

Minutes of the Planning, Highways and Transport Committee held on Thursday 9th July 2015 in St James Church Rooms, Pottergate, Alnwick at 6.00pm

Present: Cllrs R Roberts, D Farrar, W Grisdale, M Harrington, P Holt, J Humphries, G Mavin, K Moore, A Shilton and A Symmonds.

In attendance: W Batey, Town Clerk; J Pibworth, Assistant to the Town Clerk; Carlo Biagioni (Alnwick Chamber of Trade); David Taylor, (Alnwick Chamber of Trade); Peter Ennor (Alnwick Civic Society).

P15/12 Apologies

Cllrs P Broom.

P15/13 Declarations of Interest

None.

P15/14 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 14th May and 11th June 2015 were approved and they were duly signed by the Committee Chairman.

P15/15 Matters Arising

P14/111 CAR PARKING NCC CONSULTATION The Town Clerk advised that he had notified NCC about the potential illegally parking on Roxburghe Place. NCC will ask their enforcement officers to take details of the vehicles then ask the police to deal with the owners. Councillor Moore felt it could be an insurance matter. Councillor Grisdale advised that he had spoken to NCC and was aware that it was being dealt with by enforcement officers and that Lynne Ryan would come back to him with an update.

P14/111 Councillor Humphries asked if there had been any action about development signs. The Town Clerk advised that no action had been taken as yet. Councillor Holt advised that the signs on the new Willowburn roundabout were not very readable and asked who should be notified. Councillor G Mavin suggested that signs were added to an agenda along with car park signs.

P15/10 TRAFFIC SAFETY ON WAGONWAY ROAD Councillor Holt asked if there was any news from NCC. The Town Clerk advised that he had no feedback as yet but that he had taken a look himself. Councillor Holt said she was aware that the police had responded to a resident. She also reported that she had visited the site and it was a large NCC vehicle that was causing the problem. Councillor Symmonds advised that he had visited the site. He also advised that in Hexham he had seen a mirror used as a solution to the same problem which worked well.

The following decision notices had been received:

15/01392/FUL Freelands, Alnmouth Road, Alnwick NE66 2PR Addition of double wooden garage - **GRANTED.**

15/01088/FUL Bondgate Surgery, Infirmary Close, Alnwick NE66 2NL Removal of front canopy and construction of new dingle storey extension - **GRANTED.**

15/01538/FUL 32 Stott Street, Alnwick NE66 1QA Proposed two storey rear extension and associated works - **GRANTED.**

15/01202/FUL Oakdale, Royal Oak Gardens, Alnwick NE66 2DA Erection of a summer house - **GRANTED.**

15/001372/VARYCO Land North of Alnwick Motorway Services, Hawfinch Drive, Cawledge Business Park, Alnwick NE66 2BF Variation to Condition 7 (right turn lane on

the A1 slip road) relating to planning permission 14/02574/FUL (Freestanding restaurant with associated drive thru lane, car parking and landscaping. Installation of 2no. customer order display and canopy) - **GRANTED.**

15/01488/FUL 21 Greensfield Avenue, Alnwick, NE66 1BE Proposed removal of rear conservatory and garage flat roof, construction of new single storey rear, front and side extensions - **GRANTED.**

15/00759/ADE Aldi, South Road, Alnwick NE66 2PA Advertisement consent for:- 2no. Aldi logo fascia signs to be fixed to Aldi store building, 1no. illuminated poster sign located Aldi store trolley bay area, 1no. double pole sign, illuminated Aldi logo with showcase opening hours sign located below, all supported by twin posts - **GRANTED.**

15/00512/FUL Land North East of Leisure Centre, Willowburn Avenue, Alnwick NE66 2JN Construction of a retail unit with associated serving yard, and the provision of additional car parking including accessible parking - **GRANTED.**

P15/16 To Minute responses made since last meeting

15/01407/LBC 12 Green Batt, Alnwick NE66 1TS Listed building consent for masonry repairs to front of property - **NO OBJECTIONS.**

P15/17 Planning Applications

The following applications were discussed and comments made as listed:

15/01990/FUL N E Co-Operative, Victoria Terrace, Alnwick, NE66 1RF. Proposed shop front re-paint, new Kee Klamp to rear plant area and new scissor lift to good entrance – **NO OBJECTIONS.**

15/01722/FUL 23 Oaky Balks, Alnwick, NE66 2QE Removal of existing garage and construction of new 2 storey side extension – **NO OBJECTIONS.**

15/02009/FUL Thornbrae Lodge, Alnwick, NE66 2PS Single storey extension – **NO OBJECTIONS.**

15/02032/VARYCO Land South of Weavers Way (ISOS Development) Variation of Condition 2 (approved plans) and 24a (cycle route) of planning permissions 15/00711/VARYCO and 14/01779/VARYCO – **NO OBJECTIONS.**

15/02039/ADE RSB Dispensary, Infirmary Close, Alnwick, NE66 2NL Advertising consent 1 non-illuminated service menu board, 6 illuminated totem signs and 1 non-illuminated wall mounted sign – **We are surprised at the number of signs and feel Sign E is not required and therefore OBJECT to this sign.**

15/02086/FUL Pasture House Farm, Alnwick Moor, NE66 2AN Proposed steel portal stock building to replace existing dilapidated stock building – **NO OBJECTIONS.**

15/02251/FUL Hope House Proposed two storey rear extension, single storey porch extension to side, installation of roof lights, creation of new parking area, removal of existing car port to existing bothy and minor alterations, repair and refurbishment – **NO OBJECTIONS.**

15/02140/LBC Land West Of 31 St Michaels Lane St Michaels Lane Alnwick Northumberland (Syon House) Listed building consent for conversion of a Grade 2 Listed building and demolition to the unlisted extension, via internal and external alterations to create 4 apartments (C3) and adaptation of existing unlisted building via internal/external alterations and demolition of unlisted extension, to create 1 apartment (C3) currently in B1 Business use, with associated landscaping and refuse storage – **NO**

OBJECTIONS although the Town Council wish to note that work has already started.

