

MINUTES OF PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD IN  
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, KINGS HOUSE THETFORD  
ON TUESDAY 14<sup>th</sup> JULY 2015 STARTING AT 7:00PM

Present:

Councillors:

Mrs S J Armes (Chairman)  
M P Brindle  
Mrs B J Canham  
C Harvey  
J Newton  
M Taylor

R F W Brame  
C R P Burnett  
D M Crawford  
Mrs J Hollis  
Ms F Robinson

Officer in attendance:

Maurice Howard      Town Clerk (for item 245/15 (a) only)  
Tina Cunnell          PPP&C Officer  
Chris Crimmen        Committee Secretary

Also in attendance:

Robert Whittaker      Sustrans to speak on item 241/15

Minutes

238/15      DECLARATIONS OF ANY DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

239/15      MINUTES

Resolved as a true record the minutes of the Committee meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2015, received by Full Council on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2015, be confirmed as a true record and signed/initialled by the Committee Chairman.

240/15      APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors R G Kybird, J C Moorman and S N H Wright.

241/15      CYCLING ROUTES AROUND THETFORD

The Chairman closed the meeting to welcome Robert Whittaker (a volunteer from Sustrans - A charity enabling people to choose healthier, cleaner and cheaper journeys). Mr Whittaker is committed to improving cycling facilities in and around Thetford and in particular:

- Thetford to High Lodge Link
- The London Road Cycle Path

He outlined the benefits of cycling, justified the reasons why these links would improve safety for cyclists in Thetford, listed the progress to date and outlined the next steps. These involved gathering support from local interest groups, landowners, stakeholders, Thetford Town Council, Breckland Council and NCC. He had a meeting the next day with Norfolk County Council's Walking and Cycling Champion. The Chairman asked for comments from the Councillors and these were positive. It was left to Mr Whittaker to formalise his plans so that action can be taken as and when funding becomes available. The Chairman asked for a vote of support for these two cycle routes in and around Thetford = 9 votes of support with 2 abstentions.

The Chairman thanked Mr Whittaker for his presentation.

242/15 PLANNING APPLICATIONS TO CONSIDER

a) Plan No 3011 Full

Applicant: Raleigh Infant School & Nursery, Admirals Way, Thetford IP24 2JT. Provision of a 4-bay Nursery Modular Accommodation building for a period of 5 years. External works to include an entrance canopy and a covered play area; buggy shelter; steel shed; fencing; paving: additional hard play area; soft play area; external lighting bollard; additional car parking provision and associated works.

The Committee expressed the following concerns to NCC in reference to this application.

1. As this is part of an extension of the school this is reducing the recreational footprint meaning there is less play area for more children.
2. Following on from this due to the increased number of children there is going to be more traffic issues in an already congested area in particular parking and drop off/pick up traffic flow issues.
3. What is the plan for extension in the long term as there are already 2 temporary classrooms with more planned so is there actually room for this extension taking into account the loss of recreational space.

b) Plan No 0031 Use Class

Applicant: Mr R Manser: Change of use from A1 shop to A3 coffee shop (Permitted Development) 14 Riverside Walk IP24 2BB.

Supporter.

c) Plan No 0582 Full

Applicant: Ms S Plummer: Extg flat roof & replace with higher position & roof lights (to rear single storey extension) La Casita Old Bury Road IP24 3AL.

Supporter subject to neighbour's comments.

d) Plan No 0671 Full

Applicant: Ms L Chapman: Conversion of redundant ambulance station to dwelling The Old Ambulance Station Earls Street IP24 4AF.

Thetford Town Council request the Historic Buildings Officer produce a report on the building as they are keen to preserve the historic elements of the building including the retention of the plaque.

e) Plan No 0724 Full

Applicant: Mr Andy Mash: Single storey extension (Classroom) The Bishops Church of England VA Primary School Canterbury Way IP24 1EB.

Supporter

f) Plan No 0741 Full

Applicant: Mr & Mrs King: Erection of porch to side 21 Admirals Way IP24 2JT.

Supporter subject to neighbour's comments.

g) Plan No 0758 Advertisement

Applicant: One Stop Stores Ltd 1 external illuminated fascia sign, 4 poster frames & window graphics – all non-illuminated 23 Admirals Way IP24 2LB.

Supporter

243/15 LATE PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED AFTER AGENDA WAS PUBLISHED

None

244/15 PROPOSAL TO REOPEN WHITE HART STREET

The PPP&C Officer had received a response from the Highways Engineer at NCC regarding the question of opening White Hart Street. He stated that there would have to be major improvements to pedestrian and vehicular facilities to enable the junction to be opened and NCC does not have the funding to facilitate this request. In addition the request for a feasibility study was also turned down due to lack of funding. The Highway Engineer did state that if Thetford Town Council wished to pay for this study to take place it would cost in the region of £5,000. There followed a debate for and against this change. It was decided to wait for a traffic survey for the whole of the Thetford area which will be due when the work at the Riverside has been completed and the bus interchange had been operational for some time.

245/15 ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

a) MUNZEE'S STICKERS

The Town Clerk joined the meeting for this item. He presented a request from the NCC Norfolk Trail Office to place Munzee stickers, which are 4 cms in diameter, on information boards, benches and the William Gentle Bridge. This is a geocaching craze that is sweeping Europe whereby members of the public collect points by scanning the munzee which then gives details of historical and general information of that area. The scheme is designed to engage children and adults alike to discover more about the area in which they live or are visiting.

b) FOREST PLAN HIGH LODGE

The PPP&C Officer reported the Forestry Commission has drafted a new forest plan and welcomed public comments on their proposals. The plan covers an area of Thetford Forest known as High Lodge. The Councillors noted their proposals and wished to make no comment.

246/15 PRESS RELEASES

To receive the Chairman's report for any press releases.

Chairman.