

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

PRESENT

Mr. Gray Presided over Mesdames Harrison and Holmes, Messrs. Mackin, Steeples and Fisher.

1. APOLOGIES

Mr. Leith.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3. PLANS FOR CONSIDERATION

05/00292/FULL

Loft conversion to include three dormer windows to rear elevation.
15 Priory Gate.

No objection.

05/00362/FULL

First floor side extension, ground floor side extension, two storey side extension.
34 The Hollies.

Objection :- Over-development, not in keeping with street scene.

4. DECISIONS

Notice of Approval of Planning Permission

04/02258/FULL

Single storey front extension
4 Ampthill Road

Notice of Approval of Planning Permission

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 6ft 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.

5. CONDITION OF ROUNDABOUT – CHURCHILL WAY/SHEFFORD BY-PASS

A complaint has been received from a resident regarding the state of the roundabout leading into Churchill Way from the by-pass. The complaint stated that it was always unkempt, dirty and overgrown with weeds and as such had an adverse impact on the houses in the area. The resident is to be informed that the roundabout is the responsibility of the County Council and the complaint will be forwarded to them.

6. VOLUNTEERS – ISSUING OF BUS PERMITS

Mr. Steeples volunteered to assist with the issuing of bus permits on 20th April.

7. COMMITTEE'S THOUGHTS ON POLICING

The Committee was asked to respond to a request from County Councillor Mr. Younger regarding policing in the area. Overall the committee thought that policing had improved and we are fortunate in Shefford in having two good PCSO's and beat manager. However, under-manning is still a significant problem as well the apparent need and time taken in completing paperwork. It was also felt that there was an overly strong emphasis on being politically correct.

8. STREET NAMES Re IVEL ROAD/CLIFTON ROAD DEVELOPMENT

A letter has been received from the Building Control Department of the District Council informing members that the Developer's suggested name for the six commercial offices on the site of the Old Brewery (as above) was Brewery Mews and for the 23 residential dwellings the suggestion was Coopers Court. The committee is to reply that they are happy with Coopers Court but would prefer Brewers Yard to Brewery Mews.

9. SHEFFORD BUSINESS PARK

Information has been received from a representative of the Health Centre in Mayfields stating that the Doctor's had considered moving their surgery to the Business Park Site but decided against it due to it's close proximity to the river and hence the possibility of flood. Further reservations were also expressed that it had been an industrial site and therefore unsuitable for a Health Centre.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mrs. Harrison informed members that she had visited the Business Park site with the Play and Open Space Officer of the District Council. Overall they were both unhappy with the proposed siting of the play area within the confines of the site and felt that the best option would be an area of amenity space and a financial contribution towards enhancing other off site play areas.

A report of street light number 6 in Southbridge Street.

Signage at the roundabout adjacent to the fish shop in Ampthill Road due to a motoring accident and a belief that this has had the knock-on effect of causing two lamp posts to cease functioning.

A request is to be made the County Council to report a damaged drain cover in the proximity of George Street and 3 New Street.

A report of unsightly 4W marks outside S & S Timms premises.

The County Council is to be requested to effect a proper repair to a 'marked' pot hole in Ivel Road and disgust registered at the state of the Ivel Road path-way. A note that a repair to the highway in Willow Way is also required.

Report of tree branch in danger of falling into the river opposite the gauging station which could then possibly causing an obstruction to the river flow.

The meeting closed at 8 30 p.m.

