

OPEN SESSION: There were several members of the public present who wished to speak (see attached notes).

## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PLANNING, TOWN & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

Held on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2007 at 2.25pm

### Apologies

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, the Deputy Town Clerk reported that apologies for absence had been received from Cllr D E Cracknell.

### Declarations of Interest

Cllr Steele declared a personal but not prejudicial interest in planning application number 07/90160 as he held a monthly surgery at The Elm Tree Inn.

PRESENT: Cllr N R G Clarke (Chairman)  
Cllr N J Chard  
Cllr D R Cole  
Cllr M F Daly  
Cllr M A Steele  
Cllr B H Terry  
Cllr J A M Terry

IN ATTENDANCE: Jo Stannard, Deputy Town Clerk

### **P/4470**

#### **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2007, having been circulated, be approved and signed as a correct record.

*With the agreement of the Committee, planning application numbers 07/90992, 07/90242, 07/90131 and 07/90134 were considered next for the benefit of the members of public present (see Annex 'C' for observations).*

### **P/4471**

#### **NFDC TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME 2007/08**

Members received the agreed Traffic Management Programme for 2007/08 for schemes being progressed by New Forest District Council (*Annex 'A'*). It was noted that the prohibition of waiting scheme agreed for Bickerley Road and adjoining roads was in the process of being implemented and street markings should be completed by week ending 1<sup>st</sup> July 2007.

**RESOLVED:** That NFDC's Traffic Management Programme for 2007/08, as detailed in *Annex 'A'*, be received.

### **P/4472**

#### **USE OF EASTFIELD LANE BY HEAVY GOODS VEHICLES**

The Deputy Town Clerk reported that correspondence had been received from a resident of Eastfield Lane regarding the increase in use of the Lane by Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs), and asking if it would be possible to restrict such vehicles by implementing a weight limit. It was noted that, when the existing lorry restrictions had been implemented in the town, consideration had been given to restricting Eastfield Lane. However, the Highway Authority had concluded that it was not unreasonable for HGVs travelling from the east to access industrial estates to the south of the town via Eastfield Lane as the availability of two routes

(the other being Christchurch Road) had the overall effect of reducing HGV movement through the town centre.

Members did not therefore support the introduction of lorry restrictions in Eastfield Lane. However, it was noted that this issue was one of the justifications for the introduction of a distributor road from the A31 to Christchurch Road, which would enable all HGVs to be routed away from residential areas.

**RESOLVED:** That the concerns about use of Eastfield Lane by HGVs be noted.

#### **P/4473**

#### **NFDC PLANNING SEMINAR**

Cllr Clarke reported that he had recently attended a Planning Seminar at New Forest District Council when the emerging findings of the consultants' studies – the Strategic Housing Market Assessment and Affordable Housing Economic Viability Assessment – had been discussed. He said that housing affordability was becoming worse in the area and the annual need for affordable housing was significantly in excess of the South East Plan housing requirement for the area. There was also a shortage of available land in the area. The District Council was therefore considering the introduction of new policies, such as increasing the affordable housing requirement on residential development sites and lowering site thresholds for contributions.

The New Forest Open Space Study had also been discussed at the Seminar and it was noted that the town was poorly provided for in informal open space, play areas and formal sports pitches. The Recreation, Leisure & Open Spaces had previously discussed this report.

**RESOLVED:** That the information be received and noted.

#### **P/4474**

#### **NEW FOREST COMMUNITY STRATEGY REVIEW**

Members noted that the New Forest Community Strategy was being reviewed and there would be various opportunities for the Town Council to express its views as this review proceeded. At this stage, the Council had been consulted on suggested priorities for the built environment. Members considered the options (*Annex 'B'*) and agreed that option D (increase quality and quantity of public space) and option F (make town centres more attractive) would be priorities for the town. In general, it was felt that the issues were too narrowly focused on a relatively small geographical area of a typical town centre, to the exclusion of the wider economic and social structure.

**RESOLVED:** That the District Council be informed that priorities for the built environment for Ringwood would be options D and F.

#### **P/4475**

#### **PLANNING APPLICATIONS CONSIDERED**

Planning applications in respect of periods ending 23<sup>rd</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> May and 6<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> June 2007 were considered.

**RESOLVED:** That the observations as shown in *Annex 'C'* be submitted.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 4.30pm.