

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 4TH APRIL 2007

PRESENT

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

1. APOLOGIES

Mr. Mackin.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3. PLANS FOR CONSIDERATION

07/00348/FULL
Conservatory to rear elevation.
67 Hitchin Road.

No objection.

07/00191/FULL
Loft conversion to include dormer window to side elevation.
7 Roosevelt Avenue.

No objection.

4. DECISIONS

Notice of Refusal of Planning Permission.
07/00241/FULL
Replacement garage.
8 Bury Road.

5. LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT – BEDS COUNTY COUNCIL

Information and a questionnaire has been received from the County Council regarding the above. Mrs. Harrison agreed to study the document and advise the committee as to her thoughts regarding the questionnaire at the next meeting of this committee.

6. REGISTERING OF LAND – BEDFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

The Commons Act 2006 gives an opportunity for towns and parishes to register any land they own as New Town or Village Green. The Act will not only clarify and make easier the process of applying to register land as a town or village green and increase the protection of land but will also keep the Common Land and Town and Village Greens Registers more up-to-date. The committee decided that there wasn't any appropriate land in the Shefford envelope that fitted the registration criteria.

7. LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK-PLAN THIS PLACE QUESTIONNAIRE

All households in Shefford have been issued with a document and questionnaire from the District Council entitled *Plan This Place*. It was decided that the members would study the documentation individually and respond on that basis if they so wished. It was further agreed that the committee would also discuss the documentation at their next meeting and then respond as a Council.

8. REPLY TO A REQUEST FOR A NOTICEBOARD TO BE PLACED ADJACENT TO ST.MICHAEL'S CHURCH

The committee had previously written to the vicar of St. Michael's to enquire as to the possibility of erecting a noticeboard in the High Street on church land. The response indicated that a discussion will have to take place by the Church Council and if in agreement an application will have to be made to the Chancellor of the Diocese for the granting of a faculty (i.e. a licence to introduce a new feature to Church property). A specification of the noticeboard and a plan are to be sent to the Church Council in due course ideally before their next meeting.

9. LAND TO THE REAR OF 8 BEDFORD ROAD

The address of the dwelling being constructed at the above site will be : 10 Cornish Close, Shefford. SG17 5JT

10. RESPONSE FROM ALLIANZ CORNHILL

Allianz Cornhill has now replied to the committee's request for their definition of a suitably qualified Tree Inspection Officer. The definition states : a District or County Council Tree Officer, an Arboriculturist or an experienced Tree Surgeon. Both the County Council's and the District's Council's Tree Officers are to be asked if they would be prepared to carry out an inspection of all the trees for which the Town Council has a responsibility.

11. WEEKLY LIST OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS

As of 1st April the District Council will no longer send out hard copies of their Weekly List. Although the list is available on the District Council's website it was decided to request that the list be sent to the town's Planning Committee by e:mail, preferably for Shefford applications only.

12. ENFORCEMENT NOTICE-MALT HOUSE BUILDING

Air conditioning units have been installed at the Malt House Building, Brewers Yard without planning permission. The Planning Authority, Mid Bedfordshire District Council, decided that the units by reason of their amount, size and location have a detrimental impact on the character and appearance of the area and are out of scale with the building. Further, the air conditioning units are detrimental to the amenities of nearby residential occupiers by reason of noise. The Time for Compliance is two months from the date when the Notice takes effect which is 7th May 2007 unless an appeal is made against it beforehand.

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13. CODE OF CONDUCT TRAINING

The Director of Corporate and Democratic Services/Monitoring Officer has informed the committee that there will be a Code of Conduct Training for Town/Parish Council members session on 6th June at the Council offices in Chicksands.

14. RECYCLING SUPPORT TEAM – BEDFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

An e:mail has been received from the Recycling Support Officer at the County Council informing members that their team will be visiting Shefford in the last two weeks of April to gather information about the general public's knowledge and attitude towards the waste issue and recycling.

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Report of 'puddling' outside Ivel House and also on the newly laid tarmac in the vicinity of the Indian Chef restaurant.

Further application is to be made to the County Council regarding the situation of the bus stop in Clifton Road whereby the sign is affixed to a lamp post.

Enquiries are to be made regarding the repair of the metal fencing which surrounds the shrub beds in Kingsmede.

The meeting closed at 8.30 p.m.
