
Development Management Panel

Report of the meetings held on 27th February, 19th March and 16th April 2012

Matters for Information

16. ANNUAL ENFORCEMENT REPORT

An update on the extent and variety of enforcement activity undertaken by the Enforcement Team in the Planning Division during 2011 has been presented to the Panel. Progress achieved in respect of objectives identified for the service in 2010 and proposed priorities for 2012 also have been reported.

Importance is now placed upon making an initial visit shortly after a complaint has been made. This has resulted in an increase, to 92% in 2011, of recorded site visits carried out within ten working days. This practice ensures that cases are able to be dealt with in a manner proportionate to their harm and in a consistent and expedient way.

In terms of the priorities for 2012, the Panel has noted that the two key objectives for the Enforcement Service will remain un-changed as follows:-

- ◆ to focus on quality and outcomes where unacceptable breaches are identified; and
- ◆ to maximise the efficiency of the Enforcement Service.

Having commended the efforts of the Team in what is considered to be a difficult area of work, the Panel has been made aware of the impact of the Localism Act on enforcement provisions but has been assured that these would not affect either the 2012 priorities or case workloads.

17. STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

As a consultee in the planning policy process, the Panel has recommended the Cabinet to authorise the Head of Planning Services, after consultation with the Executive Councillor for Strategic Planning and Housing and the Chairman to finalise and approve a new Statement of Community Involvement.

The Statement (SCI) is a requirement of the Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and sets out clearly how the District Council intends to undertake public consultation on planning matters. The

Inspector who examines the Council's new Local Plan will consider whether the Plan has been prepared in accordance with the SCI.

18. NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY FRAMEWORK

The Panel has been advised that the final National Planning Policy Framework was published at the end of March. This replaces all former Planning Policy Guidance and Statements. In addition to the Framework, technical policy guidance has been issued on flood risk, minerals and travellers sites. The NPPF is now considered to be a material consideration in the determination of future development applications.

19. DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROGRESS REPORT: 1ST OCTOBER – 31ST DECEMBER 2011

The Panel has undertaken its regular review of the activities of Development Management Service over the period 1st October – 31st December 2011 in comparison with the preceding quarter and the corresponding period in 2010.

20. DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS

Over three meetings the Panel has considered a total of 35 applications and of these 21 have been approved and 13 refused. The Head of Planning Services has been authorised to determine an application for the delivery of a primary healthcare facility on land west of Windsor Road, Sawtry after consultation with the Executive Councillor for Strategic Planning and Housing and the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Panel on the timescale for the delivery of the facility given local concerns regarding the proposed temporary access to the new building from Windsor Road.

Consideration has been given to several proposals for development which may be of wider interest to the Council. The Panel has given consent to enabling works for the Alconbury Enterprise Zone which will prepare part of the Zone for future employment development and has approved a scheme which will result in a minor re-structuring and extension of One Leisure in St. Ives and provide a new entrance, party room, office, restaurant and fitness suite. The development also will result in the creation of other new facilities including a ten pin bowling alley and enhanced changing rooms for all indoor activities.

Residential development at Houghton Grange, Houghton and on land north of Cambridge Road, St. Neots also has been approved subject to completion of Section 106 Agreements in each case.

21. APPEAL DECISIONS

The Panel regularly monitors the outcome of appeals received by the Planning Inspectorate against refusal of planning permission by the District Council. On this occasion, the Panel has noted the decision of the Inspector to dismiss, for a variety of reasons, an application for the development of 4 wind turbines on land west of Bicton Industrial

Estate, Kimbolton due principally to their location in the Kym Valley and the harm that would occur to the nearby heritage assets.

D B Dew
Chairman