

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 1<sup>ST</sup> NOVEMBER 2006**

**PRESENT**

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

**1. APOLOGIES**

None.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

**3. PLANS FOR CONSIDERATION**

06/01748/FULL

Single storey rear extension. Single storey side extension to replace existing conservatory.

5 George Street.

No objection.

06/01686/FULL

Refurbishment of sewerage treatment works.

Sewerage Works, Woburn Lane, Chicksands.

No objection but not in our jurisdiction. The Planning/Environment Department to be thanked for giving the Town Council an opportunity to comment.

BC/CM/2006/30

Erection, processing and sale of sand and gravel, erection of concrete batching plant and construction of improved access to B658.

Land to the South of Broom.

Objection : Increased traffic flow when more suitable roads are available to the east. The existing road structure is insufficient for current vehicle movements and certainly will not cope with additional loads. – i.e. Stanford Road/Bedford Road/North Bridge Street. Activating the concrete batching plant was not mentioned at Tarmac's presentation to the Town Council. This plant will generate even more vehicular movements.

The Town Council would support this application if the above junction was reconstructed.

**4. DECISIONS**

Notice of Approval of Planning Permission  
06/01520/TPO  
Remove diseased horse chestnut tree.  
34 Hitchin Road

Notice of Approval of Planning Permission  
06/01478/FULL  
First floor front extension and retention of rear conservatory (part retrospective).  
19 Priory Gate.

Notice of Refusal of Planning Permission  
06/00973/FULL  
Erection of replacement sales building and service yard, alterations to existing canopy, additional parking area.  
Shefford Service Station, Ivel Road.

## **5. SIGNAL CRIMES - BEDS POLICE**

Information regarding the six Signal Crimes has been received from Inspector John Seamarks of Beds Police. A brief resumé is as follows :

*Nuisance Youths* - reported hot spots are Kingfisher Way play area, Churchill Way, Esso Petrol Station, Somerfield's car park, Old Station Way car park and the riverside in North Bridge Street. Increased patrols from both the police and PCSO's.

*Graffiti* – No major problem.

*Speed Restrictions & Traffic* – reported hot spots are Ivel Road, Churchill Way, Clifton Road and Hitchin Road. The Shefford police are now in possession of a Speedar Detection Device and will be carrying out random checks.

*Criminal Damage* – the majority of problems arise after pub closing time and is an ongoing problem.

*Drugs* – one person recently arrested for possession of cannabis resin.

*Anti-Social Behaviour* – a resident has agreed to sign up to an Acceptable Behaviour Contract for using sound equipment at an unacceptable noise level. The problem now seems to have been resolved.

The information is to be passed to the Shefford Community Safety Group for further comment.

## **6. FOOTPATH 3 – BEDS COUNTY COUNCIL**

The County Council's Rights of Way Officer has notified the committee that a planning application has been received for the area of land currently crossed by part of Footpath 3. The application highlighted the problem of the legal right of way as shown on the Definitive Map (enclosed) not following the line of the path as used on the ground. In order to rectify this, the County Council intends to carry out a Public Path Diversion Order to divert the path. The enclosed plan shows the diversion which if successful will place the footpath onto the unsurfaced path that currently follows the River Hit. The path has a variable width of between one or two metres. The Officer is to be informed that there is local knowledge of instability of the bank especially at points B and C as shown on the map and the County Council is to be urged to make the footpath safe.

**1426 : 11/2006**

## **7. 53 NORTH BRIDGE STREET**

Allianz Cornhill has written to the Committee enquiring if the Town Council is prepared to consider making a claim regarding the conifer trees in North Bridge

Street. The Insurers are to be informed that the report from Crawford & Co suggests that there could well be other reasons for the subsidence with no certain indications that the trees are the sole cause.

Quotes are to be sought for the removal of the conifer trees.

## **8. INSPIRE EAST – SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES**

Inspire East is the regional centre of excellence for sustainable communities and champions the creation of high quality places to live, work and visit. The Town Council's details are currently included in the database that belonged to Community Renewal Network East (CRNe). The committee has received information that the CRNe project ceased operation at the end of March this year and some of their work is being taken forward by Inspire East and COVER.

## **9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

A new street sign is required in New Street.

Request a progress report on the bus shelter which is to be replaced under the S106 Agreement on Pedley Lane.

Carry out a safety survey on the dilapidated bus shelters in both Amptill Road and Southfields.

A letter has been received from Inspector Seamarks of Beds Police in answer to the committees concerns that difficulty had been experienced by both the Homewatch co-ordinator and members of the public in obtaining URN's and also that the issuing of Crime Incident and Anti-Social Behaviour Reports seems to have ceased. The letter informed the committee that the manager of the Call Handling Centre has been requested to provide a URN to callers to enable them to be used as a future reference number to incidents. Further information has indicated that the police are in the process of identifying data that can be provided to communities that although it will be sanitized it will still give an indication of when and where crime and anti-social behaviour has been committed.

A letter has been received from the Director of Customer Engagement and Corporate Services at the County Council thanking the Town Council for their input to a survey on how to improve services and how to work better together. The County Council plans to continue discussions with stakeholders with a view to even further improvements.

The meeting closed at 8.45 p.m.

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