
PLANNING COMMITTEE

MINUTES of the Meeting held in the Council Chamber, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME10 3HT on Thursday, 7 August 2014 from 7.00 - 9.12 pm

PRESENT: Councillors Barnicott (Chairman), Sylvia Bennett, Ben Stokes, Ghlin Whelan, Tony Winckless, Adrian Crowther, Sue Gent, Lesley Ingham, Bryan Mulhern (Vice-Chairman), June Garrad, Peter Marchington, Andy Booth, Bowles, Harrison, Mike Haywood and Mike Henderson

OFFICERS PRESENT: Philippa Davies, Andrew Jeffers, Rob Bailey, Peter Bell, Libby McCutcheon, Donna Price, Mark Radford (Corporate Services Director) and Graham Thomas

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Councillors

APOLOGIES: Councillors Mick Constable, Derek Conway, Prescott and Mark Ellen

178 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 17 July 2014 (Minute Nos. 149 - 152) were taken as read, approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

179 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No interests were declared.

180 PLANNING WORKING GROUP

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 28 July 2014 (Minute Nos. 164 - 165) were taken as read, approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record, subject to the inclusion of Councillor Andy Booth's apologies.

SW/14/0367 (2.3) – THE GOODS YARD, STATION APPROACH ROAD, SELLING

The Area Planning Officer advised that a Section 106 Agreement was required and he was waiting for ecological information from the Agent and then further advice from the Kent County Council (KCC) Ecology Team. Comments were still awaited from Network Rail.

The Area Planning Officer reported that one further resident had written in, following the site meeting. Issues that had been raised included: the density of the development was too high, appropriate only for an urban area; single storey dwellings, not three-storey should be built here; the proposal should change so it did not destroy the quality of the village; light pollution; there would be additional traffic on Crouch Lane; the residents of Sondes Court should have been made aware of the application earlier; and a plan integrating the two developments should have been produced, rather than them being treated separately.

The Area Planning Officer advised that at the time of occupancy of Sondes Court, the proposed development at the Goods Yard had not been submitted. He sought delegation to approve, subject to the signing of a suitably worded Section 106 Agreement, receipt of further ecological information and advice, with the possibility of further conditions, and comments from Network Rail.

The Chairman advised that the two public speakers were permitted to speak on this deferred application as they had not received notification in time to allow them to speak previously.

Councillor Martin Webb, representing Selling Parish Council, spoke against the proposal.

Mr Cook, the Agent, spoke in favour of the proposal.

A Ward Member spoke against the proposal. He was pleased to see development on the site, but was opposed to the three-storey aspect and stated they were not in-keeping with the rural setting and he suggested the plans be amended. He was also disappointed with there being no objections to the proposal from KCC Highways.

Members made comments which included: the three-storey dwellings were intrusive; too dense for this thin strip of land; query regarding how much soil would be taken away to lower the ground surface; three-storey was out-of-keeping, problem of over-looking; and re-do the plans without the three-storey aspect.

In response to a question, the Area Planning Officer confirmed that the site was not within a flood risk area.

Councillor Bowles moved a motion to defer the application for re-negotiations for the removal of the three-storey aspect of the development. This was seconded by Councillor Bryan Mulhern who also asked for details of the levels.

The Area Planning Officer indicated on cross section plans the site levels of the proposed development in comparison to Sondes Court and other properties in the village. He considered the three-storey dwelling was not particularly high in comparison. He further advised that a condition in the report addressed ground levelling issues.

On being put to the vote, the motion for deferral was agreed.

Resolved:

(1) That application SW/14/0367 be deferred to allow re-negotiation for the removal of the three-storey aspect of the development and clarification of intended ground levels.

181 DEFERRED ITEMS

SW/14/0396 – 11/13 ADMIRALS WALK, HALFWAY, SHEERNESS

The Area Planning Officer reported that discussions with the Environment Agency had advised that it was very unlikely that there was a freshwater spring on the site and that Southern Water had advised that there had been no leaks from the reservoir. The Area Planning Officer advised that planning permission should not be refused on this basis, and this would be likely to be dealt with under building regulations. He sought delegation to add an additional condition requiring details of foul and surface water drainage to be submitted and approved, prior to commencement of development.

Members welcomed the site being developed and the proposed measures that would be taken to address water run-off.

Resolved:

(1) That application SW/14/0396 be delegated to Officers to approve subject to conditions (1) to (13) in the report and to an additional condition requiring details of foul and surface water drainage to be submitted and approved, prior to commencement of development.

182 REPORT OF THE HEAD OF PLANNING

Resolved:

(1) That the planning applications be determined in accordance with Appendix A to these Minutes.

Chairman

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All Minutes are draft until agreed at the next meeting of the Committee/Panel