
Development Control Panel

**Report of the meetings held on 14th July, 18th August
and 15th September 2008**

Matters for Information

10. ENFORCEMENT ACTION

Having been acquainted with details of a significant breach of planning control involving an unauthorised change of use from B1 (light industry) to B2 (general industry) at an industrial unit located on Little End Road, Eaton Socon, the Committee have instructed the Head of Planning Services to issue an Enforcement Notice to secure the cessation of the activities within a maximum period for compliance of four calendar months from the date of the notice coming into effect. Elements of the notice will require to be actioned within three days given the detrimental effect of the unauthorised activities on the amenity of residents in Admirals Way, Eaton Socon.

11. REVIEW OF PUBLIC SPEAKING

The Panel has considered the outcome of a recent survey of Members and of those members of the public who had addressed them on planning applications within the past year. The survey, undertaken by the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Service Support) has reviewed the operation of the procedure for public speaking in respect of planning applications since its introduction in January 2007. (Item No. 12 of the Report of the Overview & Scrutiny Panel (Service Support) refers.)

In response to the suggestion that the Panel's procedure might seem intimidating and daunting to some speakers, the Chairman has indicated his intention to welcome public speakers informally before the commencement of meetings in an attempt to put them at their ease.

Although endorsing the existing procedure for public speaking, the Panel's attention has been drawn to a discrepancy in the procedure recorded in the Council's Procedure Rules in the Constitution and the decision of the Council in December 2006 as to whether persons wishing to support an application should be permitted to speak at meetings. Following discussion on the matter, the Panel was of the view that supporters of applications should be entitled to speak and words to this effect will now be included in the Procedure for Public Speaking.

**12. PERFORMANCE MONITORING:
DEVELOPMENT CONTROL PROGRESS REPORT:
1ST APRIL - 30 JUNE 2008**

The Panel has received a statistical report on the performance of the Development Control Section of the Planning Division over the period 1st April to 30 June 2008 and was pleased to note that all national performance targets had been met by the Section for the determination of major, minor and other applications with an overall total of 82% (or 400 out of 489 applications) determined during the quarter.

**13. URBAN DESIGN FRAMWORK, RAMSEY:
LAND SOUTH OF HIGH STREET**

The Conservation Area Management Plan for Ramsey highlighted, in 2005, an area to the south of the High Street, as sufficiently important to warrant a specific strategy for its protection and enhancement. Consequently, the Urban Design Framework has been produced which highlights the principal planning constraints in the area and identifies the important settlement characteristics, open spaces and settings. The Framework document also identifies potential locations for appropriate development with guidance to achieve, in particular, successful, imaginative and distinctive redevelopment of three sites in the area.

The Design Framework has been published for consultation and, as a consultee, the Panel has welcomed and endorsed its contents and recommended to the Cabinet that the document be adopted as Interim Planning Guidance.

14. DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS

Over three meetings, the Panel has determined a total of 37 applications of which 23 were approved, 11 refused and 3 deferred.

P K Ursell
Vice Chairman