

BUCKFASTLEIGH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Planning, Environment and Transport Meeting held on 5th April 2017.

Present: Councillors Janet Jones (Chair), Pam Barrett, Pamela Forbes, Ron Fox, Andy Stokes and Judith Hart (Town Clerk)

In attendance: One member of the public

Part I (Open to the Public)

17/01. Questions raised by the public: A member of the public questioned the removal of asbestos at the Devonia site and whether this work is being carried out to pre-empt the proposals in the Neighbourhood Plan.

The Council is aware that more businesses have moved onto the site and are awaiting a formal response from the trustees in response to the Neighbourhood Plan consultation.

Action: Clerk to send a letter to the owner to clarify the situation regarding the removal of asbestos.

17/02. Apologies for absence: Cllr Mark Maish and Linus McCloskey

17/03. Declaration of Interests: None

17/04. To approve & sign as a correct the Minutes of the Planning, Environment and Transport Committee meeting on Wednesday 1st March 2017.

Signed by Cllr Andy Stokes as acting Chair at this meeting.

17/05. Review of actions from previous meeting:

Plymouth Road parking issues – The Clerk confirmed that the work agreed with Devon Highways to ease the parking problems in the area of Plymouth Road adjacent to the Bungalow will be undertaken when their new programme of works is in place.

Stage 2 investigation to Devon County Council's response to complaints made by Buckfastleigh Town Council and Whitecleave Quarry noise issues – see agenda item No. 9.

Response from Highways England re the A38 – see agenda item No. 8

Newton Abbot New Town proposal – The Council had asked for a meeting with Cllrs Barker, Dennis and Nutley to examine the new strategy documents that had recently been received including the Greater Exeter Strategic Plan, but this invitation had been declined by Cllr Barker and there has been no response from Cllrs Dennis and Nutley. Members agreed that the documents are complicated and difficult to understand with cross boundary references and no clarification as to how the existing infrastructure will cope.

Members agreed that new house building is beyond perceived need. It is not known where the figures for housing need are sourced as there is no projected population growth for Devon. Where is the predicted influx of new homeowners coming from? Executive style, not affordable homes are being erected with little or no local demand which has already been demonstrated at the new town of Sherford where a far lower than predicted number of houses have so far been sold.

The Council are very disappointed that the new strategic plans only offers a six-week consultation period for a 40 years' development plan and that the elected representatives for Buckfastleigh will not provide any information or explain how these plans will link to the existing local plans including the Neighbourhood Plan.

Action: Clerk to draft a letter to advise that the Council is unable to respond to a consultation with such a short time constraint, only one public engagement event in the area and that our local representatives are unable to provide any relevant information to facilitate an informed response.

X38 Stagecoach bus service – The Clerk read out the response provided by Stagecoach dated 27th March 2017 regarding the reduction in service from January 2017 which was noted.

Action: Copy of letter to be uploaded to the Council website for information. Clerk to send a letter to the Falcon coach service which runs from Plymouth to Bristol to ask if they would be interested in provided a scheduled stop at Buckfastleigh following the recent Stagecoach cuts.

17/06. Planning Applications:

0139/17 Proposed: Installation of secondary double glazing at 30 Fore Street, Buckfastleigh.

No objection

17/07. Planning Applications received after Agenda set: None

17/08. Response from Highways England re A38 noise issues:

Email received 20th March 2017 which was noted.

17/09. Whitecleave Quarry noise issues and response to the Stage 2 investigation by Devon County Council to complaints made by Buckfastleigh Town Council:

It was noted that the quarry operator has applied for planning permission to move to Heathfield, but as there is no restoration plan by the planning authority, will the site be reinstated? The Review of Minerals Permission is due to be reviewed in June 2017, will this be postponed pending the outcome of the planning application? A letter has been sent to Devon County Council by the Chair of Buckfastleigh Community Forum requesting clarification of the current situation.

Decision: Members agreed to defer this item until a response has been received to the above correspondence.

17/10. Buckfastleigh Neighbourhood Plan update:

The consultation period ends on Friday 7th April 2017. All responses from statutory bodies, stakeholders and local residents will be collated and examined.

17/11. Buckfastleigh Helipad Floodlights Specification:

The new floodlights specification and helipad for the football pitch was discussed at the recent sports strategy meeting. There has been a negative response from Teignbridge District Council (TDC) regarding this project who have stated that planning permission should be sought.

The type and strength of lighting has been examined and the Council has requested that John Bailey, Chairman of Buckfastleigh Rangers Football Club shares all the correspondence exchanged with TDC with the Town Clerk to consider further.

17/12. Correspondence:

Email 31.03.17 – Notification of community engagement with the Town Council, residents and key stakeholders from a potential housing developer regarding the allocated site at Holne Road, Buckfastleigh.

Action: Clerk to request a meeting at the earliest opportunity to discuss further.

17/13. Items requiring urgent attention: None

Meeting closed at 8.25pm