

DORCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL

PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

4th FEBRUARY, 2013

At a Meeting of the Planning and Environment Committee held on 4th February, 2013:

PRESENT The Mayor (Councillor A.J. Canning) and Councillors V.J. Allan, K.E. Armitage, R.M. Biggs, T.C.N. Harries, S.C. Hosford, E.S. Jones, Trevor Jones, F.E. Kent-Ledger (Chairman), R.B. Potter, M.E. Rennie and D.S. Roberts.

APOLOGIES for absence were received from Councillors C.S. Biggs, T.F. Loakes and D. Taylor.

60. **DORCHESTER TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT PLAN**

The Committee welcomed Messrs. J. Foy, P. Hannam, P. Holtom and T. Norman from Dorset County Council who were attending the Meeting to discuss with Members the revised Dorchester Transport and Environment Plan.

Mr. Norman gave a background introduction to the original concept of the plan in 2003 which was to enhance the public realm and achieve a reduction in traffic volumes within the Town Centre.

In 2004 a master plan was prepared and between 2005 and 2010 several stakeholder meetings were held to oversee the development of the scheme. In 2010 the Dorset County Council announced that the project could not proceed due to lack of funding. However during this period the West Dorset District Council had allocated a substantial sum which would be made available to enhance the surface finishes and street furniture to be provided under the scheme.

Mr. Norman informed the Committee that, following major restructuring within the County Council, new personnel had been recruited in 2012 to take the scheme forward, albeit in a severely reduced form.

The County Council had recently approved the revised scheme, which would be implemented in three phases, although funding for the first phase of the project would not be available until 2014-15.

Phase 1 would include changes to the traffic network to reduce through traffic, particularly along High West and High East Streets, to improve access for pedestrians and cyclists and to help to ensure the commercial viability of the Town Centre.

Phase 2 would make permanent all the road treatments and signage, pedestrian crossing enhancements, works to Trinity Street and South Street and street furniture.

In response to a question Mr. Norman confirmed that no funding had yet been allocated to Phase 3 despite the contribution from the District Council.

In response to another question Mr. Norman confirmed that the timetable for the project envisaged that Phase 1 would be completed by February, 2015, Phase 2 by June, 2016 and Phase 3 sometime in 2018 subject to funding being made available.

In response to a Member's concern regarding the non-pedestrianisation of High West and High East Streets Mr. Norman confirmed that air quality in this area still exceeded acceptable levels but care had to be taken not to move this problem to another part of the Town.

Another Member expressed his concerns regarding the large amount of money already spent on this scheme with virtually nothing to show for it. In response Mr. Norman reported that the opinion of the present project team was that the original scheme had not been costed accurately.

Concern was expressed by the Committee that only Phase 1 and Phase 2 would proceed. On completion of these phases air quality in High West and High East Streets would improve a little, reducing the likelihood of Phase 3 satisfying the criteria for the allocation of funding by the County Council.

Mr. Norman informed the Committee that it was the County Council's intention to seek external funding (approximately £4m) for Phase 3 and agreed that Phase 1 and 2 must stand on their own.

The Committee also expressed its concern that the County Council was proceeding with a greatly reduced scheme without the mandate of local people and the Committee was strongly of the opinion that the proposed exhibition scheduled late in the summer of 2013 should be held in early June.

It was

RESOLVED

That the Town Clerk be requested to write to the Dorset County Council in the strongest possible terms suggesting that a public exhibition be held immediately after the May elections so that residents may be informed of the changes to the Dorchester Transport and Environment Plan.

The Chairman thanked the representatives from Dorset County Council for their attendance at the meeting.

61. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 7th January, 2013, adopted by Council on 29th January, 2013, were taken as read and were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

62. **DORSET COUNTY COUNCIL**

(a) **Statement of Community Involvement on County Council Planning Matters – Consultation Draft (January 2013)**

The Committee noted that the County Council had prepared a draft Statement of Community Involvement in the preparation of minerals and waste plans and planning applications that were dealt with by the County Council; the Statement was available on-line at www.dorsetforyou.com/mwdf.

The Committee noted that comments on the document must be received by 1st March, 2013.

(b) **Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders**

Further to Minute 46(b) the Committee noted that the following resurfacing works had been postponed and rescheduled for the 2013-14 financial year due to the sudden deterioration of parts of the road network as a result of the recent wet conditions.

- Damers Road (B3133)
- The Grove (B3147)
- Albert Road/Cornwall Road (B3147)

(c) **Parking Issues – Queens Avenue and Clarence Road/Treves Road**

The Committee received and considered a letter dated 31st January, 2013 from Dorset Highways with their suggestions to improve parking practices in the area.

Following discussion it was

RESOLVED

- (1) That the installation of double yellow lines at the Clarence Road/Treves Road junction be supported.
- (2) That consideration of the proposals for Queens Avenue be deferred until consultation with residents has been carried out.

