



Minutes of the Planning, Environment and Policy Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 29TH November 2023 at 7pm in the Sportsman Room, Birchwood Leisure Centre, Longmead, Hatfield.

PRESENT: Councillor Daisy Jerobon (Chair)
Councillor Tim Rowse
Councillor Cathy Watson
Councillor Mick Wise
Councillor Stan Tunstall
Councillor Margaret Eames -Petersen

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

35. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Cllr Nigel Upson.

36. **QUESTION TIME**

There were none.

37. **DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS BY MEMBERS**

It was noted that Cllr Stan Tunstall had a conflict of interest with application 6/2023/0775/FULL - The Long and Short Arm and left the room when this application was discussed.

38. **PLANNING LIST AND REPRESENTATIONS TO WHBC DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

Application Number	Address	Proposal	Comments
6/2023/1886/FULL	The Long And Short Arm 18 Lemsford Village Welwyn Garden City AL8 7TN	Erection of 6 dwellings with associated car parking, landscaping, bin storage and drainage, following the demolition of existing buildings including closed vacant Public House, garage, and structures	Although in support of this application, the Members wanted it recognised that the village would lose a community asset, not least a car park for walkers and local residents. We would strongly argue this is mitigated by requiring contributions to be made by the applicant to help improve the connectivity of the village to Lemsford Village Hall. Increasing the capacity of the car park at Lemsford Village Hall is a priority and refurbish the bar facilities at Lemsford Village Hall. As the owners and operators of Lemsford Village Hall we would welcome the opportunities to work with the developers to help mitigate the loss of the car park and community amenity.

6/2022/1355/MAJ	Former Beales Hotel Comet Road Hatfield AL10 9NG	Demolition of existing building and construction of 142 residential units (use Class C3) with private and communal amenity space, landscaping, access, associated car, and cycle parking, refuse and recycling storage and supporting infrastructure.	Members wanted to uphold their previous objections. Although changes were made, the Members were still unhappy with the access to and from the development. Members still had significant concerns with the access to and from Comet Way. Members also felt that more could be done to the transport plan to make it more sustainable including EV charging points for residents. Lack of social housing was still a concern and members wished for links to local parks and green spaces be improved.
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It was determined that Cllr Stan Tunstall to speak at Development Management Committee on Monday 4th December for application 6/2023/1886/FULL, and Cllr Cathy Watson to speak at Development Management Committee on Monday 4th December for application 6/2022/1355/MAJ.

39. INCENTIVE SCHEME FOR LITTER PICKING

Cllr Daisy Jerobon explained how the project could raise awareness regarding litter picking and encourage people to use rubbish bins. Litterlotto the company behind the scheme had send a presentation which officers would circulate to all Members.

It was agreed that Cllr Daisy Jerobon will organise a meeting with Litterlotto – for them to attend a Council meeting to give a full presentation on the whole project. Potentially the January meeting of the Committee.

40. **NORTHWEST HATFIELD MASTERPLAN SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT**

The Town Clerk presented a slide show regarding the masterplan, and explained how the development would progress.

The Town Clerk advised Members that he had attended a site visit along with Gascoyne Cecil Estates team. He explained that part of the development would run alongside our own development of de Havilland Grange project. The Town Clerk hoped to work in conjunction with Gascoyne Cecil Estates team to develop these areas together.

The following points raised were;

- The Town Clerk explained that Mineral extraction would be the first stage of work undertaken and this would work in an anti-clockwise direction.
- There will be a stake holder meeting in January 2024 to which the Town Clerk will be invited, and he will update Members after the meeting.
- Members expressed concern for better transport links between East and West, good interconnection with the local area and the need for community assets to be provided, including good paths and cycle paths between Welwyn Garden City and Hatfield Train Station.
- Concerns were raised regarding the impact on the local community, the impact of the local roads, also the quality of the air and the pollution in the area.

41. **HERTFORDSHIRE GROWTH BOARD SURVEY**

The Town Clerk presented Members the Hertfordshire Growth Board Survey and ran through the questions, he asked that all Members send feed back to him by Wednesday 6th December so a submission can be provided.

42. **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT UPDATE**

The Town Clerk gave Members an update on how The Town Council had engaged with the local community in the last few months.

Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council

- Hatfield Town Council had worked well with the Borough Council when hosting the Firework Event and the Remembrance Day Parade.
- The Leader of Hatfield Town Council Cllr Larry Crofton had had regular meetings with Cllr Paul Zukowskyj – Leader of Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council.

University Of Hertfordshire

- Cllr Nike Fakoya had arranged and organised a Civic Reception for Students back in October.

- There is a meeting scheduled between the Town Clerk and Vice-Chancellor Quintin McKellar of the University on 19th December.

Business Community

- An approach had been made to arrange a meeting with the Chamber of Commence.
- Officers were working on a project to create a Hatfield Directory for 2024.

Children and Young people

- Play Park review ongoing.
- Need to explore how Hatfield Town Council could support Breaks Manor Youth Club. It was agreed that the Town Clerk would organise a site visit to Breaks Manor Youth Club for the Members.
- Officers were investigating work with the Youth Council – Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council

Emergency services

- Members noted that the emergency services had participated in our summer Community Day and attended the Remembrance Service.
- Cllr Mick Wise invited a member of the local Police force to discuss local issues.

43. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Committee unanimously RESOLVED to exclude the Press and Public from the meeting for the following agenda items as their presence would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature or debate of the business to be transacted – Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings Act) 1960.

44. **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND EVENTS BUDGET 2024/25**

Members discussed budget priorities for 2024/25. As part of the discussion Members received a summary of the Firework Committees lessons learnt, which included expenditure and income.

The following suggestions were made;

- A Community Engagement and Events fund to be included in the 2024/25 budget. This should be between £80,000 - £100,000.
- Hatfield Town Council to consider replicating a Business Improvement District (BID) for Hatfield Town Centre.
- An Events Sub-Committee to be formed to oversee Hatfield Town Council events in 2024/25.

The next committee meeting was scheduled for 10th January 2024. It was agreed that the Neighbour Plan be added to the Agenda.

Closure: 21.00pm

Chair