

BUCKFASTLEIGH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Environment and Transport Committee Meeting held on 7th November 2018.

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

In attendance: 2 members of the public

Part I (Open to the Public)

18/79. Questions raised by the public:

A member of the public asked if it was possible to have a bus service at a later time so young people could access entertainment out of town?

Cllr Janet Jones: The bus company will only do this if they feel it is financially viable, otherwise it would need to be subsidised. The only other option would be to hire a minibus which would incur costs.

Cllr Andy Stokes: The Town Council is regularly campaigning for additional times and routes and will continue to do so. We have met recently with Young Devon and raised the issue of transport for young people. This will be included in the consultation brief now commissioned by the Council to formulate a new youth strategy for the town.

18/80. Presentation by Adam Hesse of Coworth Homes on the proposed development of land off Oaklands Road, Buckfastleigh:

The site is identified as a green field north of Oaklands Road, with access via Glebelands and Oaklands Park. It is proposed that the development will include a children's play area, parking, cycle paths and a wildlife area. The development would be 51 two and three-bedroom dwellings including 18 affordable homes which would meet 35% as against the Dartmoor National Park Authority (DNPA) requirement of 50%. Renewable energy initiatives will be included in the design brief.

A bat survey has been carried out and meetings held with Devon Highways, Teign Housing and DNPA. The developer would like the support of the Town Council to include this site in the DNPA Local Plan Review.

Members expressed concerns regarding the impact of this proposed development on declining infrastructure, the perceived housing need for Buckfastleigh and lack of employment opportunities within the town. Members confirmed that consideration of this proposal will be given subject to further consultation and sight of a planning application to DNPA.

Mr Hesse left the meeting.

18/81. Apologies for absence: Cllrs Pam Barrett and Linus McCloskey

18/82. Declaration of Interests: None

18/83. To approve & sign as correct the Minutes of the Environment and Transport Committee meeting held on Wednesday 3rd October 2018.

Signed and approved by Cllr Janet Jones

18/84. Review of actions from previous meeting:

Car Parking Review – A response has been received from Teignbridge District Council (TDC) as follows:

- The Town Council would need to contact TDC again in six months' time to confirm if the off-peak, off-street permit which provides parking at specific times in the morning and evening has been purchased by residents in Buckfastleigh.
- The issuing of permits is stopped if over-subscribed, but this is normally only specific to an individual car park such as in Ashburton. Buckfastleigh has rover permits which apply to any TDC owned car park within the parish.
- The proposal for free 20 minutes parking in the Globe car park has not been taken to the parking review group as there has not been a meeting scheduled. Any proposals from this group would need to go before the Portfolio Holder or through the fees and charges process as the review group is not a decision making body.

Neighbourhood Plan – A meeting was held with Martin Parkes of Devon Communities Together who has considerable expertise with neighbourhood plans. He has agreed to re-write the key policy section in the format required and submit it to DNPA for screening. It will then be clear as to how much further work is needed to complete the plan and another meeting will be held to discuss how to progress it.

Speeding Issues – The speed petition for a 20mph limit in the town and 30mph for Strode Road has been submitted to Devon County Council (DCC) and will be discussed at the next Speed Compliance Action Review Forum (SCARF) meeting.

18/85. Comments on planning applications received prior to this meeting and after Agenda set: None

18/86. Planning Application for commercial site – 18/01672/MAJ Proposed: Demolition of existing running shed and replacement with running and maintenance building at South Devon Railway:

Members agreed to support this application.

18/87. Buckfastleigh Neighbourhood Plan update and actions to take forward:

Discussed under minute No. 18/84.

18/88. To discuss the planning, management and communications issues for projects which are within the remit of this committee:

Solar Panels – A further quote from a new company is being sought for the pool installation. The Admin Assistant will submit a planning application in due course once all documents are collated.

Councillors were requested to consider other projects for this committee.

Cllr Huw Cox raised issues of drain clearance and how the lack of this increases the risk of flooding. The DCC schedule for drain clearance every 3 years is not adequate and should be re-visited. It was suggested that Cllr Cox liaise with the Town Ranger and Highways Officer. A log could be set up and residents asked to highlight problems on social media so the Town Ranger can report them to DCC. Photos should also be included as evidence.

Action: Admin Assistant to set this up.

Cllr Stuart Barker had confirmed that the resurfacing of the broken cobbles in Fore Street had been scheduled to be carried out within this financial year.

Action: Cllrs Stokes and Cox to request an update and date for the start of these works from Cllr Barker and the Highways Officer.

Cllr Jones has contacted Cllr Barker and the Highways Officer regarding the suggestion to raise the pavement beside the Watermans Arms to prevent drivers mounting the pavement. DCC have rejected this and stated the problem is down to poor driving and illegal parking.

18/89. Correspondence: None

18/90. Items requiring urgent attention: None

Meeting closed at 8.40 pm