
Development Management Panel

**Report of the meetings held on 19th December 2011
and 16th January 2012**

Matter for Information

15. DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS

Over two meetings, the Panel has considered 16 applications for proposed development and of these 14 have been approved and two refused. Although the majority of the applications related to minor domestic or commercial development, two had wider implications for the District for different reasons.

Following representations made by District and Town Councillors and a local resident and having taken these carefully into consideration, the Panel has approved an application for the development of a six screen cinema complex, restaurant buildings, car park and public plaza off Huntingdon Street, St Neots.

On balance, the Panel were of the view that the significant contribution the cinema would make to the improvement of leisure facilities in St Neots and the contribution to the promotion of the vitality and economic well-being of the town outweighed their concerns with the proposal. A Section 106 Agreement will secure funds towards the upgrading of the urban traffic control system in the town centre and conditions will secure, amongst other matters, the provision of a car park management plan.

Given the outstanding need for permanent gypsy and traveller pitches in the District and as the site in question complied with the criteria established by Circular 01/2006 – Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Sites and CS6 of the Huntingdonshire Core Strategy 2009, the Panel also has approved, subject to conditions, an application for the permanent change of use of land from agricultural paddock to provide four additional gypsy/traveller pitches and hard standings on a site called Five Acres Field, on the B1040 mid way between St Ives and Somersham.

D B Dew
Chairman