

At a meeting of the PLANNING AND HIGHWAYS (WEST) COMMITTEE held remotely on TUESDAY 2nd FEBRUARY, 2021 at 5.30 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor Thornton in the Chair.

Councillors Armstrong, Blackett, Fagan, Lauchlan, F. Miller and P. Walker.

Chairs Announcement

The Chairman announced the news that a Member of this Committee, Councillor Dr Geoff Walker had sadly passed away at the weekend and requested the Committee hold a moments silence in respect of Councillor Dr Walker and that condolences be passed on to his family.

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Rowntree.

Minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 15th December, 2020 and the extraordinary meeting held on 23rd December, 2020.

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 15th December 2020 and the extraordinary meeting held on 23rd December, 2020 be confirmed and signed as correct records.

Reference from Cabinet – 8 December 2020 – Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD's)

(A) Draft Allocations and Designations Plan

(B) Land East of Washington (Washington Meadows) Supplementary Planning Document Scoping Report

(C) Draft Development Management Supplementary Planning Document

The Assistant Director of Law and Governance submitted a report (copy circulated) for the Committee to provide advice and consideration of the reports that were considered by Cabinet on 8 December 2020 which sought approval to undertake public consultation on the Draft Allocations and Designations Plan, the Land East of Washington (Washington Meadows)

Supplementary Planning Document Scoping Report and the Draft Development Management Supplementary Planning Document.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Ms Catherine Auld, Assistant Director of Economic Regeneration and Ms Joanne Scott, Senior Policy Officer presented the report and were on hand to answer Member queries.

(A) Draft Allocations and Designations Plan

In response to Councillor Lauchlan's request for further clarification as to the exact location of Washington Meadows and how this affected the garden centre already located there, Ms Auld advised that she would be able to supply a location map outside of the meeting and that the consultation process would enable those residents to come back with any questions they might have and consider those boundaries and how they were altered or if this was appropriate.

(B) The land East of Washington (Washington Meadows) Supplementary Planning Document Scoping Report

Ms Auld presented the report and with there being no questions or comments raised by the Committee, the report was noted.

(C) Draft Development Management Supplementary Planning Document

Ms Auld presented the report and with there being no questions or comments raised by the Committee, the document was noted.

Having fully considered the report, the Chairman thanked Ms Auld and Ms Scott for their attendance

2. RESOLVED that the Committee received and noted the report with all comments made to be passed on to Cabinet.

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

The Executive Director of City Development submitted a report (copies circulated), which related to the West area of the City, 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 reports – see original minutes)

20/02413/TP3 – Felling of 4no. mature willow trees – Washington Cemetery, The Avenue, Washington Village, Washington

The Planning Officer representing the Executive Director of City Development outlined the proposal to Members of the Committee and the relevant material planning considerations against which the application had been assessed.

In response to Councillor Armstrong's enquiry over what danger the trees presented, the Planning Officer advised that it was a Health and Safety issue, as the trees had become a tripping hazard and the limbs, long and overhanging so were in danger of falling off which could potentially hurt somebody visiting the cemetery, due to the weight of the limbs.

Councillor Lauchlan advised that this application was located within his ward and he was aware of the trees and whilst he did not wish to see trees having to be cut down he was in agreement with the advice of the Council's Arboriculture Officer that these were quite dangerous and therefore agreed that they needed to be removed.

Councillor Armstrong commented that decisions to remove trees could not be taken lightly but if it was a safety issue then the Council needed to be sensible about it, however he was not convinced the trees posed any imminent danger.

The Planning Officer advised that they were not an imminent danger but the Council's Arboriculture Officer had determined that they were at risk of causing a serious injury and from a health and safety point of view they would put those visiting the Cemetery at risk. They had also taken into account that the benefit of the cemetery was that there was still a great deal of healthy mature trees there.

Councillor Fagan commented that the Council's Arboriculture Officer was very knowledgeable, having dealt with the Officer on many occasions on issues within her ward and that he would only recommend the removal of trees as an absolute last resort. Councillor Fagan also commented that she also loathed the removal of trees but if the experts recommended the removal then there must be no other option.

In response to Councillor F. Millers enquiry if the trees taken down would be replaced elsewhere, the Planning Officer advised that there were no plans to do this due to the amount of trees already within the cemetery and it was not felt necessary in this instance.

3. RESOLVED that Members be minded to Grant Consent under Regulation 3 of the Town and Country Planning (General Regulations) 1992 (as amended) for the proposed works subject to the expiry of the consultation period on 4th February and no objections being received and subject to the one condition listed within the report.

Items for Information

Members having fully considered the items for information contained within the matrix, it was:-

4. RESOLVED that the items for information as set out in the matrix be received and noted;

The Chairman then thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting.

(Signed) M. THORNTON,
(Chairman)