

South Cambridgeshire District Council Parish Planning Forum

Wednesday 14th October 2015

6pm – 8pm

South Cambridgeshire Hall, Cambourne

Representatives attended from the following Parish Councils	
Arrington	Linton
Barrington	Little Abington
Barton	Meldreth
Bassingbourn-cum-Kneesworth	Milton
Cambourne	Oakington & Westwick
Dry Drayton	Orwell
Elsworth	Over
Fowlmere	Pampisford
Grantchester	Sawston
Hatley	Swavesey
Hauxton	Whaddon
Hardwick	Whittlesford
Harston	Willingham
Heydon	Wimpole
Hildersham	

	The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.
1.	Item 1 New Delegation Arrangements
1.1	Introduction I Tony Pierce The proposed changes to the Councils planning delegation arrangements were outlined, with stress on the draft nature of the proposals and the need for parishes and others to comment upon them.
1.2	Councillor Robert Turner referred to an alternative suggestion that parish councils request items to go to planning committee rather than an automatic referral. This came as a result of a district councils briefing for local members just prior to the parish Forum meeting. District Councillors would encourage all requests from parishes to be supported by attendance at the planning committee.
1.3	Question Could a request for referral from a parish council be supported via a business conference call? Answer This will be considered and looked into.
1.4	Question Concern was expressed at the short notice a parish council might have of the need for attendance at a planning committee? Answer If the request from a parish council was informed by discussion with a local member, then this may gain more time for parishes, or the local member, to make representations

	at the planning committee.
1.5	<p>Question When will a parish council know a case is going to planning committee as a result of its request?</p> <p>Answer The Chairman will inform by response to the request parish council and the local member.</p>
1.6	<p>Question Can a parish council send an officer rather than a member?</p> <p>Answer Yes.</p>
1.7	<p>Question Will there be more training for parish councils?</p> <p>Answer Training is being planned for Spring next year.</p>
1.8	<p>Question Can parish councils meet more often with officers?</p> <p>Answer More efficient processes and delegations would, hopefully, free officer time for greater engagement with parishes and others. Parishes should also use local members, as officers can share information with local members that they could not with parishes and other outside parties.</p>
1.9	<p>Question Will wording on the form be changed to allow for more complex and significant cases to be referred even if the local community and officers are of the same view?</p> <p>Answer A new form will be drafted as part of the report on delegations to the next meeting of the Planning Portfolio Holder.</p>
1.10	<p>Question What should a parish do when local member relations are not such as to encourage good working relations?</p> <p>Answer All requests will be looked at by the Chairman. There have been examples in the past where parishes have looked to neighbouring local members for assistance in representing community views.</p>
1.11	<p>Question It would be useful if the parish council new if a building was listed or affected by a TPO?</p> <p>Answer Noted.</p>
1.12	<p>Question Can a parish be informed of an officer's recommendation when minded to grant permission?</p> <p>Answer This would put the draft decision into the public domain, as an officer can't treat a parish council differently from an applicant or neighbour. However, officers could discuss a draft recommendation with a local member, being part of the Local Planning Authority.</p>

1.13	There were further points made of clarification and a request for protocols on pre-applications. There was apparent general support for difficulties of the SCDC planning committee from not being able to manage its agenda, but that parishes should be able to request referral.
1.14	Tony Pierce outlined the decision making process for delegation changes: Joint Committee 28 October 2015 for consultation Planning Committee 4 November 2015 for consultation Planning Portfolio 17 November 2015 for recommendation to Council Council 26 November 2015 DECISION
2	Item 2 S106 Changes
2.1	Stephen Reid outlined changes to the way in which S106 agreements are used in meeting planning obligations. Changes in regulations now meant that community and open space obligations now had to be essential to the planning decision and, where 5 developer contributions have already been made, related to a specific project that is relevant to the proposal.
2.2	Question Accept that there are no more generic contributions, but can you seek contributions to a large facility, such as a football pitch? Answer Yes - so long as there is a specific scheme and pooled contributions do not exceed 5.
2.3	Question Is there more information we can have? Answer A separate note will be issued and circulated.
2.4	There was a further question about the lower contribution to affordable housing secured on Northstowe, and discussion followed concerning Government policy, especially on viability and the newly published Housing and Planning Bill.
3	Item 3 Future Topics
3.1	Requests were made for conservation and green belt policy to be considered.
	Meeting ended at 19.50