

Minutes of the Planning, Highways and Transport Committee held on Thursday 11th December 2014 in St James Church Rooms, Pottergate, Alnwick at 6.00pm

Present: Cllrs R Roberts (Chairman), P Broom, D Farrar, M Harrington, P Holt, J Humphries, K Moore, A Symmonds and A Shilton.

In attendance: W Batey, Town Clerk; J Pibworth, Admin Assistant.

P14/56 Apologies

Cllr W Grisdale.

P14/57 Declarations of Interest

None.

P14/58 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 13th November 2014 were approved and they were duly signed by the Committee Chairman.

P14/59 Matters Arising

P14/50 Proposed New High School - Councillor Roberts informed the committee that a decision had been made and that Planning Approval had been GRANTED. The Town Council had not spoken at the planning meeting but Councillor Roberts had spoken to the County Councillors to ensure that the Town Council views were reflected in their comments. Both the County Councillors and the Civic Society had aired concerns about the Transport Plan for the school which were shared by NCC Planning Officers.

A working group, consisting of NCC officers, Town Council and community representatives, will be setup to look at the whole issue of access to the new site from all areas of Alnwick. Councillor Farrar pointed out that although the working group would look at the travel impacts of the new school site it had not been provided with any funding to actually make improvements. He suggested that the Town Council ask NCC if the working group meetings could be held in Alnwick. Councillor Roberts agreed to follow this up.

Councillor Humphries noted that the new school will be for 13-18 year olds but by the time the school was built Alnwick may have a new two tier education system meaning more children would need to access the new site. The Town Clerk advised that no decision on a two tier education system had been made so the current planning approval is for the existing plan only. Any extension would need to be a new planning application.

Councillor Harrington commented that the road currently being put in place was certainly a major road.

P14/54 McDonalds Totem sign. Councillors Roberts advised the committee that she had been contacted by the Planning Officer to ask the Town Council to withdraw their request for a reduction in the height of the pole from 12 metres to 10 metres. Councillor Roberts confirmed the Town Council's position that they had requested the pole to be reduced in height by 2 metres. The Planning Officer had come back to confirm that McDonalds had reduced the height of the pole to 10 metres. Councillor Roberts also advised that some McDonalds planning applications had reduced the pole to 8 metres and that this was something the Town Council should check in future before making similar requests. Councillor Harrington felt the way this had been reported in the paper had suggested that the Town Council had objected to the planning application itself.

The following decision notices had been received:

14/01134/FUL Former Valuation Office/Citizens Advice Bureau Wagonway Road, Alnwick NE66 1QL Proposed conversion of a Grade II Listed Building, demolition of the unlisted western extension and removal of existing 'walk through', via internal and external alterations to create 5 apartments and 1 bungalow with associated car parking, landscaping and refuse store - **GRANTED**.

14/01136/LBC The Former Valuation Office/Citizens Advice Bureau Wagonway Road, Alnwick NE66 1QL Proposed conversion of a Grade II Listed Building, demolition of the unlisted western extension and removal of existing 'walk through', via internal and external alterations to create 5 apartments and 1 bungalow with associated car parking, landscaping and refuse store - **GRANTED**.

14/03288/FUL 24 Upper Howick Street, Alnwick NE66 1UZ Demolition of existing single storey rear extension and construction of single storey rear extension - **GRANTED**.

14/03289/LBC 24 Upper Howick Street, Alnwick NE66 1UZ Demolition of existing single storey rear extension and construction of single storey rear extension - **GRANTED**.

14/013209/FUL 35 Chapel Lands, Alnwick NE66 1EN Front room, porch and garage extension to ground floor, first floor bedroom extension over garage and single storey lounge to rear - **GRANTED**.

14/03320/FUL 5A Narrowgate, Alnwick NE66 1JH Replacement of 2 dilapidated sash windows - **REFUSED**.

14/03321/LBC 5A Narrowgate, Alnwick NE66 1JH Replacement of 2 dilapidated sash windows - **REFUSED**.

