

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 2<sup>nd</sup> NOVEMBER 2005**

**PRESENT**

Mrs Holmes presided over Mrs Harrison, Messrs. Mackin, Leith, Steeples and Fisher.

**1. APOLOGIES**

Mr Gray.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

Before the meeting began, the committee welcomed the local Somerfield Store Manager who arrived to discuss various issues relating to nuisance behaviour on the store's car park and surrounding area.

**3. PLANS FOR CONSIDERATION**

No plans received.

**4. DECISIONS**

Notice of Approval of Planning Permission

05/01357/LB

Retention of existing main fascia sign, removal of smaller sign above window and removal of lighting bracket and illumination to main sign.

46-48 High Street.

Notice of Approval of Planning Permission

05/01135/FULL

Replacement single storey rear extension and replacement of detached single garage.

25 Bury Road.

Withdrawal of Planning Application

05/01549/FULL

Single storey side and rear extension

2 Bentley Mews.

Town and Country Planning Act 1990 : Section 191 and 192

05/01321/LDCP

The proposed conversion of the integral garage to a habitable room is permitted development provided that condition 9 of planning permission MB/90/01295 granted 3 March 1994 is met in respect of the needs to provide parking in accordance with the Authority's current parking standards.

First schedule : Lawful Development Certificate (proposed): Conversion of integral garage to habitable room.

Second Schedule : 8 Arnhem Place.

## **5. STATISTICS – SPEED INDICATION DEVICE**

County Councillor Mr Younger informed members that he had hired a speed indication device from Bedfordshire County Council in order to check speeding traffic in Ampthill Road, Clifton Road, Bedford Road and Churchill Way. The County Council forwarded a copy of the report carried out by Mr Younger showing the various speed ranges and the numbers of vehicles observed in each range. It was noted that both Ampthill Road and Bedford Road had the highest proportion of speeding vehicles with over 40% of vehicles exceeding the 30 mph limit.

## **6. RESIDENT'S COMPLAINT – BELLCOTE MEADOW CHANGING ROOM**

An e:mail has been received from a resident regarding the dilapidated state of the Bellcote Meadow changing rooms. The resident is to be informed that a member of the Shefford Saints F C (Juniors) has been contacted and the Council has received assurances from him that a working party of parents has been formed and a programme of decorating and maintenance should be carried out in due course. The committee will monitor the progress accordingly.

## **7. BEDS C C - LONDON LUTON AIRPORT MASTER PLAN**

A letter has been received from the Assistant Principal Planner (Strategic Planning) of the County Council informing the committee that on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2005 the London Luton Airport Operators Ltd issued their Draft Airport Master Plan. The committee was informed that the County Council will be sending it's views on the Draft Plan at the end of January but would welcome a response from the Town Council. A reply is to be sent regarding the likely economic benefits and job opportunities but also a warning that full attention should be given to both traffic flows and requisite infrastructure.

## **8. BEDS C C - PROVISIONAL LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN**

Notification has been received from the County Council informing members that they are currently developing Bedfordshire's Second Local Transport Plan for the 2006/7 to 2010/11 period which sets out their strategy for transport in the County. The significant aspects of the Plan are to deliver their existing commitments, Consolidating their position and their preparation for growth. As part of developing the Final LTP for the end of March 2006, the County Council is seeking to involve both the public and stakeholder groups in determining the priorities for the Plan. As a result of this LPT2 Public Exhibitions will be held at various venues around the county. Mr Mackin informed the committee that he hoped to attend the exhibition at Biggleswade Library on 30<sup>th</sup> November if work commitments allow. This information from the County Council is to be placed on the agenda of the next Services and Maintenance committee meeting.

## **9. PUBLIC CONSULTATION – DRAFT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

The above document has been received has been received from the County Council. Mrs Holmes agreed to study the draft and report back in due course. A further attempt is to be made regarding the committee's request to the Licensing Officer at the District Council that all information relating to licensing applications should be passed to the Town Council as they are the authority with local knowledge. Regrettably a response has from an earlier request never been received from the District Council although such a request would be deemed an example of Community Involvement

## **10. PROBATION SERVICE**

A letter has been received from the District Council informing the committee that in partnership with the Bedfordshire Probation Service they are seeking requests from Town Councils and other authorities for projects which would be deemed suitable for Community Service Project Work within Mid Beds. Any suitable projects should be forwarded to the Community Services Manager at Mid Beds District Council although the letter pointed out that there would be no guarantee that suggested projects would be accepted.

## **11. VIDEO WEB CAMERA**

A resident has written to the committee informing them that about a year ago St Michael and All Angels Church PCC was asked if a Web Camera could be sited in the Bell Chamber of the Church Tower, so users of the Town Web Site could observe general town activities. Confirmation of the availability of this site was received from the Church Commissioners and an extra power point was provided for the requirements of the camera. Connection to the Web was to be made via a radio link to one of the flats above the Library using a computer in the flat. Unfortunately the occupant who was instrumental in assisting with the installation is no longer available. However, the Conservative Club at the rear of the Church has now come forward with an offer of a connection to the Web via equipment in their office. The letter asks that as the Council is owner of the Website would they like the resident to explore the prospect further. The committee is to reply that they are interested in principle but would welcome an idea as to the possible costs.

## **12. "YOUR VOICE" WEBSITE**

A letter has been received from the Field Officer (Community Planning) at the Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity informing members that they are looking for more effective ways of linking individuals with their communities and those communities with the strategic decision makers at county, regional and national levels. The letter further informs members that the BRCC runs a "Your Voice" website which aims to support public participation in the community. A reply is to be sent informing the Officer that the town has both a website and a quarterly magazine. Public meetings are also held on a monthly basis whereby members of the community are always welcome. However, a link could be made between the BRCC and the town's website to allow feedback which ideally would need to be 'post-coded' thus giving an indication as to general area. Such a system would also need to implement a method whereby some form of feed-back was generated.

## **13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Members were informed that an order for the purchase of a new computer system and a cheque had been sent now that three quotations had been received.

It was thought prudent to precept for a new computer system in five years time.

Instructions are to be sent to the play area contractor for the urgent replacement of the wooden ramp at the St Michael's Church play area site.

Remedial road/pavement work required in Ivel Road as well as the area round the bus stop.

The meeting closed at 10.05 p.m.

