

DORCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL

PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

1st FEBRUARY, 2010

At a Meeting of the Planning and Environment Committee held on 1st February, 2010:

PRESENT The Mayor (Councillor S.C. Hosford) and Councillors M.A. Allwood, R.M. Biggs, V. Black, E.S. Jones, Trevor Jones, F.E. Kent-Ledger (Chairman), R.B. Potter and M.E. Rennie.

In attendance:
Councillor D.J. Barrett.

APOLOGIES for absence were received from Councillors C.S. Biggs, T.C.N. Harries, L.E. Heath and C.M. Hebditch

70. **PARKING IN DORCHESTER**

In accordance with Minute 58 the Chairman welcomed Mr. T. Mackle from the Dorset County Council and Messrs. E. Barnes and S. Woollard from the West Dorset District Council who were attending the Meeting to answer Members' questions regarding parking in Dorchester. Also in attendance was the President of the Dorchester & District Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Tourism, whose Chief Executive had carried out a Parking Survey which had been circulated to all Members of the Committee together with a schedule detailing charges in the town centre car parks and on-street parking charges.

(a) Overnight Parking

Further to Minute 58 the Committee asked the representatives to co-operate to bring the times applied to overnight parking charges into line. The West Dorset District Council overnight charges apply from 6pm to 8am, whilst the Dorset County Council applied its charges from 7pm to 8am. In response to a question it was confirmed that this Council would prefer the County Council to adopt the District Council's timings.

Mr. Mackle informed the Committee that, whilst he was sympathetic to this idea, many of the County Council's employees worked past 6pm so would have to move their vehicles to an area within County Hall that was not subject to on-street parking charges. Mr Mackle agreed to investigate a suggestion that employees parking permits could be amended and to report back to the Committee at a later date.

(b) Parking Income

Further to Minute 58, Mr. E. Barnes, Parking Services Team Leader to the West Dorset District Council, explained that the 3% increase in overnight parking income was the difference between income received during August and September, 2008 and during the corresponding period in 2009.

(c) Parking for Town Centre Residents

Further to Minute 58(b) a member reiterated this Council's strong belief that town centre residents should be offered the same fee to park in town centre car parks at night as those holding on-street parking permits on the outskirts of the Town, particularly as all councils were encouraging people to reside in the Town Centre.

Mr. Woollard informed the Committee that the Local Plan said that it was not the District Council's priority to provide long stay parking within the town centre. Visitor parking, to reduce traffic congestion by promoting the park and ride facility and providing a substantial source of revenue to reduce the burden on the council tax were the main priorities.

In response to a question, Mr Barnes confirmed that at present only 34 residents had applied for a £200 permit to use Durngate Street car park overnight.

Following discussion it was

RESOLVED

That the Town Clerk be requested to write again to the West Dorset District Council suggesting that discussions continue with the Dorset County Council and that the District Council be requested to review its approach to town centre residents being unfairly penalised financially as a matter of urgency.

(d) Residents Parking Scheme for Fordington

A Member informed the County Council representatives that the residents of Fordington were in an intolerable situation since the introduction of on-street parking charges in the Town Centre.

The area around Fordington Green was frequently impassable, particularly by the fish and chip shop, and it was suggested that immediate action was required in this area.

In response Mr. Mackle agreed to investigate the possible introduction of a parking meter by the fish and chip shop together with a residents parking scheme for this area and perhaps the introduction of parking restrictions along the south side of Fordington Green.

A Member emphasised that three other areas within Fordington were experiencing major problems with parking and that a residents parking scheme was urgently required, the areas in question being Fordington High Street from the Church to the Town Centre, to include Icen Way; the area around Holloway Road, Durnover Court and Riverside Court and lastly Dukes Avenue, Icen Way and South Walks Road.

It was

RESOLVED

That the Town Clerk be requested to write to the Dorset County Council requesting immediate action on the areas mentioned above and suggesting that the County Council zone the responses received following consultation as they did when a similar exercise was carried out for residents parking in Victoria Park.

(e) Traffic Orders and other items of concern

The Committee noted that the Dorset County Council intend to introduce residents parking in School Lane, South Walks Road and The Grove and to extend the current 1 hour maximum stay to 3 hours in Linden Avenue, School Lane, South Walks Road and The Grove.

In response to a question from the President of the Chamber suggesting that the County Council carry out changes to traffic regulation orders with more urgency, Mr. Mackle informed the Committee that the procedures which had to be followed were laid down in legislation and must be adhered to.

Another Member voiced his concerns that the District Council were not doing enough to help shopkeepers during the current recession. In response the Mr. Woollard informed the Member that car park charges had not been increased for the financial year 2010-11.

Another Member suggested that the Chamber could hold discussions with the District Council with a view to introducing advertising on the tear-off backing on parking tickets.

The Chairman thanked the representatives for attending the Meeting.

(Councillors Barrett and Trevor Jones left the Meeting at this point.)

71. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 4th January, 2010, adopted by Council on 26th January, 2010, were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

72. DORSET COUNTY COUNCIL

(a) Request for 40mph Speed Limit – Middle Farm Way

The Committee received and considered a letter and map dated 7th January, 2010 from the Dorset County Council responding to a request from the Duchy of Cornwall asking for a 40 mph speed limit on Middle Farm Way, commencing from a point past the entrance to the day nursery to the roundabout adjoining the B3150.

The Committee was of the opinion that the entrance to the new Weymouth College site off Middle Farm Way would increase traffic movements in this area.

Following discussion it was

RESOLVED

That the Dorset County Council be informed that this Council object to the request from the Duchy of Cornwall.

