

PLANNING FORUM

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 20 September 2010 at the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT:

Warwick District Councillors of the Forum: Councillor Mrs Bunker, Crowther, Ms Dean, Guest, Illingworth, MacKay, Shilton and Mrs Tyrrell.

Representatives of Town and Parish Councils and other Organisations of the Forum:

Barford Sherbourne & Wasperton Joint Parish Council	Councillor A Gordon
Barford Sherbourne & Wasperton Joint Parish Council	Councillor J Murphy
Barford Sherbourne & Wasperton Joint Parish Council	Councillor R Mulgrue
Bishops Tachbrook Parish Council	Councillor R Bullen
Bishops Tachbrook Parish Council	Councillor R Brookes
Bishops Tachbrook Parish Council	Councillor S Deely
CPRE Warwickshire	Mr N Jeffs
CPRE Warwickshire	Mr M Sullivan
Cubbington Parish Council	Councillor D Morris
Leamington Town Council	Councillor Wheeler
Leek Wootton & Guys Cliffe Parish Council	Councillor R Coates
Leek Wootton & Guys Cliffe Parish Council	Councillor A Moore
Ramblers Association	Mr S Wallsgrove
Residents of Central Kenilworth	Mr A Garsed
Warwick Society	Mr J MacKay
Whitnash Town Council	Councillor Mrs J Falp

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Boad and Mrs Sawdon.

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

It was proposed duly seconded and resolved that Councillor Guest be appointed as Chairman for the ensuing municipal year.

2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

It was proposed, duly seconded and resolved that Councillor Dhillon be appointed as Vice-Chairman for the ensuing municipal year.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

4. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 4 February 2010 were taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

5. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

6. ITEMS FROM BUDBROOKE PARISH COUNCIL

PLANNING FORUM MINUTES (Continued)

- (A) They would like to discuss this development W10/0073: The Opus 40 development in Warwick.

There were no representatives from Budbrooke Parish Council present at the meeting so this was not discussed.

- (B) In relation to the application in (A) above, the Parish Council felt the Planning Department frequently disregarded their views when responding to planning applications and wished to discuss this.

Although there were no representatives present from Budbrook Parish Council views were expressed by Councillor Wheeler from Royal Leamington Town Council regarding comments they had made in the past that he felt had not been listened to and asked for concerns regarding appearance to be taken into account.

Councillor Illingworth, who is the Chairman of Warwick District Councils Planning Committee, disagreed with this statement pointing out that the Parish Council objecting to an application are able to speak at the meetings and that the Committee would always sympathise with them and their views.

Councillor Shilton suggested that Town and Parish Councillors and representatives from these Councils could be invited to attend the training sessions that the Planning Committee receives.

Steven Wallsgrove, who attended the meeting on behalf of the Ramblers association asked to speak in his capacity as a Warwick District Council Development Control Officer. He explained that officers were only able to consider the part of the application which requested planning permission. This meant that if there was an alteration to how a building looked it might not need permission. He added that the officers were always willing to talk with anyone wanting to place an objection and agreed that training may be useful.

7. ITEMS FROM BUDBROOKE PARISH COUNCIL

- (A) They would like to receive an update on the core strategy and location of Gypsy Traveller Sites.

Gary Stephens, Group Leader for Policy Projects and Conservation, gave a presentation at the meeting, which provided an update on the Core Strategy. He explained that there had been recent government announcements which included revocation of the Regional Spatial Strategy, abolishing of the Gypsy and Traveller Planning Circular to be replaced with 'light touch' guidance, the introduction of the Decentralisation and Localism Bill, a new national planning policy, a New Homes Bonus Scheme, and the re-issue of the National Housing Policy PPS3.

He went on to explain the key consequences these changes could cause, including the removal of the strategic housing requirement, the removal of strategic employment land requirement and removal of the strategic town centres role. Finally he informed the group of all the policies that were no longer relevant to the local plan.

PLANNING FORUM MINUTES (Continued)

Following the presentation a number of Councillors expressed concerns regarding the lack of housing land available in the District including the land needed to build amenities near the new houses. A number of Councillors agreed that working with communities and Parish and Town Councils to look into what would be accepted as housing was needed in the District. However, some Councillors did not think that communities would welcome new developments in their area.

Mr Sullivan from CPRE Warwickshire expressed his concerns regarding the policies and problems caused by the changes that were outlined in the presentation.

Councillor Brookes from Bishops Tachbrook Parish Council informed the forum that they had carried out a housing needs survey in the Parish to establish if there was a need for more houses. From this they found that 14 homes would be needed.

Councillor Illingworth pointed out that Warwick District Council had a stronger policy than what was suggested by the government.

Gary Stephens agreed to circulate a copy of his presentation with the notes of the meeting.

(The meeting ended at 8.20pm)