



Minutes of a Meeting of the Planning Environment & Policy Committee held on Wednesday 13th July 2022 at Birchwood Leisure Centre, Longmead, Hatfield AL10 0AN at 7.30pm.

PRESENT: Councillor Jackie Brennan – Chair
Councillor Rory Craig
Councillor Nigel Hutton
Councillor Hazel Laming – vice chair
Councillor Linda Mendez
Councillor Tim Rowse

IN ATTENDANCE: Councillor Richard Griffiths

OFFICERS: Jonah Anthony (Town Clerk)
Jane Anderson (Office Manager)

ALSO PRESENT: Simone Camp – Alan Camp Architectures
Bridget Miller – High Consulting
Hannah David – Green Pen Consulting

4. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Angus Mackay.

5. QUESTION TIME

There were none.

6. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on 27th April 2022 and 11th May 2022 (Extraordinary) were signed and approved.

The Minutes of the Meetings of the Planning, Environment and Policy Committee held on 22nd June 2022 (Extraordinary) were signed and approved.

7. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were none.

8. PLANNING LIST

A presentation was given by Hatfield Park Homes Limited on Application Reference 6/2022/1355/MAJ - at Former Beales Hotel Comet Way Hatfield AL10 9NG.

The Councillors received the presentation, followed by a Q and A session with developers. After debating the development, the Committee decided a Major objection should be made to Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council.

Application Number	Address	Proposal	Comments
6/2022/1355/MAJ	At Former Beales Hotel Comet Way Hatfield AL10 9NG	Demolition of existing building and construction of 145 residential units (Use Class C) with private and communal amenity space, landscaping, access. associated car and cycle parking, refuse and recycling storage and supporting infrastructure.	Major Objection A major objection has been raised due to lack of affordable and social housing. Lack of car park spaces Lack local amenities The density of the build Access to the build with a 50mph limit. We feel if we accept this proposal, it sets a precedent for other builds.

9. PLANNING LIST REVIEW

Report of the Town Clerk reviewing the planning decisions taken by Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council, and how Hatfield Town Council makes its contribution to those decisions. Members noted that whilst the report provided a useful picture of what decisions had been made, more work was needed to better understand how effective the Town Council's comments and objections had been

Members also recognised the developing practice of collating comments on planning applications by email, but calling physical meetings for those developments where Members were likely to want to raise a major objection, or believed the development would have a significant impact on the area. Members were encouraged to provide their views, even if it was 'no comment' when the weekly list of new applications under consultation was circulated.

The report's recommendation, with the clarification that Members would be able to propose 'planning applications that would need to be 'called in' for a

meeting of the Committee, was proposed and seconded by Councillor Laming and Councillor Craig.

RESOLVED (unanimously):

- a) That the Committee note the summary of planning decisions the Town Council had commented on and that had been determined attached at Appendix A
- b) That the Committee agree that in addition to the scheduled meetings in October and December, that extraordinary meetings would be called to discuss those planning applications which Members were likely to view as being a major development and/or subject to a major objection (with all other comments collated and agreed by email).
- c) That the Committee delegate responsibilities to the Chair, and in their absence the Vice Chair, and through the Town Clerk and appropriate officers, to finalise and submit comments and make representation on behalf of the committee on those occasions when a formal meeting of the Planning, Environment and Policy is not possible, impractical or undesirable.

It was also agreed that the Town Clerk speak with Derek Lawrence of Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council to clarify how the Town Council's comments are dealt with, viewed and processed, and what impact they had on the ultimate outcome of planning determinations.

10. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

To discuss timetable and key elements of the proposed Hatfield Town Neighbourhood Plan.

It was resolved that the Town Clerk and officers contact local groups to gain feedback regarding a Neighbourhood Plan – suggested groups: The Police, local schools, the university of Hertfordshire and local businesses - with the goal of gaining the knowledge of what should be included within, and what we like to see in our neighbour Plan. This should build on the work undertaken by the Hatfield 2030+ partnership in 2016 and continuing through the Hatfield Renewal Partnership.

11. CONSERVATION AREA PROPOSAL FOR THE RYDE

To receive updates and discuss the campaign to achieve conservation area protection for the Ryde. Members agreed there was merit in securing this, but doubts were raised as to whether the Borough Council would be receptive to the idea.

RESOLVED (unanimously):

That the Town Clerk speak with Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council and enquire as to the correct protocol for establishing a conservation area, with the Ryde and Ellenbrook areas of Hatfield in mind; and to gauge the Borough Council level of support for such a move.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that a significant planning application was being consulted upon, located south of Welwyn Garden City by Hollybush Lane. It was also noted that the Borough Council were holding a series of meeting to discuss the Local Plan between 21 - 26 July.

RESOLVED (unanimously)

That the Committee meet on Wednesday 27th July 2022 at 7.30pm, with those unable to attend were encouraged to send through their comments via email.

CLOSED 9.22pm.

Chair_____