(b) Proposed Puffin Pedestrian Crossing, Weymouth Avenue

The Committee received and considered a letter and plan dated 20th January, 2010 from Network Traffic Control showing the proposed layout of a new pedestrian crossing in Weymouth Avenue.

It was

RESOLVED

That no objection be raised to the installation of a new puffin pedestrian crossing in Weymouth Avenue.

During consideration of this item a Member expressed her concern that the new crossing facility in Prince of Wales Road should have a baffle fitted.

73. **WEST DORSET PARTNERSHIP – DRAFT COMMUNITY PLAN 2010-2026**

The Committee noted that the draft revised community plan for West Dorset was now out for public consultation until 12th April, 2010.

74. **WEST DORSET DISTRICT COUNCIL – TREES**

The Committee noted that the District Council had approved tree works on 1 Holm Oak at Lester House, Linden Avenue.

75. **COMMUNITY TRANSPORT SCHEMES**

The Committee noted that NHS Dorset and Dorset Partnership for Older People were working in partnership to develop a community transport scheme for housebound residents who were unable to use public transport to get to appointments. A public consultation would be held at The Holy Trinity Parish Centre on Friday, 12th February, 2010 from 2pm to 4pm to gauge interest in the scheme and to seek support from the community for volunteer drivers and co-ordinators.

76. **INFORMATION REPORTS**

The Committee received and noted the various reports which had been submitted for information.

(Councillors E.S. Jones and R.B. Potter left the meeting at this point.)

77. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

- (a) Appeals – PA 1/D/09/1604 – 95 High Street, Fordington, Demolish Garage. New Self-Contained Annexe and Garage.

The Committee noted that an Appeal had been lodged with the Planning Inspectorate against the West Dorset District Council's refusal of the above application and that the hearing would proceed by way of written representation on or after 3rd February, 2010.

- (b) Generally

The Committee considered planning applications referred to this Council for comment by the West Dorset District Council.

It was

RESOLVED

- (1) That the comments on the various planning applications as now agreed and set out at Appendix I be notified to the West Dorset District Council.

(Councillor V. Black declared a Personal Interest in Planning Application 10475 as she had helped draw the plans for this application.)

During consideration of the planning applications Members requested that the Town Clerk invite the Listed Buildings/Conservation Officer to the West Dorset District Council to a future meeting of this Committee.

A Member expressed her concern that this Council never sent a representative to meetings of the District Council's Development Control Committee.

It was

RESOLVED

- That an item be placed on the agenda of the next meeting of this Committee to enable this issue to be discussed.

Chairman

PLANNING APPLICATIONS CONSIDERED

Planning Applications considered on 1st February, 2010

1 10460

Replace rear windows at 37/38 High West Street. 1/D/09/1987 (CA)

No objection.

2 10461

Listed Building consent to make external & internal alterations at 18 High West Street. 1/D/09/2019 (LB grade II & CA)

No objection.

3 10462

Erect 4 storey extension to prison to provide replacement health care centre at HM Prison. 1/D/09/2022

No objection.

4 10463

To change usage from retail (A1) to estate agency (A2) at 24 Peverell Avenue West. 1/D/09/2041

No objection.

5 10464

Erect conservatory at 78 Monmouth Road. 1/D/09/2028

No objection.

6 10465

Singles storey extensions. Convert garage to living space including first floor extension at 1 Celtic Crescent. 1/D/09/2031

No objection.

7 10466

Vehicular access, parking space & turning space. Remove part of boundary wall & drop kerb at 5 Kings Road. 1/D/09/2036 (CA)

Recommend refusal. The Council have major concerns regarding access at this busy junction, particularly onto Alington Road.

8 10467

Convert garage to function room at Dorset Youth Association, Lübbecke Way. 1/D/09/2069

No objection.

9 10468

Install Photovoltaic solar panels at 3 Arbutus Close. 1/D/10/0003 (CA)

No objection.

10 10469

Demolish porch. New enlarged flat-roofed porch on the front of the property at 31 Rothesay Road. 1/10/0028

No objection.

11 10470

Single storey extension at 4 Albert Road. 1/D/10/0041 (CA)

No objection.

12 10471

Form disable access ramp at 16A Antelope Walk. 1/D/10/0038 (CA)

No objection.

13 10472

Advertisement consent for non-illuminated atm signage at 15 Cornhill. 1/D/10/0042

No objection.

14 10473

Replace front boundary wall. Modify vehicular & pedestrian access at 3 Treves Road.
1/D/10/0040

Recommend refusal. The Council are strongly of the opinion that this proposal would be detrimental to the street scene as the wall and railings are excessively high.

15 10474

Hardstanding at 14 Margaret Place. 1/D/09/1982

No objection, provided the hardstanding complies with current regulations.

16 10475

Remove fencing/hedges to allow access from road at 44 Lorne Road. 1/D/10/0050

No objection.

17 10476

Single storey lean-to extension & side extension at 43 High West Street. 1/D/10/0102 (Grade II LB & CA)

No objection.

18 10477

Listed Building consent to erect single storey lean-to extension & side extension at 43 High West Street 1/D/10/0103 (Grade II LB & CA)

No objection.

19 10478

Demolish existing garage. New two storey extension. New porch at 21a Manor Road.
1/D/10/0124

No objection.

20 10479

Two storey extension at 20 Vespasian Way. 1/D/10/0097

No objection.

21 10480

Extension & alterations to day centre at Joseph Weld Hospice. 1/D/10/0025

No objection.