

### Guide to Planning and Regulatory Committee

The Planning and Regulatory Committee consists of 15 Councillors. The membership reflects the balance of political groups on the council.

Councillor Terry James (Chairperson)	Liberal Democrat
Councillor Clare Davies (Vice Chairperson)	True Independents
Councillor Polly Andrews	Liberal Democrat
Councillor Bruce Baker	Conservative
Councillor Dave Boulter	Independents for Herefordshire
Councillor Simeon Cole	Conservative
Councillor Dave Davies	Conservative
Councillor Elizabeth Foxton	Independents for Herefordshire
Councillor Catherine Gennard	The Green Party
Councillor Peter Hamblin	Conservative
Councillor Daniel Powell	Liberal Democrat
Councillor Stef Simmons	The Green Party
Councillor John Stone	Conservative
Councillor Richard Thomas	Conservative
Councillor Diana Toynbee	The Green Party

The Committee determines applications for planning permission and listed building consent in those cases where:

- (a) the application has been called in for committee determination by the relevant ward member in accordance with the redirection procedure
- (b) the application is submitted by the council, by others on council land or by or on behalf of an organisation or other partnership of which the council is a member or has a material interest, and where objections on material planning considerations have been received, or where the proposal is contrary to adopted planning policy
- (c) the application is submitted by a council member or a close family member such that a council member has a material interest in the application
- (d) the application is submitted by a council officer who is employed in the planning service or works closely with it, or is a senior manager as defined in the council's pay policy statement, or by a close family member such that the council officer has a material interest in the application
- (e) the application, in the view of the service director, regulatory, raises issues around the consistency of the proposal, if approved, with the adopted development plan
- (f) the application, in the reasonable opinion of the service director, regulatory, raises issues of a significant and/or strategic nature that a planning committee determination of the matter would represent the most appropriate course of action, or
- (g) in any other circumstances where the service director, regulatory, believes the application is such that it requires a decision by the planning and regulatory committee.

The regulatory functions of the authority as a licensing authority are undertaken by the Committee's licensing sub-committee.

## **Who attends planning and regulatory committee meetings?**

The following attend the committee:

- Members of the committee, including the chairperson and vice chairperson.
- Officers of the council – to present reports and give technical advice to the committee
- Ward members – The Constitution provides that the ward member will have the right to start and close the member debate on an application.

(Other councillors - may attend as observers but are only entitled to speak at the discretion of the chairman.)

## **How an application is considered by the Committee**

The Chairperson will announce the agenda item/application to be considered. The case officer will then give a presentation on the report.

The registered public speakers will then be invited to speak in turn (Parish Council, objector, supporter). (see further information on public speaking below.)

The local ward member will be invited to start the debate (see further information on the role of the local ward member below.)

The Committee will then debate the matter.

Officers are invited to comment if they wish and respond to any outstanding questions.

The local ward member is then invited to close the debate.

The Committee then votes on whatever recommendations are proposed.

## **Public Speaking**

The Council's Constitution provides that the public will be permitted to speak at meetings of the Committee when the following criteria are met:

- a) the application on which they wish to speak is for decision at the planning and regulatory committee
- b) the person wishing to speak has already submitted written representations within the time allowed for comment
- c) once an item is on an agenda for planning and regulatory committee all those who have submitted representations will be notified and any person wishing to speak must then register that intention with the monitoring officer at least 48 hours before the meeting of the planning and regulatory committee
- d) if consideration of the application is deferred at the meeting, only those who registered to speak at the meeting will be permitted to do so when the deferred item is considered at a subsequent or later meeting
- e) at the meeting a maximum of three minutes (at the chairperson's discretion) will be allocated to each speaker from a parish council, objectors and supporters and only nine minutes will be allowed for public speaking
- f) speakers may not distribute any written or other material of any kind at the meeting (see note below)
- g) speakers' comments must be restricted to the application under consideration and must relate to planning issues

- h) on completion of public speaking, councillors will proceed to determine the application
- i) the chairperson will in exceptional circumstances allow additional speakers and/or time for public speaking for major applications and may hold special meetings at local venues if appropriate.

*(Note: Those registered to speak in accordance with the public speaking procedure are able to attend the meeting in person to speak or participate in the following ways:*

- *by making a written submission (to be read aloud at the meeting)*
- *by submitting an audio recording (to be played at the meeting)*
- *by submitting a video recording (to be played at the meeting)*
- *by speaking as a virtual attendee.)*

### **Role of the local ward member**

The ward member will have an automatic right to start and close the member debate on the application concerned, subject to the provisions on the declaration of interests as reflected in the Planning Code of Conduct in the Council's Constitution (Part 5 section 6).

In the case of the ward member being a member of the Committee they will be invited to address the Committee for that item and act as the ward member as set out above. They will not have a vote on that item.

To this extent all members have the opportunity of expressing their own views, and those of their constituents as they see fit, outside the regulatory controls of the Committee concerned.