

At a meeting of the PLANNING AND HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE held in the CIVIC CENTRE on TUESDAY 25TH JANUARY, 2011 at 6.00 p.m.

Present: -

Councillor Tye in the Chair

Councillors Ball, Copeland, Ellis, Essl, Fletcher, M. Forbes, Francis, E. Gibson, G. Hall, Miller, Old, Padgett, Scaplehorn, Snowdon, Tye, P. Watson, Wood and A. Wright

Declarations of Interest

Councillor Miller made an open declaration in connection with item 7 as he had previously indicated his support for the proposals having been consulted as a local ward councillor. He agreed to withdraw from the meeting prior to the consideration of the item.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Charlton, Howe, O'Connor, J.B. Scott, J. Scott and D. Wilson.

Minutes of the last Meeting of the Committee held on Tuesday, 14th December, 2010

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 14th December, 2010 (copy circulated) be approved subject to the inclusion of apologies from Councillors Ellis and Scaplehorn.

Report of the meeting of the Development Control (South Sunderland) Sub Committee held on 30th November, 2010

The report of the meeting of the Development Control (South Sunderland) Sub Committee held on 30th November, 2010 (copy circulated) was submitted.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

2. RESOLVED that the report be agreed and noted subject to the inclusion of apologies from Councillors Ellis, Fletcher and Wood.

Report of the meeting of the Development Control (South Sunderland) Sub-Committee held on 21st December, 2010

The report of the meeting of the Development Control (South Sunderland) Sub Committee held on 21st December, 2010 (copy circulated) was submitted.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

3. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

Report of the meeting of the Development Control (Hetton, Houghton, Washington) Sub-Committee held on 9th December, 2010

The report of the meeting of the Development Control (South Sunderland) Sub Committee held on 9th December, 2010 (copy circulated) was submitted.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

4. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted

Objections to the Proposed No Waiting at Any Time Restrictions on Ayton Road and Kestral Close, Washington South

The Executive Director of City Services submitted a report (copy circulated) to inform the Planning and Highways Committee of the objections received to the proposed Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) for the introduction of No Waiting at Any Time Restrictions on Ayton Road and Kestral Close, Washington South.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Mr. Andrew Jackman, Interim Assistant Head of Traffic and Road Safety, presented the report and advised that two objections had been received from residents, both raising concerns regarding the extent of the proposals.

He advised that the Washington Area Committee had agreed to provide funding from their Strategic Initiatives Budget along with Gentoo to convert some of the grass verge in Kestral Close to provide additional off-street parking provision.

The Chairman invited Bridget Murray, objector, to make her representation.

Ms. Murray advised that she had no objection in principle to the restrictions being put in place if more off-street parking facilities were to be provided for the residents; however she requested that the additional parking places were created prior to the restrictions being implemented.

Members of the Committee agreed that such a request would resolve the objectors' concerns and accordingly it was:-

5. RESOLVED that the Executive Director of City Services be recommended to defer the implementation of the waiting restrictions until the additional off-street parking spaces have been provided in Kestral Close.

Sunderland City Council Local Development Framework: Annual Monitoring Report 2009/10

The Deputy Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) to inform the Committee of the Council's Local Development Framework Annual Monitoring Report.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Mr. Neil Cole presented the report and provided a summary of the performance against the nationally set Core Output Indicators in 2009 / 10

6. RESOLVED that the contents of the Annual Monitoring Report be received and noted.

Change of use of Two Single Dwellings to Homes for Children with Autism

The Deputy Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) to update Members on progress following the previous report to Committee on 20th July, 2010 concerning the use of five dwellings in the City by North East Autism Society (NEAS) as homes for children with autism.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Mr. Keith Lowes, Head of Planning and Environment, presented the update to the Committee.

Councillor Wood was disappointed that NEAS had failed to submit planning applications in respect of each of the properties. He also noted that NEAS had refused to provide a list of other properties in the area owned by NEAS.

Members supported the recommendation outlined in paragraph 4.0 which proposed to keep the situation under review for the time being before taking a decision about whether to close the cases. Those enforcement notices issued would remain attached to the land and new cases would be opened and investigated if new complaints were received in future. Members requested that a further progress report be submitted to the Committee in six months time.

7. RESOLVED that the contents of the report be received and noted.

In accordance with Section 100(B) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Chairman agreed by reason of the special circumstances that the following item could be considered at this meeting as a matter of urgency.

Response to Communities and Local Government Consultation on Proposals for Changes to Planning Application Fees in England

The Deputy Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) to endorse the officers' response to the consultation 'Proposals for Changes to Planning Application Fees in England'.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Mr Mike Mattok presented the report and advised that on 15 November 2010, Communities and Local Government (CLG) launched a rapid consultation process about changing how planning application fees were set.

The consultation period was for 8 weeks instead of the recommended period of 12 weeks and expired on 7 January 2011. The reduced consultation period had been set because of the need to prepare secondary legislation, which would need to be debated and approved by Parliament before it could come into effect on 4th April 2011. An 8 week period of consultation meant that the Government could take into account representations before drafting secondary legislation.

Members having discussed the report it was:

8. RESOLVED that Committee is recommended to note and endorse the officer's response set out in Appendix 1, in order to ensure that the Council contributed to the consultation and outcome.

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

(Signed) P. Tye
Chairman.