

Witness statement Amanda Burrell

From what I recollect no one was expecting Phil King to turn up and I don't recall him being down on the list as a substitute although at this distance I may be wrong. They usually include subs on the attendance sheet when they have been properly notified in advance. He sat next to me, at an angle to all his colleagues who were facing the officers.

The Great Bowden application was recommended for refusal. The conservation officer was very concerned about it. Most people who went on the site visit were also concerned about the impact on the countryside and the listed buildings along that road plus the fact that it was the most sensitive entrance to the village. Phil King was not on the site visit. However, Phil King seemed determined to push it through and spoke quite forcefully about lack of a 5-year supply and the fact that it was only 5 houses. It seemed to me that he was intent on pushing it through for some reason and almost intimidated the Tory members on the committee apart from a couple of the women. I think he recommended approval before anyone could say much. I tried to get the committee to follow the officer's recommendation but unfortunately, they didn't. The tape will give more detail but the atmosphere was quite intimidating and I think he was quite sharp with the officer too (Susan Garbutt who looked somewhat upset when she left). Adrian Eastwood wasn't at that meeting (he was off sick) and it seemed to me the other officers didn't seem able to cope with what was happening. With the result that we didn't even attach any conditions to the approval as I remember (although they obviously put some on later). He was very forceful and dismissive of any counter-argument and I can understand his own colleagues feeling intimidated - it was not a nice atmosphere.

Amanda Burrell

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