(d) **Extension to the Victoria Park Residents Parking Scheme**

The Committee received and noted a letter dated 31st January, 2013 from Dorset Highways advising that the suggested extension to the Victoria Park Residents Parking Scheme for the following roads had failed to achieve sufficient support from residents and would therefore not proceed.

- Alice Road from Cambridge Road to Louise Road;
- Cambridge Road from Alice Road to Marie Road;
- Louise Road from Maud Road to Marie Road;
- Marie Road from Lorne Road to Cambridge Road;
- Windsor Road from Damers Road to Cambridge Road.

(e) 2013-14 – Dorset Highways Provisional Capital Programme

The Committee received and noted the provisional programme of highway works across Dorset for the 2013-14 financial year.

63. **PARKING RESTRICTIONS**

(a) Maiden Castle Road – Cul-De-Sac

Further to Minute 48(a) the Committee gave further consideration to the possible extension of permitted parking in the cul-de-sac in Maiden Castle Road near its junction with Weymouth Avenue in the light of a further communication received from a local resident.

Following discussion it was

RESOLVED

- (1) That the Resolution set out at Minute 48(a) be reaffirmed.
- (2) That the Town Clerk be requested to write to the Dorset County Council suggesting the introduction of parking restrictions on the northern side of Maiden Castle Road between its junctions with Weymouth Avenue and Clarence Road.

(b) Junction of South Court Avenue/Herringston Road

The Committee considered whether to request the Dorset County Council to make a Traffic Regulation Order to prohibit long stay parking to the east of the junction of South Court Avenue and Herringston Road.

It was

RESOLVED

That the Committee supports the request for a Traffic Regulation Order to prohibit parking at the above junction to its junction with Grosvenor Road.

64. **DORCHESTER BY-PASS**

At the request of a Member the Committee considered whether to suggest to the Highways Agency that roadside noise barriers be erected along the Dorchester By-Pass.

Following discussion it was

RESOLVED

- (1) That the Committee records its opinion that the erection of road side barriers would not enhance the by-pass.
- (2) That the Highways Agency be requested to consider the possible resurfacing of the by-pass in an attempt to reduce noise levels which would have particular benefit for residents of Castle Park.

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

(a) Approvals

The Committee noted that the following tree works had been approved by the District Council;

- To crown lift 2 Yew, 2 Common Lime and 1 Lawson’s Cypress at Caters Place (under Section 198 for highway and property safety).

(b) Applications

The Committee noted that the following tree work applications had been forwarded to ward members for consideration;

- To reduce overall crown of 1 Birch by 2 metres at 6 Cornwall Road.

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

66. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

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

It was

RESOLVED

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.

Chairman

PLANNING APPLICATIONS CONSIDERED

Planning Applications considered on 4th February, 2013:

1 11108

Internal and external alterations to facilitate relocation of existing staff/volunteer accommodation to the second floor attic space at Max Gate, Alington Avenue. 1/D/12/1724 (Grade I LB)

No objection.

2 11109

Listed Building consent for external alterations to facilitate relocation of existing staff/volunteer accommodation to the second floor attic space at Max Gate. 1/D/12/1725 (Grade I LB)

No objection.

3 11110

Change of use to allow storage, distribution and sale of hard wall and floor coverings and associated products and/or Class B8 use and elevational changes at 31-33 London Road. (Amended Description) 1/D/12/1651

No objection.

4 11111

Listed Building consent to Fix a burglar alarm box to rear of property at 48 Icen Way. 1/D/13/0011 (CA & Grade II LB)

No objection.

5 11112

Erection of A/C condenser units 2 No. at high level to car park wall at 7 Brewery Square. 1/D/12/1744

No objection.

6 11113

Variation of condition 1 of pp. 1/D/11/002064 to allow rear conservatory to unit 4A (Amended Description) at 4 Whitfield road. 1/D/12/1581

Recommend refusal. This application contravenes the conditions of PA 1/D/11/2064

7 11114

Redevelop site by the erection of three dwellings and the conversion of an office to an apartment at 11a St. George's Road. 1/D/13/0017

No objection.

8 11115

Ground floor extension to rear of house at 63 Alexandra Road. 1/D/12/1743 (CA)

The plans available to view on line are wholly inadequate to assess this proposal.

9 11116

Retention of single storey accommodation and external alterations at Thomas Hardy School. 1/D/13/0042

No objection.

10 11117

Listed Building consent to adapt 4 windows to the west elevation by removing the double glazed casement units and replace with single glazing. Removal of a modern double glazed window and providing a new single glazed window at 39-41 Glyde Path Road. 1/D/13/0024 (CA & Grade II LB)

No objection.

11 11118

Change of use from A1 (shops) Use Class to Su Generis Use as a tattoo studio at 5 Trinity Street. 1/D/13/0065 (CA)

No objection.