P14/60 To Minute responses made since last meeting

14/03769/FUL 25 Blakelaw Court, Alnwick NE66 1BY Proposed single storey side lean-to extension - **NO OBJECTIONS**.

P14/61 Car Parking review and feedback from meeting with NCC

The Town Clerk reminded the committee of the figures he had issued with regard to the car parking survey he had undertaken in November. He reminded them that the survey was done to decide on any feedback to NCC about limited car parking times and that both the Town Council and the Chamber of Trade had requested some limited parking in Greenwell Lane before free parking was introduced.

He also gave an update from the meeting he and the Mayor had with Lynne Ryan (NCC):

GREENWELL LANE CAR PARK - NCC supported the change in parking times in the large Greenwell Lane car park (Car Park D). The Chamber of Trade had suggested 3 hour limit whilst NCC would prefer a 4 hour limit the same as in other towns in Northumberland. Councillor Moore asked how much of the car park would it affect. The Town Clerk advised that it would be all 76 spaces. He also advised that people would not be able to simply change their parking disc as the Traffic Wardens check wheel positioning and registration.

MARKET PLACE - Discussed the sign outside the Northumberland Hall being moved to accommodate the new town notice board.

HOTSPUR STREET - Nothing NCC can do about this issue.

THE COBBLES - NCC advised that they are getting costs for this work. The footpath lines are also an issue as people are parking over the walkway.

LISBURN STREET - Mentioned by Town Council and noted by NCC.

He asked the committee for their thoughts on the parking time they should recommend for large Greenwell Lane car park (Car Park D).

Councillor Moore felt the Town Council should support the Chamber of Trade.

Councillor Broom felt it was important that the Town Council look at the needs of the town, not NCC.

Councillor Symmonds felt that NCC had taken this into account when they implemented free parking.

Councillor Farrar felt that reducing the number of all day parking spaces in the town could result in some people who want to park all day not being able to find a space.

Councillor Roberts felt that as the survey was done in November it had not picked up data from the busiest summer period. If visitors were coming to the town to do a number of things a 3 hour time limit may not be long enough.

Councillor Harrington commented that there were lots of other no limit parking areas in Alnwick but they had a bit more of a walk into the town centre.

Councillor Broom asked if the council thought about Park and Ride as more buses were now coming into the town. He also felt that the Town Council could ask for smaller buses so they can come into the town centre. The Town Clerk said he would raise this at the next meeting with NCC.

RESOLVED: To notify NCC that the Town Council propose a 3 hour parking limit in Greenwell Lane car park D.

The Town Clerk advised that the BBC will taking over the whole of Car Park B in Greenwell during January for filming in the town.

P14/62 Consultation on the Cycle Plan for Northumberland

Councillor Farrar gave a summary of the comments he had circulated to the committee:

- i) there are 11 actions listed in the plan but none suggest developing more cycle routes;
- ii) the plan does not mention linking Alnwick to neighbouring villages such as Alnmouth and Lesbury.

RESOLVED: To submit the Town Council's comments to NCC regarding the consultation on the Cycle Plan for Northumberland.

P14/63 Planning Applications

The following applications were discussed and comments made as listed:

14/03867/FUL Folly Dyke, Alnwick Construction of sun room extension - **NO OBJECTIONS.**

14/03222/FELTPO Longknowe, Alnmouth Road, TPO application to remove branch from one cherry tree, crown raise 7 sycamores by 4 metres, fell one Laburnum and fell one Leyland Cypress - **NO OBJECTIONS subject to NCC being satisfied that the Laburnum is damaging the retaining wall.**

P14/64 Any Other Urgent Business

Councillor Moore informed the committee Rotary Club of Alnwick have asked for the new road to the high school be named Rotary Way.

Councillor Farrar advised the committee that Councillor Humphries has been added to street naming sub-group.

The meeting closed at 6.55 p.m.