

Notes of a meeting of Chatteris Town Council's Planning Working Group held at the Council Chambers on Tuesday 31st August 2021.

Present: Cllr Bill Haggata (Chairman), Cllrs L Ashley, I Benney, J Carney, A Gowler, F Newell and J Smith. Cllr Benney & Cllr Newell attended via Zoom and Cllr Benney took no part in the discussions or decision making process on the planning applications.

P18 21/22 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

P19 21/22 Appeals, Decisions & Withdrawn Plans

The Clerk updated members on the latest decisions from Fenland District Council. The following had all been granted planning permission: works to two trees at 10D East Park Street; erection of an extension to 11 Curlew Avenue; provision of an internal mezzanine floor at the Old Chapel, New Road; replacement of windows at 84 High Street; extension to 35 Southampton Place and erection of a dwelling at 2 George Way.

P20 21/22 Applications & Revised Applications

a) F/YR21/0077/F - Revised application to erect a single-storey, 1-bed dwelling involving the demolition of existing coach house within a Conservation Area at land west of 12 Station Road - *Support*

b) F/YR21/0911/F - Replacement shop front to existing premises at 25 Park Street - *Support*

c) F/YR21/0912/A - Display of a non-illuminated fascia sign at 25 Park Street - *Support*

d) F/YR21/0952/TRCA - Works to 4 Lime, 1 Ash and 3 Prunus trees within a Conservation Area at King Edward Centre, King Edwards Road – *Support* (Cllrs Ashley, Carney and Newell declared an interest, Cllr Carney as he assisted the applicant and Cllrs Ashley and Newell as trustees)

e) F/YR21/0965/TRCA - Works to 6 Lime trees within a Conservation Area at 6 South Park Street - *Support*

f) F/YR21/0966/TRCA - Works to 1 Yew tree within a Conservation Area at 10A East Park Street - *Support*

g) F/YR21/0942/F - Erect a 2-storey side extension to existing dwelling at 6 Millfield Close - *Support*

h) F/YR21/0981/F - Erect 93 dwellings (4 x 2-storey, 5-bed, 25 x 2-storey 4-bed, 40 x 2-storey, 3-bed, 12 x 2-storey, 2-bed and 12 x 1-bed flats) with associated garages, parking and landscaping at land north of Wenny Estate – *Fully support the application, happy with the design of the houses. Look forward to the payment of Section 106 funds being honoured so the money can be used for the benefit of Chatteris residents. Instead of supplying play equipment would prefer to see funds spent on enhancing the nearby Wenny Recreation Ground play area as local councils not prepared to take responsibility for further play areas in the town. Would like to see the inclusion of swift bricks in houses.*

P21 21/22 Car Park at The Elms

The Council had been copied in to correspondence between residents of The Elms and FDC's estates and disposal surveyor, Ms Sarah Bell. The residents were concerned that the street light at the car park was to be removed and that the car park was being sold as a parcel of land when it was a car park. The residents argued that covenants meant FDC had a duty to maintain the car parking area and the lighting.

Ms Bell had responded by saying that the car park site had been declared surplus to requirements and authorised for sale by the Council's cabinet. The land was being sold in its existing use, as a car park, and would be put up for auction again in September. Ms Bell said she was looking into the street lighting with colleagues in the engineering team but the light would not be removed until after the auction.

Cllr Benney said there had been no proof of the covenants referred to being sent to FDC although it was agreed that the car park had been used for more than 12 years. Cllr Benney had met with the residents who were aware the land was going to auction. The planning application to develop the site had been withdrawn but the land was being sold as a car park and Cllr Benney suggested the residents could purchase the site as that was the only way they could guarantee its future as a car park. However residents were concerned about ongoing costs such as insurance, lighting and maintenance; the reasons why FDC saw the land as a liability.

The land had failed to sell at auction in August but it was going to auction again because the council had to achieve best value after agreeing the land should be disposed of. Cllr Benney warned the land might be the subject of a future planning application but he did assure members that there were currently no plans to dispose of the other car parks at The Elms.