

PLANNING FORUM

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 19 September 2011 at the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT:

Warwick District Councillors of the Forum: Councillors Mrs Bunker, Copping, Ms Dean, Dhillon, Illingworth, MacKay, Mrs Tyrrell and Weed.

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

Beausale, Hasley, Honley and Wroxhall Parish Council	Councillor C Lewis
Bishop's Tachbrook Parish Council	Councillor R Bullen
Cubbington Parish Council	Councillor D Cox
Cubbington Parish Council	Councillor Mrs M Cashmore
Inland Waterways Association	Mr G Nicholson
Kenilworth Society	Mrs J Illingworth
Kenilworth Society	Mrs P Cain
Kenilworth Town Council	Councillor M Coker
Kenilworth Town Council	Councillor J Cooke
Lapworth Parish Council	Councillor Mrs Jay
Leamington Society	Mr R Ashworth
Leek Wootton & Guys Cliffe Parish Council	Councillor R Coates
Leek Wootton & Guys Cliffe Parish Council & Warwickshire Association of Local Council's R.O.C.K	Councillor A Moore
Rowington Parish Council	Mr A Garsed
Royal Leamington Spa Chamber of Trade	Councillor D Weir
Warwick Society	Mr N Stephens
Warwick Town Council and Warwick Gates Residents Association	Mr A Butcher
Whitnash Town Council	Councillor Mrs A Mellor
	Councillor B Smart

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor Mrs Bromley and Councillor Mrs Gallagher.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Guest and Shilton.

1. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

2. **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN**

RESOLVED that Councillor Guest be appointed as Chairman for the ensuing municipal year.

3. **APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**

RESOLVED that Councillor Mrs Bunker be appointed as Vice-Chairman for the ensuing municipal year.

4. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 February 2011 were taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

5. UPDATE ON PLANNING MATTERS FROM WARWICK DISTRICT COUNCIL

The forum received a presentation from the Planning Policy and Conservation Team Leader detailing the recent restructure of the Development Control Team along with the Council's position on its existing Local Plan and the introduction of a new Local Plan.

The Team Leader responded to questions from the Forum explaining the following points:

- The majority of Warwick District Local Plan was saved last year but some areas of the plan were out of date. Therefore the Council was in a relatively strong position if any changes in the National Planning process were brought in especially because the Council was now starting to develop a new local plan which would gain more weight for making decisions with each stage it progressed through;
- The Government suggested that the new National Planning Framework would come into place from 1 April 2012 however to date they have not explained what the implications and requirements would be on those authorities who had not implemented a new Local Plan by this time. Irrespective of this a timetable had been approved by the Warwick District Council Executive to deliver the Council's Local Plan;
- It was understood that the Government did not want to weaken the position on the protection of the Green Belt and Warwick District Council had a plan to protect this because it recognised the importance of these spaces;
- Section 106 agreements were part of the mitigation programme for the impact of any development. If Groups had concerns about the impact of a development these could be raised as part of a development review forum, as part of the consultation on an application and directly with the developer;
- The pre application forums had to date been very useful and details of them were available via the Council's website. This included details of the meetings to take place and summaries of what was discussed at the forum. These were an important part of the planning process for applications and developers were keen to use these as a way to engage with the community;
- A key focus of the local plan was to encourage regeneration of brown field sites. The prioritisation for development on brown field or green field development would in the end be a decision for the Council;
- It was important for the Council to ensure that there was employment land available for development at the end of the down turn. However the Council was fortunate in that good sites were available for development at present; and
- The Council was aware of issues raised by Parish Councils with regard to the use of fields for keeping horses in place of agricultural use. There was potential for neighbourhood plans to support the local plan to reflect local concerns and help to address these. Development Services were prepared to assist Councils with this as far as possible.

The Civic & Committee Services Manager and Deputy Monitoring Officer explained the importance of member involvement at development review forums to ensure that any views provided were open. If a member was required to determine an application at a later date it was important that they were explicit in advising the meeting that although they had seen the development at a pre application stage this was the final application and they needed to consider all views prior to taking a decision.

PLANNING FORUM MINUTES (Continued)

Councillor Illingworth explained that a significant challenge faced by this District and others was that a number of approved applications had not been completed. There was a need for the Government to apply pressure on developers to rectify this.

4. REVIEW OF THE PLANNING FORUM

The forum received a presentation from the Planning Policy and Conservation Team Leader explaining the comments received from survey of members.

It was agreed by consent that officers produce a draft proposal for changes to the forum based on the feedback and circulate these for comments ahead of the next forum to enable an engaged debate at the meeting.

5. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held at the Town Hall, Leamington Spa, on 2 February 2012 at 7.00pm.

(The meeting ended at 8.22pm)