

# Minutes of the Planning, Highways and Transport Committee held on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2014 in the Council Chamber, Alnwick at 6.15pm.

**Present:** Cllrs R Roberts (Chairman), P Allcroft, P Broom, Cllr D Farrar, B Grisdale, M Harrington, P Holt, J Humphries, G Mavin, K Moore and A Symmonds.

## **P38/13 Apologies**

None

## **P39/13 Declarations of Interest**

None

## **P40/13 Minutes**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> December were approved and they were duly signed by the Committee Chairman.

## **P41/13 Matters Arising**

Referring to minute P36/13, it was reported that the County Council had requested the Council's view on the naming of the street at the proposed new housing development which will be called Weavers Court (subject to it receiving planning permission). The developer had suggested Swordy Park Drive as the street name. Councillors debated this and many felt it was too early to make a decision, which could then impact on the street names for other possible developments in that area.

**RESOLVED: that the street naming is premature and the Council do not wish to make a decision at this stage as any name chosen could have implications for other possible developments in that area (if they receive planning permission).**

Councillor Harrington also updated the Committee on a site visit he had attended at the Former Corn Exchange site. This had taken place on the 8<sup>th</sup> January and had highlighted the important features inside that needed to be retained, covered the noise monitoring positioning, considered delivery time, the bat survey and the need for an additional electricity supply. It was hoped that application would appear at the North Area Planning Committee in February.

## **P42/13. To minute responses made since last meeting**

Since the last meeting the following plans had been circulated electronically and responses had been submitted as listed below:

**13/03816/LBC The Gate Gallery, 12-14 Bondgate Within** Rebuild at lower height a stone dividing wall and carry out necessary repairs

**No objections**

**13/03752/LBC Alnwick Tourist Information Centre**, proposed surface mounted plastic signs internally & externally, replacement of internal flush door, new grabrail in accessible w.c (this is the one next to the gents public toilet).

**No objections**

**13/03757/PRUTPO. Land to rear of 28 Belle Vue Gardens**, TPO crown reduce by 25% and shortening limbs growing towards the north, south and east.

**No objections provided the shape and future health of the tree is not adversely affected and the shortening of the limbs is undertaken with the minimum amount of removal necessary. Has permission been obtained from the landowner?**

**13/03699/VARYCO The Limes, Windsor Gardens.** Variation to condition (refurbishment and extension with existing timber porch to be demolished and rebuilt in stone – this is to be changes to provide a roof canopy over the door after the porch has been removed)

**No objections**

**13/03669/FUL Bog Mill, Alnmouth Road,** Proposed Two Storey side extension.

**No objections**

**P43/13 Further comments on redevelopment of former Willis site (13/02550/FUL)**

Councillors Mavin and Farrar had asked for this application to be discussed further. The Council had previously submitted comments in September and October. They raised issues regarding the need for pedestrian access to the Fire Station and for the proposed pedestrian crossing to be carefully sited, The retail impact on the town centre was also discussed and for example the estimated 9% loss to Morrisons. Furthermore, they were concerned that the sequential test many not have considered all sites and the impact only took into account food items, although the supermarket would also sell non-food items. It was agreed to incorporate these points into the previously submitted response.

**RESOLVED** The Council's amended comment to be "No objections, but we strongly support the provision of a footpath along the western side of South Road from the cemetery to the development and from the development up to the Fire Station. In addition we feel that the junction giving road access to the site from South Road will need to be carefully designed to reflect traffic volumes and flows on South Road and in order to give safe pedestrian access to the retail units, a pedestrian crossing on South Road is required, and this will need to be carefully sited to reflect the brow of the hill. In terms of the retail impact study we have two comments, a) has suitable consideration been given to alternative sites – some of the sites considered at not vacant but are any vacant sites available?, and secondly, b) the document only makes reference to the impact on other food outlets, we are concerned about the possible impact on non-food retailers and feel this should be/have been considered".

**P44/13 Electronic submission of Planning Comments through NCC planning system**

Councillor Farrar highlighted that on many occasions the Town Council's planning application comments were not added to the website by Northumberland County Council, he felt that interested residents should be able to see the comments on-line. He proposed that in future comments should be submitted electronically through the Public Access planning site and this was supported by other councillors.

**RESOLVED:** In future planning comments should be submitted to the County Council via the planning Public Access system, provided this is acceptable to the County Council.

**P45/13. Future Planning Training and Committee Improvements**

Councillor Roberts raised the issue of possible planning training for Committee members and this was supported by other councilors. It was agreed to see what options were on offer and report back to the next meeting. It was also suggested that to give more time for discussion the next Committee should start at 6pm

**RESOLVED:** To report back to the next Committee meeting on possible training courses and the next meeting to start at the earlier time of 6.00pm.

The meeting closed at 7.00 p.m.