

WHITTLESEY TOWN COUNCIL

Planning Committee

Minutes of the Planning Meeting held on Wednesday 1st July 2020 at 7.30 via Zoom.

For the health, safety and well-being of our community as a result of Covid-19 and following the instruction of the Prime Minister's address on 23rd March 2020 all Parish Council meetings will be held remotely until further notice. Whittlesey Town Council has resolved to use Zoom to facilitate the holding of meetings.

Present: Cllr Miscandlon, Davies, Whitwell, Gerstner, Mrs Mayor, Munns, Windle, Mason, Mrs Laws,

Officer in Attendance: Mrs Sue Piergianni – Town Clerk & RFO

P45/2020. To receive apologies for absence from members.

There were no apologies.

P46/2020. To report the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 15th June 2020 and receive the minutes Wednesday 3rd June 2020.

Ratified: The minutes from the meeting on the 3rd June were approved and the minutes from Monday 15th June were reported and would be signed at the appropriate time.

P47/2020 Declaration of member's interests.

Cllr Mrs Laws as Portfolio Holder for Planning at FDC, advised she will take no part in any discussions on the applications and will not vote. Cllr Mrs Mayor as member of FDC Planning Committee, she will comment but reserves the right to change her mind should additional information be available later.


F/YR2015/CW – Cllr Gerstner has been lobbied by many residents this will have no impact on any comments he wishes to make at this meeting.

P48/2020. Public Forum. - To allow members of the public to address the Council. Time Allowed 15 mins total.

My name is Andy Stimson and I live in Bellmans Grove and I am speaking on behalf of the 80 residents who are objecting primarily to the proposed pedestrian access between the new Eastfield Nursery development (168 houses = around 350-400 people) and the existing public open space at the end of Bellmans Grove/Charles Road/ Mountbatten Way and Diana Close. This would have serious social and mental consequences to the residents.

Just over 2 weeks ago I was speaking to a man who was putting a yellow sign on the lamppost in Bellmans Grove. He also put one at the bottom of Diana Close. These were planning signs for the Eastfield Nursery development.

Closing date for comments is 3rd July, which was around 2 ½ weeks .. and during a pandemic, where many elderly and vulnerable residents who will be affected, have been isolating and shielding. This is frankly very poor and has worried many residents.



Apparently , only 12 residents who share a boundary with the site, received a planning letter. People are disgusted with this, as this new development will affect the whole community around Bellmans Grove/Charles Road.

I have read every document for the application, and the related previous application, and noted there was only a single document - the "Planning Statement", with 2 indirect references to a link between the proposed new estate and the existing public open space. The wording is ambiguous, contradicting and does not reference the road names, only directions - P18 section 6.53 and P20 section 7.2 of the document. The wording is not clear and appears to hide a major pedestrian access route that should not even be included.

NOTE. No other document or drawing has ANY reference to access between the 2 sites. 5 years ago on 17th June 2015 there was a public meeting at the Manor Leisure Centre to discuss the original development , which is the related application, and there was talk of creating an access, which was unanimously rejected by all residents. There was also a "comments book" where residents added their comments and concerns. The attending presenters, listened to the concerns regarding access, and informed everyone that if the residents did not want an access then this would be removed before planning was agreed. Why is this now hidden in a single document?

Since then, there has been no information, until the yellow signs went up a couple of weeks ago. Based on the short time to respond, and talking to various residents and neighbours, it was apparent, nobody was aware of what was happening. So I took it upon myself to give every household of Bellmans Grove, Charles Road and the side roads, a short letter explaining the need to comment on the application. I have also raised these concerns with the Ward Councillor David Davies.

I hope that the wording regarding access is an oversight, considering none of the other documents and diagrams show this. Please confirm this is the case and remove all references to access between proposed and existing sites from the Planning Statement, and replace with wording to the effect that there will be no access between the new development and existing public open space behind Diana Close.

