

**MINUTES of the meeting of Planning Committee held at
The Council Chamber, Brockington, 35 Hafod Road,
Hereford on Friday 20 February 2009 at 10.00 am**

Present: Councillor TW Hunt (Chairman)
Councillor *RV Stockton (Vice Chairman)

Councillors: PGH Cutter, GFM Dawe, MJ Fishley, DW Greenow,
JW Hope MBE, B Hunt, G Lucas, PM Morgan, JE Pemberton, AP Taylor,
DC Taylor, WJ Walling, PJ Watts and JD Woodward

In attendance: Councillors RH Smith

88. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors ACR Chappell, H Davies, KS Guthrie, RI Matthews and RV Stockton.

89. NAMED SUBSTITUTES (IF ANY)

Councillor J Fishley was appointed named substitute for Councillor KS Guthrie.

90. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made at the meeting.

91. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Reeves Hill Wind Turbine Planning Application

The Head of Planning and Transportation said that following the special meeting on 12th February, details about the application and the views of Members had been forwarded to the Government Office for the West Midlands, which would decide during the next few days whether or not to call in the application for determination. He explained the process involved if the application was called in which was likely to result in the outcome not being known for some six to nine months. If it was decided not to call the application in, the process was likely to take approximately two months to put the necessary details in place for the Section 106 Planning Obligation, further consultation and refinement of the issues that had been raised, such as noise issues and any appropriate attenuation measures required.

ISO9001

The Head of Planning and Transportation said that the Service had been recently reassessed and had continued to meet the ISO9001 standard for training and service delivery. The Committee expressed their appreciation for the hard work of the Officers on enabling the Council to continue to meet the required standards.

92. NORTHERN AREA PLANNING SUB-COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: That the report of the meeting held on 14th January, 2009 be received and noted.

93. CENTRAL AREA PLANNING SUB-COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: That the report of the meetings held on 7th January and 4th February, 2009 be received and noted.

94. SOUTHERN AREA PLANNING SUB-COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: That the report of the meeting held on 21st January, 2009 be received and noted.

95. DCSE2008/3035/L - PROPOSED ALTERATION OF AN EXISTING DOORWAY INTO A WINDOW AND THE REGULARISATION OF THE REMOVAL OF 2 NO. DEFECTIVE CHIMNEYS AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF 1 NO. CHIMNEY AT PORTLAND HOUSE, WHITCHURCH, ROSS-ON-WYE, HEREFORDSHIRE, HR9 6DB

The Southern Team Leader presented the report of the Head of Planning and Transportation for the alteration of a door to a sash window on the rear elevation, together with retrospective consent for the demolition of 2 defective chimneys and construction of a chimney on the north elevation. He advised that the removal of the defective chimneys had been undertaken with the authorisation of the Council's Conservation Manager in view of concerns that had been raised about the weather damage which they had suffered during recent storms. The Committee agreed with his recommendation that the application should be approved.

RESOLVED

That Listed Building Consent be granted subject to the following condition:

1. D01 (Time limit for commencement (Listed Building Consent)).

Reason: Required to be imposed by Section 18(1) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.

Informatives:

1. N19 - Avoidance of doubt - Approved Plans.

2. N15 - Reason(s) for the Grant of PP/LBC/CAC.

96. DCSW2008/2735/F - THE ERECTION OF A WIND TURBINE INSTALLATION AND THE MOUNTING OF EIGHT P.V. ARRAY PANELS ON THE SCHOOL. GARWAY PRIMARY SCHOOL, GARWAY, HEREFORDSHIRE, HR2 8RQ

The Senior Planning Officer presented the report of the Head of Planning and Transportation about an application for the erection of a WT6000 6kw wind turbine on the north-western corner of the school grounds. She advised that the blades would be mounted on a 15m high-galvanised steel tower with the three matt black blades forming a 5.5m swept area (maximum height 20.5m). A 1.8m high mesh fence with access gate would be erected at the base of the tower and 8 photovoltaic arrays each measuring 1.57 x 0.8m would be mounted on the roof of the school building. He said that a letter and supporting powerpoint presentation had been received from Garway Primary School providing the following information:

"Garway primary school is one of only a handful of schools in Herefordshire to have achieved their 2nd Green flag award. We have a very dynamic "pupil-led"

eco committee and “green” culture and the children are encouraged to grow their own vegetables (using their own worm compost); to recycle paper, foil and cans and to conserve water through the use of home-made water hippos. They have even made their own animal homes to increase the bio-diversity in the school grounds.

During the summer term of 2008, year 6 pupils undertook an audit of energy use within school. Their findings enabled them to identify the school’s carbon footprint and they were horrified to discover that every kilowatt hour of electrical energy used at school produced 1 kg of carbon dioxide, enough to fill a balloon 1 metre in diameter!

The children then looked into the various sustainable energy options available and identified a wind turbine and solar panels as the most viable technologies for our school. This research coincided with the launch of two capital grant schemes:

- the Community Sustainable Energy Programme (CSEP); and
- Phase 2 of the Low Carbon Buildings Programme.

After submitting two business cases we received confirmation in June 2008 that our applications for 100% funding under these two schemes had been successful. The proposed renewable energies will reduce our electricity costs by 50%.

Throughout the entire process we have kept parents and local residents informed of our progress via:-

- articles in the local parish magazine;
- an open afternoon at school during Grounds week in May 2008;
- a powerpoint presentation to governors and parish councillors delivered by the children themselves on Monday 14 July; and also
- letters delivered to 70 of our immediate neighbours (on 16 September) to allay any fears they may harbour with regard to noise pollution

Our application was then approved by Garway parish council on 1 December.

In summary, we feel that as the problems of climate change and dwindling fossil energy resources are becoming more and more apparent, it is important that our children understand the need:-

- to reduce energy costs;
- to understand how their behaviour effects carbon emissions;
- that climate change can be tackled in the first instance by installing these renewable energy technologies in community buildings such as ours.

Equally important, these technologies will increase environmental awareness and provide our children with huge cross-curriculum opportunities. Indeed data from the turbine and solar panels will be continuously displayed in the school foyer and will be downloaded into the school’s computer network for the children to analyse.

We are aware that a small minority of local residents have objected to our planning application BUT we have also received a great deal of support from neighbours and other interested schools and colleges within the UK. We feel passionately that this is such a golden opportunity for our children - the first truly “green generation”.

The Senior Planning Officer said that comments had not been received from the

Environmental Health Manager but that the limited level of noise that would arise from the turbine was set out in paragraph 6.10 of the report. The Rights of Way manager had raised no objection to the application in relation to the adjoining public footpath. The Senior Planning Officer was of the view that no changes to the recommendation were necessary following the receipt of the additional information.

In accordance with the criteria for public speaking, Mr Keenan a local resident spoke in favour of the application. He said that although his property was closest to the installation he fully supported the initiative for the creation of renewable energy for the school and did not feel that there would be any noise nuisance arising from the turbine. Councillor RH Smith the Local Ward Member gave his full support to the proposal and commended the initiative of the school in pursuing the scheme. The Committee shared the views which had been put forward in support of the application and decided that it should be approved.

RESOLVED

That planning permission be granted subject to the following conditions

1 A01 (Time limit for commencement (full permission))

Reason: Required to be imposed by Section 91 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

INFORMATIVES:

1 N15 - Reason(s) for the Grant of PP/LBC/CAC

2 N19 - Avoidance of doubt - Approved Plans

97. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

13th March, 2009

The meeting ended at 10.30 am

CHAIRMAN