P15/18 Accessibility Study proposals update - Councillor G Mavin

Councillor G Mavin gave an update. He informed the committee that the accessibility study would focus on three groups: young mothers, visually impaired and people with mobility issues. He advised that he was currently talking to these three groups and was aiming to have a report done by the end of July. He had also spoken to NCC who were keen to see the report and that they were keen to have representatives on any user group that was formed. He also advised that he would like to ask the Council for money to hire rooms at St James's for meetings.

RESOLVED: i) To recommend the accessibility study to Full Council; ii) To approach the Council for funding to hire meeting rooms.

P15/19 The Cobbles and the surfacing - Councillor G Mavin

Councillor G Mavin had circulated a report on the state of the cobbles. He advised that accessibility groups do not use the footpath as it damages their equipment. He suggested that NCC repair the footpath using Richmond as an example. He also advised that the railings need to be looked at as they are not sighted in a position which the accessibility groups found user friendly.

Councillor Gridale advised that he had discussed the issue of car parks being the responsibility of the Town Council with Councillor Castle.

The Town Clerk informed the committee that there was £140,000 allocated by NCC for car park repairs in their LTPs in 2015/16.

Councillor Moore advised that the cobbles had been there for over 100 years and felt that they should be bought back to a good standard rather than piece meal as this approach did not look good. The Town Clerk said that a decision was needed on the longer term plan for the whole area.

Councillor G Mavin suggested that the issue of the cobbles be left for the time being until more information was received.

RESOLVED: To recognise that the pedestrian paths and railings need work but to put to one side until more information received.

P15/20 20mph proposal for the Town Centre (Alnwick Chamber of Trade)

Carlo Biagioni advised the committee that Alnwick Chamber of Trade, Alnwick Civic Society and Alnwick Tourism Association had met in April to discuss the idea of a 20mph speed limit within the town centre. He advised that NCC had been keen to have a 20mph area within Alnwick. They had spoken to Richard Mackenzie at NCC.

The areas suggested were Bondgate Tower to Narrowgate and the Castle, Fenkle Street and Market Street.

There were several reasons for the request:

- Safer are for shoppers and tourists;
- It would increase tourism in the town - he had spoken to cruise organisers who require 20mph area as one of their criteria for visiting towns;
- It would help traders in the town.

The Civic Society supported the idea of a 20mph zone as it seemed compatible with the existing ideas regarding the town centre.

Councillor questions:

Councillor Moore asked if the idea had been passed to the police for comment? Carlo advised that it hadn't as yet.

Councillor Farrar advised that he supported the proposal. He also thought that 20mph areas are not enforced by Northumbria Police as policy.

Councillor Humphries said he was fully in favour of a 20mph zone but felt that unless police enforce it would not impact on the boy racers who do not adhere to the existing 30mph speed limit.

Councillor Holt said that, as a walker, she welcomed the proposal and felt that it help to stop potential accidents.

David Taylor advised that they did not want speed humps.

Councillor Moore said that speed humps could only be put in place by NCC.

Councillor Roberts asked what Richard Mackenzie (NCC) had advised for them to do first?

Carlo said that Richard had advised them to get the support of the Town Council.

The Town Clerk gave the group making the proposal an overview of the LTP (Local Transport Plan) process. He explained that areas of the town, including the cobbles and speeding on The Peth had been included in the Town Council's LTPs for 2015. He also advised that the LTP list for 2016 would be put together in September to go to NCC. He commented that the Town Council get lots of requests from residents for these priorities.

Councillor Farrar felt it would be helpful to clarify if a 20mph zone would need to be put in as a LTP priority or if there was another way of taking this forward with NCC.

Councillor G Mavin advised that he was supportive of the proposal but agreed that it might not be able to be taken forward as an LTP. He also felt that there needed to be methods of enforcement.

Councillor Symmonds said he supported the proposal but was not sure how enforceable it would be.

David Taylor commented that the Town Centre Audit might be a way of advising people of any new speed limits.

RESOLVED: The Town Council supports the proposal for a 20mph zone but will look into the most realistic method of taking this forward inside / outside of the LTP process by contacting Richard Mackenzie at NCC to ask how a 20mph could be put into place:

- a) without being in the LTP priorities;**
- b) using a different pot of money and what pots are available;**
- c) as part of the LTP process.**

P15/21 Any Other Urgent Business

Councillor G Mavin TOWN AUDIT: regarding people with visually impairment. He asked if other towns (with the group of seven) could be contacted to get feedback on any access audits that have been done. Councillor Gridale advised that an access audit was currently being done in Morpeth regarding A boards and parking on pavements.

The meeting closed at 7.20 p.m.