

MEETING:	COUNCIL
DATE:	4 MARCH 2011
TITLE OF REPORT:	ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE 2010 - 2011
MEMBERSHIP:	TW HUNT (CHAIRMAN), RV STOCKTON (VICE-CHAIRMAN), ACR CHAPPELL, PGH CUTTER, H DAVIES, GFM DAWE, DW GREENOW, KS GUTHRIE, JW HOPE, B HUNT, G LUCAS, RI MATTHEWS, MRS PM MORGAN, MRS JE PEMBERTON, AP TAYLOR, DC TAYLOR, WJ WALLING, PJ WATTS AND JD WOODWARD.

CLASSIFICATION: This is an open report.

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

To inform the Council of the activities of the Committee during the previous year.

AN OVERVIEW OF THE OPERATION OF THE FIRST YEAR OF THE NEW COMMITTEE SYSTEM

1. The new arrangements for the Planning Committee came into force in January last year within phase one of the revised constitution, and new way of delivering planning services. The aim was to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the planning system and to give greater clarity to the public about the way in which planning applications are dealt with.
2. The new approach has allowed a re-modelling of the whole service to reflect best practice and includes a revised scheme of delegation to officers. A major factor in the process is a much greater recognition of the important role of local ward members and that they should have the opportunity to make a significant contribution to the application process for their area. Case officers notify ward members about applications arising in their wards and ward members have a role as advocates and are able to debate, discuss and have an involvement in applications. Local views can be made known to officers to help decide if application are referred to the Committee or dealt with it under delegated powers. Potential Section 106 agreements can be

discussed with local parish and town councils and liaison with the section 106 officer and case officer take place. At meetings of the Committee, ward members are able to open and close a debate and the Chairman has discretion to permit their further involvement in the discussion.

3. Initially the Committee met on a monthly basis but it soon became apparent that due to the type of applications being considered and greater and time needed for ward members to give their views in addition to public speakers, additional meetings were needed. The cycle was therefore changed so that the committee now meets every three weeks. This has overcome the problem of some meetings proving to be fairly lengthy and sometimes having to be split into morning and afternoon sessions to help with accommodating public speakers.
4. The Committee has been consulted by the Cabinet Member, Environment and Strategic Housing, about a new enforcement policy and dealt with the applications referred to it as follows:

approved as recommended – 27

approved contrary to recommendation – 9

refused contrary to recommendation - 12

T.W. HUNT
CHAIRMAN
PLANNING COMMITTEE

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Agendas for the meetings of the Planning Committee held between June 2010 & February 2011.