

**Minutes of the Planning, Highways and Transport Committee held on
Thursday 13th November 2014 in St James Church Rooms, Pottergate, Alnwick at 6.00pm**

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

In attendance: Councillors Castle and Swinbank, Peter Ennor and Peter Reid, Alnwick Civic Society (Item 4), W Batey, Town Clerk; J Pibworth, Admin Assistant

P14/47 Apologies

None

P14/48 Declarations of Interest

None

P14/49 Car Parking Problems in Hotspur Street

The Town Clerk had previously advised the committee about correspondence received from residents of Hotspur Street about parking. Residents had previously bought permits for Roxburgh Place but since free parking had been brought in, this was not possible and it was now difficult to park in this car park as because it was free it was more popular.

Councillor Symmonds said that whilst he was sympathetic he felt the Town Council could do nothing as the request was not realistic.

Councillor Castle advised that the county council do not make exceptions for anyone.

Councillor Broom suggested that perhaps the area outside The Tanners could be made resident parking.

Councillor Moore felt that if they parked behind the Playhouse they would not have to walk any further than Roxburgh Place.

Councillor Farrar argued that the only feasible options were to either re-introduce parking charges for which there was no appetite, or to provide residents-only parking for everyone living in the town centre who asked for it, which would mean very few parking places for visitors. He also advised that there were still signs by The Tanners stating Alnwick District Council residents parking only. The Town Clerk said he would ask NCC to remove these signs.

Councillor Holt felt that the Town Council should handle the residents' concerns sympathetically. The Town Clerk stated car parking was the responsibility of NCC and he would raise the matter at the next joint car parking meeting with NCC. He would also go back to the resident who sent in the correspondence after that meeting. He would also address the signage issue with them.

P14/50 Proposed New High School - Civic Society Objections

Peter Ennor addressed the committee regarding the Civic Society's objections to the proposed new high school in regard to the travel plan. He explained that the site of the new school will have a big impact on the whole town:

- Bus - there is a limited bus service to the new site
- Walking - many pupils will be outside the recommended 2km walking distance from the new school

- Cycling - no-one currently cycles to the existing high school site but establishing a new cycle route that takes in Willowburn Road would encourage this to happen
- Car - the new school would mean more traffic through the centre of town and more parking at the school site

He explained that although there would be a cost implication to improving the above there would be a long term economic case by alleviating traffic on Wagonway Road and surrounding routes.

Councillor Roberts advised that a site visit had taken place to discuss transport issues at which questions were raised around changes to the planned cycle routes enabling access for everyone. She also confirmed that NCC had spoken to Homebase about allowing parking for pupils on the Willowburn side of the building. She reminded the committee that 17 year olds were being incentivised to drive to get themselves to school.

Councillor Castle confirmed that this planning application was being dealt with by Central Planning team not the North Area Planning team. He also said that no decision was likely this month or next although the first turf was aimed to be dug in February 2015. He told the committee that the Highway Agency were now moving towards approval having previously objected. He said that cycle routes were always intended to be put in place and bus companies had been asked to divert bus services at certain times of the day to drop off and pick up from the new school site.

Councillor Castle also reminded the committee that Alnwick was not a cycle friendly town so the Town Council should not object or impose conditions that the school can not comply with. He also felt that drivers would decide their own best route to the new site.

Peter Ennor felt it was important to try to establish travel patterns. He issued a map of the town and told councillors that the Civic Society were not suggesting new cycle routes on the major roads but adding bits to the existing spine route that would better link the new site to the town.

Councillor comments / questions:

Councillor Farrar felt that the best way to get something put in place was to put it in as a Planning Condition. He felt this would be the most cost effective way of improving journey time and safety.

Councillor Broom asked why the Battlements had not been included in the plans which he felt would be a good link to the new school site. Peter Ennor said the Civic Society were not against the idea but that the route across the golf club would need upgrading before it could be used all year round.

Councillor Castle again raised his concern that if conditions were attached that they were realistic. He felt that the condition could say 'cycle routes to be developed' but should not specify 'before the school opens' as this was not be in the power of the developer.

Councillor Swinbank said that (speaking as a parent who lives in Chapel Lands) that the Town Council could perhaps refer to the existing NCC cycling plan. This document states that there should be 2 cycle spaces for every 10 staff and 2 cycle spaces for every 20 pupils giving 120-130 cycle spaces on the new site.

Councillor Roberts suggested a few councillors could meet with Vivien Robinson (NCC Planning Officer) to feed in the Town Council's suggestions early enough in the process.

