

**At a meeting of the DEVELOPMENT CONTROL (HETTON, HOUGHTON AND WASHINGTON) SUB-COMMITTEE held in the CIVIC CENTRE on WEDNESDAY, 18<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER, 2013 at 5.45 p.m.**

**Present:-**

Councillor Thompson in the Chair

Councillors Blackburn, Davison, Padgett, Richardson, Scaplehorn, Tate and Wood

**Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Tate made an open declaration in respect of those applications on the items for information only that relate to the Hetton area, as a member of Hetton Town Council who was a consultee on those applications.

**Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Lauchlan, Scott and Wakefield

**Applications made under the Town and Country Planning Acts and Regulations made thereunder**

The Deputy Chief Executive submitted a report and report for circulation (copy circulated), which related to Hetton, Houghton and Washington areas, copies of which had also been forwarded to each Member of the Council, upon applications made under the Town and Country Planning Acts and Regulations made thereunder.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

The Chairman advised that the applicants who wished to speak with regards to application 11/01066/SUB – Provision of 176 space car park at land at Campground, Springwell Road were running late and therefore proposed to the Members of the Committee that this application should be considered at the end of the agenda. The Committee agreed with this approach.

**13/02688/ADV – Retention of 2 no. free standing signs at entrance behind fencing at LWC Limited, Mulberry Way, Fence Houses Industrial Estate, Houghton-le-Spring, DH4 5RH**

The representative of the Deputy Chief Executive presented the report in respect of the application, summarising the planning issues around the principle of the development.

The Chairman welcomed Councillor Sheila Ellis to the meeting who had requested to speak in objection

At this juncture Councillor Blackburn queried why this application had been brought back to Committee when it had previously been considered at the last meeting and a decision made at that meeting.

The legal representative explained that unfortunately due to an administrative oversight by the planning officers, Councillor Ellis who had objected to the application and requested to speak at the committee meeting had not been notified of the last committee date when the application was originally considered. Therefore, as the decision notice had not yet been issued, the planning officer had decided on this occasion to exercise her discretion to refer the application back to this committee meeting so that Members could hear the additional representations from Councillor Ellis before deciding whether or not it was still appropriate to approve the application in light of this new information.

As this was a matter of the Committee hearing the new information to be presented by Councillor Ellis and then deciding whether or not to endorse the previous decision made, the issue of pre-determination should not arise if Members consider the new information with an open mind.

Councillor Ellis then addressed the Committee advising that she had been unaware that this application had been previously considered and thanked the Committee for allowing her to put forward her comments. She explained that she spoke on behalf of residents in the area who had no concerns over the first sign but did over the second installation.

She explained that Mulberry Way was a road that a large number of families and children used as their route to school and during the start and finish times of school the road could be extremely busy. The road was one which was regularly driven along at speed by users and there were concerns that a second sign would detract motorists attention away from the road.

It was considered that one sign at the entrance to the site was adequate and residents asked that due to the concerns of road safety for the pedestrians that use the route that the application for a two signs be refused.

Upon questioning by Councillor Blackburn, the Highways Officer confirmed that network management had no concerns over the installation or siting of the two signs from a highway safety perspective and if anything the proposal would add to the visual awareness of motorists, pedestrians, etc that the entrance to the site was situated at the point.

Members having fully considered the report and the representations from Councillor Ellis, it was:-

1. RESOLVED that the application be granted advertisement consent for the reasons as detailed in the report and subject to the six conditions as set out therein.

**11/01066/SUB – Provision of 176 space car park (as amended) at land at Campground, Springwell Road, Springwell, Gateshead, NE9 7XW**

Members having asked that further information be provided to the Committee on the details of land ownership, it was:-

2. RESOLVED that the application be deferred.

**Items for Information**

3. RESOLVED that site visits be undertaken for the following applications:-
  - 13/02636/VAR – The Russell Foster Football Centre, Staddon Way, Houghton-le-Spring; and
  - 13/02811/FUL – Land North of Over the Hill House, High Lane, Newbottle, Houghton-le-Spring
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(Signed) G. THOMPSON,  
Chairman.