

HARBOROUGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

held remotely on

21st April 2020

commencing at 6.30 p.m.

Present:

Councillor (present): Champion (Chairman).

Councillors (remote access): Bannister, Bilbie, Mrs. Burrell, Frenchman, James, Knowles, Modha and Whelband.

Officers present: M. Patterson, and P. Storey.

Officers remote access: D. Atkinson, I. Bartlett A. Eastwood J Felton and J Walker (LCC Highways).

INTRODUCTIONS

Members of the public were welcomed to this remote meeting and members of the Committee introduced themselves. The Chairman stated that whilst new Government legislation enabled the Committee to make decisions through remote meetings during the current pandemic, other provisions on how the Council conducted meetings remained the same.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND NOTIFICATIONS OF SUBSTITUTIONS

Apologies were received from Cllrs Mrs Ackerley, Dr Bremner, Galton and Liquorish, who were substituted by Cllrs Bilbie, Whelband, Knowles and Bannister respectively.

DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Cllr Bannister

Application 19/00250/OUT

Cllr Bannister stated for transparency that he lived in Lutterworth. He did not have any personal, prejudicial or pecuniary interest in the application under consideration, he simply wished to state that he was a resident of Lutterworth.

REFERRALS UP TO COUNCIL BY THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

There were no referrals up to Council by the Planning Committee under Part 3 Section B1.4 of the Council's Constitution.

QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS SUBMITTED BY THE PUBLIC

There were none.

SITE INSPECTIONS

On Monday 20th April 2020 Councillors Mrs Burrell and Champion had a site inspection arranged prior to the meeting: in respect of application 19/00250/OUT – Lutterworth and Misterton. Councillor Frenchman had undertaken a site visit at a separate time.

APPLICATION FOR DETERMINATION

The Committee's attention was drawn to the supplementary information and additional supplementary information and amended recommendation in respect of application 19/00250/OUT – Lutterworth and Misterton: 15/00865/OUT.

(i) 19/00250/OUT – Lutterworth and Misterton

Hybrid planning application comprising: Outline application for development (including demolition) of up to 2,750 dwellings; business, general industrial and storage and distribution uses; two primary schools; neighbourhood centre; public open space; greenspace; drainage features; acoustic barrier; and other associated infrastructure (some matters reserved); and full application for the development of a spine road and associated junctions with the A426 north of Lutterworth, Gilmorton Road, Chapel Lane (including the partial closure and realignment of Chapel Lane to motor vehicles and horse riders), and the A4304 east of M1 Junction 20; comprising carriageway, footway, cycleway and associated infrastructure to include earthworks, bridge structures, services, drainage, landscaping, lighting and signage.

The Committee were informed that the Council, as planning authority, has taken Counsels' advice in respect of the late consultation response from the University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust (UHL). The advice is that further consultation will need to be carried out with the applicant following these late submissions and an assessment of the revised contributions claimed by UHL carried out to ascertain if they are CIL compliant. This needs to be carried out before the application can be considered by the Planning Committee. The Committee were further informed that correspondence had been received from the applicant expressing frustration at the timing of the response from UHL and that whilst officers were sympathetic to the applicant's position the Council had no control as to when the consultation response was received and the Council had a duty to ensure that any decision it arrived at was legally robust. The officers were now making an amended recommendation that consideration of this planning application should be deferred to allow full consideration of the implications of representations received from The Wilkes Partnership LLP on behalf of UHL.

Members also considered that a site meeting by the whole Committee, which had not been possible, would be invaluable before considering the application to see and fully appreciate the whole large site in its entirety and full context'.

The Committee were informed that the site visit that had been held was a legitimate site visit and it was unfortunate that due to the current public health crisis more members were unable to attend.

The Committee were also informed that the officer's Planning Committee report on the planning application contained information on matters concerning noise relating to the nearby motorway which was available for members to review and consider. An officer from the Environmental Health Service was also available to assist members with any queries they may have on this matter.

A proposal was made by Councillor Mrs Burrell, seconded by Councillor Champion, to defer the application until a site visit can be arranged for the whole Committee, and to which the relevant Ward members would be eligible, and to obtain further legal advice from the Council's QC on the very late submissions from the UHL.

RESOLVED:

That the application be DEFERRED on two grounds:

1. Until such time as a site visit can be arranged for the whole Planning Committee, and such Ward members are eligible to attend; and
2. To receive, if necessary, further legal advice as may be necessary following detailed consideration by the Council and consultation with the applicant on the very late submissions from the University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust (UHL).

Under the revised Council Procedure Rules in place during the current pandemic a recorded vote was held.

Recorded vote

For: Councillors Bannister, Bilbie, Champion, Mrs Burrell, Frenchman, James, Knowles, Modha and Whelband (9).

Against: None (0).

Abstention: None (0).

The meeting ended at 6.50 p.m.