There are numerous other comments raised on the objection responses, and I urge every single one to be looked at, as it affects the existing community as a whole. Other concerns include, but not limited to:

- The poor state of the Charles Road/Diana Close sewer and the problems that will cause if the new site feeds into this.
- Layout of new site has changed and now includes 2.5 story houses and no bungalows, which mean existing properties will be overlooked. Also, positioning of the social housing was agreed to be situated away from existing properties and has now been altered
- Detrimental effect to the existing nature reserve/wildlife during and after development. There are many types of animals and birds, which would be seriously affected by any new development including different types of deer, foxes, cuckoos, woodpeckers and numerous other species
- Noise
- Anti-social behaviour with increased risk of drug use – this is already a problem in that area
- Litter and waste
- Crime in general will rise, with many residents genuinely worried about what will happen if there is an access
- Creation of a rat-run that could be used for criminal activities
- Site boundary materials to Bellmans Grove properties is not clear
- Concerns over personal security when walking through the nature reserve

Cllr Miscandlon invited Cllr Mrs Laws to respond, she advised the letters went out to the statutory consultees (12 residents). The notices were put on two lamp posts however this is not a statutory requirement. Cllr Mrs Laws advised she we investigate all the issues and will update the Cllr Davies.

P49/2020. To consider Planning Applications received from FDC for comment:-

F/YR19/0761/F - Erect 4no industrial units (B1,B2 and B8 use) security office and 3.0 metre high acoustic screen with associated parking and hardstanding areas including formation of attenuation pond at Lattersey Field, Benwick Road, Whittlesey – Revised Proposals: Revision is: Plans and documents updated to reflect agreed drainage scheme and additional site level/French drain details submitted.

The Town Council recommend refusal as the travel plan is based on the census from 2011 and is therefore out of date. The information on the bus routes is incorrect as buses do not go down Station road, Whittlesey Town Council are only recommending refusal on the infrastructure that is in the application, however they welcome investment in the area.

F/YR20/0405/F – Erect single storey extension to rear of existing dwelling at 22 Eastfield Drive, Whittlesey. – Revised proposals, Revision is: Proposed extension reduced from two storey to single storey, revised plans submitted.

The Town Council have no objection and therefore recommend approval.

F/YR20/0454/F - Erect single storey to front of existing dwelling at 33 West Delph, Whittlesey

The Town Council have no objection and therefore recommend approval.

F/YR20/0471/RM – Reserved matters application relating to detailed matters of appearance, landscaping, layout and scale pursuant to outline permission F/YR16/1017/O for the erection of 168 x dwellings and associated works at site of former Eastfield Nursery, Eastrea Road, Whittlesey.

The Town Council recommend refusal due to the inconsistencies between the plan and the planning statement, there is now also 85 objections lodged with FDC. The police have also expressed concern with the rear access into the central terraced properties. The Town Council would request that the footpath will not be included within the planning statement.

F/YR20/0474/F – Change of use of land for domestic purposes and the erect of a 1.8m high (approx) boundary fence involving the demolition of existing wall and the formation of a dropped kerb at Land East of 47 Sycamore road, Whittlesey.

The Town Council recommend refusal, highways deferred until fence height has been agreed and the relocation position of the lamp post has been finalised.

F/YR20/0521/TRTPO – Works to 1no Ash tree covered by TPO 04/2016 at TPO Land East of 6 Queen Street, Whittlesey.

The Town Council in principle have no objection and would recommend approval, however there is no report from the Fenland Tree Officer, therefore they will not give confirmation of their recommendation until the report is available.

F/YR20/0523/C1490E – Divert the overhead electricity line along with the edge of the field to the south of March Road, Turves. The diverted line will be within 20 meters of its existing position. The Number of poles along the diverted route will be the same as the existing configuration. At Overhead lines South of Cobbs Close, Turves.

The Town Council have no objection and therefore recommend approval.

F/2018/18/CW – Land at Saxon Pit, Peterborough Road, Whittlesey – Section 73A planning application to continue the importation of controlled inert wastes for the buttressing, stabilisation and restoration of a former mineral excavation face together with an associated waste reception area without compliance with conditions 5 (time limit for importation and deposit of waste fill), 6 (time limit for site preparation, buttressing, stabilisation and restoration, 35 (restoration programme), 36 (submission of restoration and landscaping), and 39 (ecology management plan) with the cessation of importation and deposit of waste by 28 September 2020 and the cessation of site preparation, buttressing, stabilisation and restoration by 28th November 2020

The Town Council recommend approval providing all safeguards are in place to allow constant monitoring of the site to prevent the issues that have occurred in past with regards to unsuitable materials being used in the buttness.

P50/2020 – Additional Information

F/YR19/0559/0 -APP/DO51/W/20/3247871 – Land South of 6 – 26 Wype Road, Eastrea – Erection of up to 10 dwellings (Outline with matters committed in respect of access only) involving the demolition of 8 Thornham Way.

P51/2020 Date of next meeting Monday 20th July 2020

Meeting closed: 20.25



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Cllr Alex Miscandlon
Chairman
Planning Committee

