site met Hampton Rd at the bridge junction with the Kidderminster Rd, beside the boxing club site;
- for Union Lane site to close off the steep slope of the road to create a small green area at the heart of the development, connecting upper and lower areas; existing and new; housing and commercial; the canal basin and the station;
- improve footpath and cycle links including the provision of a footbridge over the Saltway from North Street to Covercroft;
- the old weighbridge to become railway station frontage, with direct links to platforms and parking, improved pedestrian links to Ombersley Way and North Street, Ledwych Road and Salwarpe Road;
- the opportunity for a 'landmark' building for office accommodation alongside the railway station, with underground car parking.

The Committee accepted that this was a 'wish list' and that the concepts outlined required additional work as to clarification of leisure uses, deliverability, economic development requirements re: offices and car parking. Councillor Jennings advised that it would be good to speak to Mrs Janet Yates, Area Partnership Manager and Mr Phil Merrick Head, Community & Planning Services to progress with the economic development requirements in the first instance.

The Chairman thanked Mr Heywood and the members of the Civic Society for their thought-provoking presentation and was sure that the Town Council would take cognisance of these at the relevant time.

[Comments of Councillor R J Morris advising of the need for an archaeological dig on the Baxenden site were circulated at the meeting.]

154 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

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.

155 AMENDED PLANNING APPLICATIONS

There were none.

156 DECISIONS OF THE LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY

It was noted that Wychavon District Council, the Local Planning Authority, had issued eight approval notices, all but one of which had accorded with the recommendations of the Town Council. One refusal notice had been issued and this accorded with the recommendation of the Town Council thereon.

157 WYCHAVON DISTRICT COUNCIL – CONSULTATION ON STREET TRADING

The Committee noted that Street Trading was already controlled in the urban areas of Wychavon District and that this included Droitwich Spa.

It was therefore

RESOLVED That for the purposes of Droitwich Spa, Wychavon District Council be advised that the Town Council wishes to see no change to the arrangements for the town and that therefore Street Trading continues to be controlled here.

The meeting ended at 6.59pm.

Chairman of Committee
8 December 2014

Chairman of Council
15 December 2014