

Notes of a meeting of Chatteris Town Council's Planning Working Group held virtually via Zoom on Tuesday 30th June 2020.

Present: Cllrs W Haggata (Chairman), L Ashley, I Benney, A Gowler, F Newell and J Smith.

P1 20/21 Apologies for Absence & Declarations of Interest

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr Carney (who had submitted his recommendations on applications a) to e). Cllr Benney declared an interest as a member of FDC's planning committee and took no part in the decision making process.

P2 20/21 Election of Chairman of Group

Cllr Ashley proposed Cllr Haggata as Chairman of the group, seconded by Cllr Newell and agreed by all.

P3 20/21 Election of Vice Chairman of Group

Cllr Ashley proposed Cllr Newell as Vice-Chairman, seconded by Cllr Haggata and agreed by all.

P4 20/21 Appeals, Decisions and Withdrawn Plans

Appeal: The Clerk informed members that an appeal had been launched following Fenland District Council's refusal to grant prior approval for the change of use from light industrial (B1c) to 6 x 2-storey dwellings (C3) (1x 5-bed and 5 x 3-bed) at Unit 1, How Fen, New Road. The Town Council had recommended refusal of the plans and these comments would be passed to the Planning Inspectorate.

Decisions: The Clerk updated members on the latest planning decisions from Fenland District Council. The following plans had all been approved: reserved matters application for a dwelling land north of 7 Glebe Close; change of use of former bank to ground floor retail and first floor flat (with internal and external alterations) at 10 Market Hill; erection of a dwelling at Toll Cottage, London Road; erection of a dwelling land west of Gaultree Lodge, London Road; extension to 4 Kingfisher Close; extension to 6 Victoria Street; fell a Sycamore tree at 25 Station Street; display of signs at 51 High Street; and works to 42 High Street. Members were alarmed to hear the retrospective application for the extensions to 171 London Road had been approved despite the Town Council's opposition.

The application for an extension to 23 Wood Street had been refused.

P5 20/21 Applications & Revised Applications

a) F/YR20/0464/TRCA - Works to 5 Ash trees within a Conservation Area at 8 London

Road - *Support*

b) F/YR20/0319/F - Revised application (design of extension revised and replacement windows incorporated into application) for erection of 2-storey side/rear extension to existing dwelling involving removal of conservatory and replacement of existing timber/uPVC windows at 6 Victoria Street - *Support*

c) F/YR20/0461/F - Erect 1 dwelling (2-storey, 3-bed at land north west of 30 Curf Terrace - *Support*

d) F/YR20/0499/PNC04 - Change of use from agricultural building to a 2-storey, 3-bed dwelling (Class Q (a) (b)) at Barn east of Markwells Farm House, Block Fen Drove - *Support*

e) F/YR20/0511/TRCA - Fell 1 Ash tree within a Conservation Area (retrospective) at 57 Tern Gardens – *Noted*

f) F/YR20/0313/F - Erect a dwelling (single-storey 2-bed) and detached single garage at land east of 16 Fairway (re-consultation) – *Support* (A neighbour had objected to the application on the grounds access to the dwelling was across private land but members were convinced the access was via a public right of way).

g) F/YR20/0549/TRTPO - Works to a Yew tree covered by TPO 4/2001 (T2) at 11 East Park Street – *Support*

h) F/YR20/0550/F - Relocation and installation of kitchen extract duct to flat roof at rear (retrospective) at 8 Market Hill - *Support*

P6 20/21 Correspondence

i) Request for support to reduce speed limit in London Road

A gentleman hoping to develop infill properties along London Road said Highways had knocked back the idea. As a result the gentleman was considering applying to reduce the speed limit on that section of London Road and asked if Chatteris Town Council would support the idea of reducing the speed limit.

The Clerk explained the Council was not commenting on the planning application simply the idea of reducing the speed limit. Even if the speed limit was reduced there was no guarantee planning permission would be granted.

Members agreed they would support a reduction in the speed limit from 50mph to 30mph from the bottom of Ferry Hill to the existing 30mph speed limit in London Road.

ii) Street Naming Suggestion

A relative of Mr Albert Harlock, a Chatteris man awarded the British Empire Medal for bravery during the Second World War, had asked if a street or cul-de-sac could be named after him. The Clerk had warned the relative there was little development going on at present but, if councillors agreed, the name could be considered in future.

Members agreed to draw up a list of names which could be used for new developments and agreed Mr Harlock's name should be on that list. Names on the list should be of relevance to the history or story of the town and each application should be considered on its merits. Cllr Smith suggested the West Street development should include reference to the football club, The Lillies.

P7 20/21 Any Other Business

An architect, and former conservation officer at Fenland District Council, had written asking if there was energy within the town to bring 130 High Street back into use. The architect acknowledged it would require delicate negotiations with the current owner and the conservation officer but she suggested if a local trust was set up specifically for the building it could be turned into local housing or a community space. The architect suggested a trust would be eligible for funding and said she would be happy to look into it if there was a willingness from the town to run with it.

Councillors agreed considering setting up a trust, etc., was premature until it had been established if the owner of the building was on side. The Town Council could not approach the owner but if the architect was able to get the owner's consent the Town Council would be interested to hear how the project could progress.