

# **STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 4 April 2012 at the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa at 6.00 pm.

## **PRESENT:**

Councillors: Ms Dean, Mrs Falp, Wilkinson, Williams and Wreford-Bush .

Independent representatives: Mr C Bennett, Miss J Ratcliffe and Mr P Willers.

Parish and Town Council representatives: Councillors: Cooke, Mrs Gordon and Owen.

Officers: Mr G Leach (Civic and Committee Services Manager and Deputy Monitoring Officer) and Mr G Stephens (Development Manager)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Kirton and Parish/Town Council representative Councillor B Smart and Independent Representative Mr C Purser.

Councillor Wilkinson substituted for Councillor Mrs Knight and Councillor Wreford-Bush Substituted for Councillor Mrs Syson.

In the absence of the Chairman, Mr P Willers, as Vice Chairman of the Committee, chaired the meeting.

## **23. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

## **24. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 4 October 2011 were taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

## **25. REVIEW OF DEVELOPMENT REVIEW FORUM**

The Committee considered a report from Development Services that detailed how the Council's Development Review forum had progressed since its introduction two years ago.

The Planning Committee considered at its meeting of 6 January 2010 to introduce Councillors involvement at the pre-application stage of development (i.e. before submission of a planning application to the Council). A copy of the report was attached as an Appendix to the report which set out the justification and purpose of Councillors involvement. The Committee had resolved to approve a protocol for the operation of a Development Forum (attached as Appendix B). This protocol came into force in April 2010 and set out how the Forum should operate in practice.

The Forum had met on six occasions, with a number of requests outstanding for future meetings.

## **STANDARDS COMMITTEE MINUTES (Continued)**

The presentations were available to view on the District Council's website, along with a summary of the questions and answers from the Forum. Members of the Standards Committee had been invited to attend a forum meeting last year.

The Forum appeared to be working well and a number of prospective developers had taken up the opportunity to attend. Positive feedback had been received from those developers who had presented to the Forum. Officers were happy with its operation, although there were some minor changes to improve its operation which would be considered in due course.

The approach of the Council to its Forum was consistent with the Government's recently published Draft National Planning Policy Framework which encouraged pre-application engagement with developers.

It was outlined to the Committee that the Council had received positive feedback from developers and other parties who had taken part.

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted

### 26. **WORK PLAN**

The Committee considered its work plan for the ensuing municipal year.

The Civic and Committee Services Manager and Deputy Monitoring Officer informed the meeting that it was likely a new date for the June meeting would be set.

**RESOLVED** that the work plan be noted.

(The meeting ended at 6.26 pm)