

Minutes of the Planning, Highways and Transport Committee held on Thursday 10th November 2016 in St James Church Rooms, Pottergate, Alnwick at 6.00pm

Present: Cllrs M Swinbank (Chair), S Bell, P Broom, P Edge, M Harrington, P Holt, J Humphries, G Mavin, S Mavin, K Moore and A Symmonds.

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

P16/52 Apologies

None.

P16/53 Declarations of Interest

None.

P16/54 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 13th October 2016 were approved and they were duly signed by the Committee Chairman.

P16/55 Matters Arising:

P16/38 16/02824/OUT Alnwick Golf Club – Councillor Swinbank advised that the Town Council had submitted an additional list of issues to NCC. A copy of the comments from the relevant NCC Planning Chair / Vice Chair has now been received and the application will be decided under Delegated Powers. These also confirmed that there will be a new clubhouse that had already received permission and it was in the Denwick parish.

Councillor Humphries asked if Denwick had a Planning Committee. The Town Clerk advised that they didn't.

Planning outcomes received:

16/02603/FUL Narrowgate House, Narrowgate, Alnwick NE66 1JN

Conversion of Narrowgate House into 5no. residential units (C3) with a Creperie (a3) in the basement. Demolition of the Coach House and Stable Block (to facilitate access) - **GRANTED.**

16/02603/LBC Narrowgate House, Narrowgate, Alnwick NE66 1JN Listed

Building Consent: Conversion of Narrowgate House into 5no. residential units (C3) with a Creperie (a3) in the basement. Demolition of the Coach House and Stable Block (to facilitate access) - **GRANTED.**

16/00729/LBC Alnwick Working Men's Club, 23 Clayport Street, Alnwick NE66 1LA Listed building consent to replace 7no. windows on top floor – **GRANTED.**

16/00964/FUL 12-14 Bondgate Within, Alnwick NE66 1TD Listed Building Consent for demolition of existing building and construction of new dwelling – **GRANTED.**

16/02964/FUL (Retrospective) 43 Willoughby Park, Alnwick, NE66 1ET Proposed decking area at end of garden - **GRANTED.**

16/03033/FUL 14 Augur Terrace, Alnwick NE66 1RR Construction of side and rear extension – **GRANTED.**

P16/56 To minute responses made since last meeting

16/03627/ADE Willowtree Service Station, Willowtree Industrial Estate, Alnwick NE66 2HA - **NO OBJECTIONS.**

Councillor Harrington said that the Town Council needed to flag with NCC Officers that the work has almost been completed.

Councillor G Mavin felt Councillor Castle should be asked to raise the issue with the relevant NCC Committee.

P16/57 Planning Applications

The following applications were discussed and comments to be submitted were:

16/03642/OUT Land at Willowburn Trading Estate, Alnwick Outline application for the development of approximately 125no. units with associated access - **OBJECTION.**

The Town Clerk explained that a draft response on behalf of Alnwick Town Council had been circulated to all councillors. He added that the proposal in the core strategy for the deallocation of the site only got 4 replies (3 objecting and 1 supporting).

Councillor Symmonds felt the suggested response was excellent and felt it was important that the Town Council send a representative to the NCC Planning Committee when this was discussed. He thought that the Town Council should attend every meeting so that their objections could be voiced. He suggested that Councillor G Mavin should represent the Town Council.

Councillor Edge asked if the application would go to committee. The Town Clerk advised that it was down as delegated at this stage. He advised that County Councillors could ask that the application is heard by the relevant NCC Planning Committee.

Councillor G Mavin explained that he thought it would certainly put some companies out of business.

Councillor Swinbank asked councillor to vote on submitting the objection comments to NCC. All councillors present voted to object to the application.

The Town Clerk asked that in the event that the decision was a committee decision, which councillor would will to go and speak, all councillors agreed this should be Councillor G. Mavin.

16/03267/LBC Hampden House, Belvedere Terrace, Alnwick NE66 2NX Listed Building Consent: Removal of 2no. partitions of 12.5mm plasterboard (one blocking hall and one blocking basement) to return property back to residential unit. Installation of railings – **NO OBJECTIONS.**

16/03749/ADE N E Co-Operative, Victoria Terrace, Alnwick NE66 1RF Advertisement Consent for 1 x illuminated fascia logo only (Sign A), 1 x internally illuminated logo (Sign B), 1 x internally illuminated projector (Sign C) and 5 x non-illuminated wall mounted aluminium panels (Signs, D, E1, E2, E3, and F) - **NO OBJECTIONS.**

16/02910/FELTPO Alnwick Cricket Club. The Town Clerk explained this was a previous application which the Town Council had objected to. He explained that further information had been received from the applicant but that no further information had been received from NCC's Tree Officer.

