

BUCKFASTLEIGH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Planning, Environment and Transport Meeting held on 1st March 2017.

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

Part I (Open to the Public)

17/129. Questions raised by the public: None

17/130. Apologies for absence: Cllrs Janet Jones and Mark Maish

It was noted that Cllr Greg Porter has resigned from this committee

17/131. Declaration of Interests: None

17/132. To approve & sign as a correct the Minutes of the Planning, Environment and Transport Committee meeting on Wednesday 1st February 2017.

Signed by Cllr Andy Stokes

17/133. Review of actions from previous meeting:

Plymouth Road parking issues – following a representation from residents who live in the row of terraced properties between Toll Marsh House and Victoria Park at the previous meeting, they requested a variety of options to ease access problems. The Clerk forwarded these requests to Devon County Highways and was subsequently advised by Cllr Stuart Barker that double yellow lines will be placed in front of the communal access gate to facilitate pushchairs, wheelchairs and deliveries and that restricted, time-limited parking will also be considered to prevent indiscriminate and continuous parking by large vans that effectively block parking spaces for indefinite periods.

Action: An update was placed on the Town Council's social media site to give residents the opportunity to comment further on this matter. Members also agreed that the Parking Working Party needs to meet to look at parking as a whole for the town.

Stage 2 investigation to Devon County Council's response to complaints made by Buckfastleigh Town Council – There has been no further development or acknowledgement from Devon County Council (DCC) Customer Relations Section to the last email sent by the Clerk on 3rd February 2017 or the letter sent to DCC Planning by email on 15th February 2017.

Action: Clerk to pursue further and ask when the Council is likely to receive a response.

17/134. Planning Applications received after Agenda Set: None

17/135. Whitecleave Quarry noise issues and update:

A stock take of complaints received from residents has been collated. The second meeting for the mediation process has not been arranged for mid-January by DCC and there has been no further communication on this matter, a Local Liaison Group (LLG) meeting has not taken place since January 2016 and breaches of planning permission by the quarry operator continue.

Action: Clerk to arrange a meeting of the Whitecleave Quarry Working Party for mid-April to discuss these issues further and ask DCC when mediation and the LLG meetings will resume.

17/136. Devon Minerals Plan Adoption Statement:

Noted.

17/137. Buckfastleigh Neighbourhood Plan update:

The Clerk confirmed that the final draft of the Neighbourhood Plan has now gone out for formal consultation for six weeks from Friday 24th February to Friday 7th April 2017 and that a hard copy is available in the Town Hall entrance and Library with information as to how to send comments to the Council.

Action: Members agreed to hold a drop-in session in the Town Hall towards the end of March to encourage further consultation with the public and other organisations.

It was also agreed to engage with representatives from Devonian to discuss their current plans for the site and the aims of the Neighbourhood Plan.

17/138. Response from Highways England re A38 noise:

Following a meeting with Highways England, Councillors asked that Buckfastleigh could be looked at as a noise hotspot and it was agreed that an investigation into the potential for practical noise mitigation measures were carried out.

A response dated 21st February 2017 has been received to advise that although 600 important areas have been identified as potential candidates for noise barriers, there will not be funding for every location and it is likely that Buckfastleigh will not be categorised as a priority site for at least 2 to 3 years. Quieter road surfacing has been used although it is acknowledged that there are still some small sections of the carriageway where this work was not carried out.

Action: Clerk to clarify which areas do not have quieter surfacing and whether this work will be undertaken. The Town Council would be pleased to be included in the next phase or review of works and to continue to work on visual and acoustic resolutions. Will the noise issue be re-visited if the traffic flow increases due to the proposed major housing developments planned along the Exeter to Plymouth corridor?

17/139. Newton Abbot New Town proposal:

There are now three major consultations which have been published in the last week – The Greater Exeter Strategic Plan, the South Hams Special Area of Conservation Mitigation Strategy for the Heart of Teignbridge and Bovey Tracey and the Newton Abbot Draft Development Framework Plan. The Council had not been made aware of any of these plans and yet all will have an impact on Buckfastleigh.

Members of the PEAT Committee were disappointed that County and District Councillors and officials had not made them aware of these developing plans earlier in the process. The plans are detailed and complex and it is not clear how they related to our local plans and Neighbourhood Plans currently being drawn up.

The 6-week consultation period for the Exeter Plan commenced on 27th February and yet Teignbridge District Council (TDC) agreed to the preparation of this plan in July 2016. One public consultation date for the whole of Teignbridge has been facilitated on Thursday 23rd March in Newton Abbot which is inadequate and allows very little time for such a large and

complex document to be examined by statutory consultees, the public, businesses etc with a view to providing an informed response.

PEAT members noted that there would be significant impact on local communities including potential impacts on traffic, pollution and on local services which are already under strain.

Town and Parish Councils need to have the opportunity to examine all the strategic plans more closely and have adequate time to communicate this information to the public and encourage informed contributions.

Action: Clerk to invite the County and District Councillors for Ashburton and Buckfastleigh, accompanied by officers as necessary, to an informal meeting to discuss and explain the plan in more detail and the consequences and impacts on the Parish, so that informed comment can be made on the proposals.

17/140. Correspondence: None

17/141. Items requiring urgent attention:

Cllr Pam Barrett: The X38 Stagecoach bus has been reduced from 7 to 4 direct services from Buckfastleigh to both Plymouth and Exeter which has had a significant impact on people travelling to work and college. There is now a suggestion that this service will be reduced even further with 2 of the 4 buses terminating at Ivybridge.

Action: Clerk to send letters to both Devon Transport and Stagecoach to establish if there are any further planned changes and if so when and why?

Cllr Pamela Forbes: There is concern that the logging lorries who are no longer permitted to use the route along Plymouth Road and Bossell Road have now been diverted along Bridge Street and Market Street into Jordan Street.

Members were reminded that the Buckfastleigh Emergency Plan test will be carried out on 7th March from 6.30 to 8.30pm in the Town Hall.

Meeting closed at 8.45pm