

Notes of a meeting of Chatteris Town Council's Planning Working Group held on Tuesday 28th May 2019.

Present: Cllrs L Ashley, I Benney, J Carney, W Haggata, F Newell, M Petrou & J Smith.

P1 19/20 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

Cllr Benney declared an interest as a member of Fenland District Council's planning committee and took no part in the decision making process.

P2 19/20 Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Group

Cllr Smith proposed Cllr **Haggata** as Chairman, seconded by Cllr Ashley and agreed by all.

Cllr Ashley proposed Cllr **Smith** as Vice Chairman, seconded by Cllr Haggata and agreed by all.

P3 19/20 Appeals, Decisions and Withdrawn Plans

The Clerk updated members on the latest planning decisions from Fenland District Council. Applications for an extension to 1A West Park Street and works to 9 Lime Trees at 12 Boadicea Court had both been granted. The application for two dwellings at land west of 1 King Edwards Road had been withdrawn.

P4 19/20 Planning Applications

a) F/YR19/0378/RM - Reserved matters application relating to detailed matters of access, appearance, landscaping, layout & scale (Plots 11 & 12 only) pursuant to outline permission F/YR17/0134/O for the erection of up to 3 workplace homes (outline with all matters reserved) at land south of 18 Doddington Road - *Support*

b) F/YR19/0367/F - Erection of a single-storey side extension to existing dwelling involving removal of conservatory at 46 Wood Street – *Support (Cllr Smith declared an interest as the applicant is a work colleague)*

c) F/YR19/0140/F - Revised application (amended site layout) for the erection of a single-storey day room and siting of a mobile home (retrospective) at 94A High Street – *Request site visit by FDC Planning Committee.*

d) F/YR19/0431/F - Formation of a new gable end and raising of roof to enable loft conversion to form living accommodation and insertion of velux window to rear of existing dwelling at 86 Westbourne Road – *Noted, but concerned that it may set a precedent.*

P5 19/20 Objections to Anaerobic Digester Conditions Proposals

The Clerk had been notified that the application to change some of the conditions relating to the planning approval for the anaerobic digester plant at Ireton's Way would be considered by FDC's planning committee the following day and the officer's recommendation was to approve.

The Clerk had been concerned at the way the Town Council's objections had been summarised and the answers given to the concerns and had sent an email to the Chairman of the planning committee and District Councillors for Chatteris on the planning committee pointing out the following:

'Officers appear to think the Town Council was concerned that extended operating hours would mean maize and sugar beet would be carted into the evening. This was not the argument, it was the extension to the number of months that crops would be carted to the digester which was of greatest concern.

Added to that it was the type of crop and the agreement that no wheel washing facilities were needed. I'm sure you have all witnessed the state of the roads around the digester, particularly in the autumn, and it is this dangerous state which is of concern. Carting sugar beet will only increase matters (and increase odours) and a tarmaced road will not improve the situation if there are no wheel washing facilities.'

The Clerk also reminded the FDC councillors of the great concerns raised by the late Cllr Sandra Rylance over the state of the roads around the digester. She said she and Cllr Rylance were continually complaining to the police and County Highways about the dangerous state of the A142. The Clerk also pointed out those carting maize to the site often did not abide by the rules and net down the crop so stray maize and mud on the wheels lead to treacherous road conditions. With greater vehicle movements to the digester, and an anticipated large increase in the number of lorry movements to and from sand and gravel extraction sites off the A142 in the years to come, the Clerk argued things could only get worse.

Members agreed with the points raised and apologised there was no-one available to speak at the meeting. Cllr Smith pointed out the A142 was very dangerous in foggy weather because the white lines at the side of the road had disappeared. She also reminded members that the County Council had identified problems with the road and said the latest proposals would only make matters worse.

Cllr Benney warned that the battle appeared to be lost because he thought it was unlikely FDC councillors would go against the officer's recommendation and risk the matter going to appeal.

The Clerk said the application for two dwellings at the rear of 50 Wood Street would also be considered by the planning committee the following day as there had been local objections. The officer recommendation was to approve and the Town Council had supported the application.