Councillors agreed to support the decision made by NCC's Tree Officer.

P16/58 Planning Appeals

None.

P16/59 Consultation on 20mph zones around schools

The Town Clerk advised that Margaret Robinson, NCC, had asked the Town Council for their views on the possible extent of the 20 mph zones outside schools and whether permanent or flashing time limited signs were preferred.

ZONES FOR SIGNS:

St Paul's RC School – Councillor Swinbank suggested the zone be from the Oak roundabout (town side) to the crossing near Infirmary Drive.

Councillor Moore felt the zone should be extended slightly closer to the town centre. Councillors agreed to request a zone from the Oaks roundabout to Barter Books.

DCHS (New site) - Councillor Swinbank suggested that the zone should cover the whole of Taylor Drive, through the sharp junction with Weavers Way, to the new crossing that is at Arkle Court and up to the bus turning circle in the other direction.

TYPE OF SIGNS:

Councillor Humphries was in favour of flashing 20mph signs during school times.

St Paul's RC School – Councillors agreed to request flashing time limited signs.

DCHS (New site) – Councillors agreed to request permanent 20mph signs.

Councillor Broom advised that the school would be used widely outside school hours.

RESOLVED: To send comments on zones and type of signs to NCC.

P16/60 Feedback from NCC on various transport issues including consultation on speed restrictions and update on safe routes to school and the South Road – War Memorial and South and/Prudhoe Street junction designs

Councillor Swinbank gave took councillors through the update received from Margaret Robinson, Programme and Production Manager for NCC on the highways schemes being considered by NCC, in Alnwick:

1. Speed Reduction Measures

i) New gateway treatments to be provided to emphasise the approaches into Alnwick and highlight the 30-mph speed limit. These are to be implemented on Clayport Bank, Denwick Lane, Alnmouth Road and South Road. This scheme has been designed and is being programmed for construction. Start date to be confirmed.

NCC are investigating interactive signs as part of the scheme on Clayport Bank which

is feasible if the Town Council agree to the future maintenance of the signs. Councillor Castle has suggested that he can contribute funds from his Members' Small Schemes allocation to fund the purchase of the signs.

ii) NCC has a policy to introduce 20 mph, where feasible, on streets next to schools. They are investigating the provision of 20 mph speed limits near the new high school and St Paul's RC Primary School. The Town Council have been asked for other potential 20 mph streets next to the schools (see minute P16/59 above).

2. Dropped Kerbs

To provide an accessible route to the new high school, dropped kerbs have been provided on Wagonway Road and Victoria Terrace.

3. Pedestrian Crossings

Two locations have been agreed for improved pedestrian crossings on South Road.

i) A puffin crossing will be provided just south of the Royal Oaks Estate access road.

ii) A zebra crossing is being investigated which may replace the existing pedestrian refuge on the northern leg of the Oaks roundabout where the existing pedestrian refuge is. Improvements will also be made on South Road to alleviate road safety concerns for children crossing on the route to school.

iii) A light controlled crossing will be investigated for Clayport Bank once further speed surveys had been carried out after the new speed reduction measures are in place.

4. Wagonway Road/South Road Junction - Pedestrian Improvements

Measures are being investigated to assist pedestrians in crossing this complicated vehicular junction arrangement.

5. Improved Streetscape - Town Centre

It is the intention to consult later this financial year on preliminary proposals for improved streetscape for the town centre. The initial proposals are likely to include providing more space for pedestrians on Narrowgate and part of Bondgate Within.

The above-mentioned proposals are the schemes that are being progressed in the current LTP Programme 2016-17.

P16/61 Any Other Urgent Business

The Town Clerk reminded councillors that there was Planning Training on 29th November in Belford.

Councillor Broom advised that Weavers Way had not been properly reinstated after the services had been put in for the new development. He also advised that all the construction traffic was using Weavers Way.

The meeting closed at 7.15 p.m.