

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 16TH FEBRUARY 2005

PRESENT

Mr. Gray presided over Mesdames Harrison and Holmes, Messrs. Mackin, Leith and Fisher.

1. APOLOGIES

Mr. Steeples.

2. DECLARATIONS

Mrs. Harrison declared an interest in Planning Application Number 05/00214/TPO

3. PLANS FOR CONSIDERATION

05/00059/FULL

External alterations to building.

10-14 Clifton Road.

Objection:- Adverse impact on the character and appearance of the area. Suspicion that there are conditions appertaining to this property which state that any alterations must be sympathetic to the original character of the building.

05/00214/TPO

Remove deadwood and raise canopies of 5 Oak trees by 3 metres. Reduce crown of Oak tree by 25%, remove deadwood and crossing branches. Reduce Oak tree back to 6 ft. below fork, shape and remove lowest growth to 3 metres. Remove deadwood and raise canopies of three Oak trees to approx. 3 metres. Raise canopy of Oak tree and pollard leaving main stem as habitat.

Digswell Park, Hitchin Road.

No objection.

05/00182/ADV

Replacement signage.

23 Clifton Road.

No objection.

05/00157/FULL

First floor extension, single storey rear and single storey front extensions.

28 Montgomery Avenue.

No objection:- comment to say that extensions appear to be of an excessive size and will have an adverse impact on the character and appearance of the area.

05/00220/FULL

Change of use of land to form extension to existing touring caravan site.
Hoo Farm, Chapel Road, Meppershall.

Objection:- Narrative states that this is an existing touring caravan site and not an existing caravan storage site and is therefore recorded incorrectly. The Committee agreed that the site is acceptable for storage of touring caravans but it not acceptable for residential purposes as implied.

4. DECISIONS

Notice of Approval of Planning Permission

04/02001/FULL

Relocation of playground. Existing swings to remain on existing site.
Shefford Town Memorial Association.

Notice of Refusal of Planning Permission

04/01956/FULL

Single storey front extension installation of bow window and erection of detached single garage.
1 Tippett Drive.

5. SKATE PARK – NEW PLAN

At the last meeting of the Planning and Environment Committee meeting Mr. Lynch was informed that although the Committee was generally supportive of a skate park there wasn't any suitable or available land in the town. Bearing this in mind he has now forwarded a copy of a plan for a smaller park. However, he is to be informed that regrettably the situation remains the same in spite of this reduction in area. Mid Beds D C are to be contacted to ascertain the current situation and progress of the proposed Bedford Road sports facility.

6. COMMUNITY GROUPS

An e:mail has been received from Central Division of Bedfordshire Police at Ampthill requesting that all Councils in Mid Bedfordshire provide them with details of all community groups with whom they have contact or knowledge. The purpose of the enquiry is to produce an exhaustive directory of Community Safety Groups. Community Safety Fora, Crime Prevention Panels and Community Liason Fora. The Committee felt that this information should be available from their own sources.

7. STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

A previously produced resume of the Statement of Community Involvement was discussed by the committee. A reply is to be formulated and issued to the District Council accordingly.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mrs. Harrison informed the Committee that she had studied the document entitled Mid Bedfordshire Recreational Open Space Strategy Review June 2004 (Shefford) and informed members of the salient points accordingly. It was thought that among other things, that the current LAPs situated in the town were deemed as being not cost effective and a preference for larger play areas was expressed.

The meeting closed at 8.00 p.m.
