

## Parish Planning Forum Meeting – Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2018

Question 1 – Ickleton Parish Council : Terry Sadler	Answer
<p>At the September 2017 Forum (copy of Q&amp;A attached) Ickleton Parish Council asked how many planning applications had been received by SCDC since changes to the Scheme of Delegation in respect of which Parish Councils opposed the application and had requested that the application be considered by SCDC’s Planning Committee? Of the total, how many were referred to the Planning Committee?</p> <p>The answer was about 6% of 157 applications.</p> <p>May we have the equivalent figures for the past 12 months, please?</p> <p>I believe the feeling of Ickleton Parish Council that its views were not being given much weight was shared by other Parish Councils represented at the Forum. The number of cases going to full Planning Committee seemed unreasonably low.</p> <p>The answer supplied last year refers to a review and an attempt to provide more feedback and answer the other points made. May we have details of the review and what progress if any is being made to address the concerns of Parish Councils?</p>	<p>Over the last 12 months 13 applications out of approximately 160 call in requests from the Parish Councils or Local Members, have been considered by the Planning Committee. This equates to 5% of all applications. This is a similar figure as to last year.</p> <p>Unfortunately there has been a delay in the review of the scheme of delegation and the review of delegation has been on hold until Phase 2 of the creation of the Shared Planning Services is completed. At this time it is anticipated that the review will be one of the first projects to be undertaken once Phase 2 is implemented in 2019.</p> <p>All the representations made by the Parish Council are carefully scrutinised and are given weight as a material consideration to the assessment of the application</p>
Question 2 - Ickleton Parish Council : Terry Sadler	
<p>Ickleton has a significant number of listed buildings for its size and the conservation area covers much of the built envelope of the village. It is essential that sufficient input is available from Historic Buildings Officers (HBOs) is available to Planning Officers when applications involving listed buildings and the conservation area are under consideration. In recent months their input has at times appeared perfunctory. For instance, with a recent application impacting the curtilage of a listed building in the conservation area there was no certainty that a Historic Buildings Officer would undertake a site visit.</p>	<p>Having spoken to the Conservation Officer it is difficult to know which application Mr Terry Sadler is referring to. We are happy to follow this particular case up direct with Ickleton Parish Council</p> <p>In terms of working practice: It is always the Consultancy team’s practice that we conduct site visits where advice has been sought and before providing advice on listed building applications/curtilage. Likewise all applications are inspected by Planning Officers too.</p>

We understand that a factor may be a shortage of personnel.

How many full time equivalent HBOs does the shared planning service think it should have in order to meet its aim of being recognised as one of the UK's best planning services (Feb 2018 Forum)?

How many are currently in post? What is being done to make good any shortfall?

In the meantime, what arrangements are in place to ensure proper consideration of applications relating to listed buildings and conservation areas?

In terms of resources:

There was a short period where we have been using Essex Place Services to cover for maternity when a recruitment exercise was being carried out. The post has now been filled.

We reviewed the team workplan and priorities and have increased the conservation resource in SCDC from 1 FTE to 2 FTE

The shared planning service has 2FTE Historic Buildings Officers (HBOs) at the Cambourne Office, 2FTE HBOs and 2 part time Officers (each 3 days per week) at the Cambridge Office. A larger team has the advantage of dealing with peaks/troughs, providing cover during absence, a more variety of casework and experience.

Phase 2 of the restructure of the shared service, will consider the overall resources, priorities and standard of service of the Historic Environment Team. This will include doing proactive work as well as responding to applications.

For a number of years, we have been broadening the skilling sets of planning officers to deal with developments within conservation areas/setting. Recently many SCDC planners had a Historic Buildings and Setting training.

In addition The consultancy team, including historic Building Officers, offer surgeries every week to discuss specific issues that planning officers may have on the historic environment. We have recently reviewed the conservation area in Foxton and are putting together a programme/strategy to review the large number of Conservation Areas in the district.