Councillor Holt said she welcome this. She also commented that, as someone who lived in the locality of the existing school, she did not think 50 car parking spaces was enough.

Councillor Farrar suggested that the Town Council add two more cycle routes to their previous comments they had submitted to NCC. He suggested a route past the former Thomas Percy School site and another linking Cawledge View to York Crescent. He also

felt that NCC should be chased again for more information regarding Section 106.

RESOLVED: To amend the Town Council's submitted comments to NCC:

i) adding two additional routes to item d) these being a route past the former Thomas Percy School site and a route linking Cawledge View and York Crescent; ii) adding a further comment that 'Alnwick Town Council welcome the Civic Society's analysis of the transport impacts of the new school site development and we encourage the county council to examine it closely and engage with the Town Council and local county councillors to identify how recommendations to address the impacts can be taken forward'.

P14/51 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 9th October 2014 were approved and they were duly signed by the Committee Chairman.

P14/52 Matters Arising

P14/43 Parking Issues, - The Town Clerk gave an update on the basic car parking survey he had undertaken between 8am and 9am on Monday and Tuesday of the previous week. This showed the car park behind the banks filled up very quickly as did the car parks in Roxburgh Place and the ones at the far end of Greenwell Lane. The ones behind The Playhouse and the other Greenwell Lane car parks were about $\frac{3}{4}$ full by 9am. He also commented that some of the cars he had observed may have been parked overnight. He confirmed he would circulate the car parking information to councillors. He also advised that perhaps some time limited parking was needed in the key shopper car parks.

Councillor Humphries thought limited parking such as 4 hours could be problematic as in other towns there was swapping of discs at lunchtimes. The Town Clerk advised that NCC's no return policy should stop this from happening.

Councillor Broom felt that the issues of car parking needed to be discussed further and the Clerk agreed to feedback after the meeting with NCC the following week.

P14/45 Street Naming - Councillor Farrar confirmed that the Street Naming sub group consisted of himself and the Administration Assistant. Councillors Roberts and Broom said they would like to join the group.

The following decision notice had been received:

14/03181/FUL 3 Royal Oak Gardens, Alnwick NE66 2DA Removal of existing rear extension and construction of a new single storey rear extension - **GRANTED**

P14/53 To Minute responses made since last meeting

14/03288/FUL and **14/03289/LBC** 24 Upper Howick Street – demolition of existing single storey rear extension and construction of single storey rear extension. - **No objections**

14/03320/FUL 5A Narrowgate – Replacement of 2 dilapidated sash windows – **No objections**

14/02703/FUL Hampden House Belvedere Terrace – Change of Use to 3 separate holiday apartments. (amended information) – **No objections**

P14/54 Planning Applications

The following applications were discussed and comments made as listed:

14/03375/ADE Land at Hawfinch Drive Alnwick Northumberland NE66 2BF

Installation of 1no. freestanding 12m totem sign (resubmission of application 14/02576/ADE) - Councillors were advised that NCC Highways Dept had objected to original location of sign and that this has been changed. The proposed sign, at 12m was still felt by the committee to be too high - **OBJECT as the Council feel the sign should be at least 2 metres shorter.**

14/03333/CCD NCC Depot, Blackthorn Close, Lionheart Enterprise Park

Erection of new community fire & rescue building with associated offices, including erection of the fire training tower etc. - **NO OBJECTIONS.**

14/03542 FUL 9 St Georges Crescent. Proposed Single storey extension to front and 2 storey extension to rear - **NO OBJECTIONS.**

14/03252/FULL Nether House, Prudhoe Street Pitched roof to garage and extension to side to create store - **NO OBJECTIONS.**

14/03600/COU Alnbank House Care Home Change of Use from former residential home to dwelling - **NO OBJECTIONS.**

14/03633/FUL & 14/03634/LBC 46 Bondgate Within internal and external alterations - **NO OBJECTIONS.**

14/03528/LBC 21 Bailiffgate Alnwick Northumberland NE66 1LZ. Propose to install bathroom and kitchen unit, replace old central heating, install log burner, move partition wall in bedroom, divide hallway to provide a utility room and reconfigure extension to allow balcony - **NO OBJECTIONS.**

14/02445/FUL 28 Cawledge View, 2 storey extension to front of house and conservatory to rear - **NO OBJECTIONS as long as the materials are in keeping with existing materials.**

P14/55 Any Other Urgent Business

None

The meeting closed at 7.15 p.m.