

## ANNEX B

### RINGWOOD TOWN COUNCIL

#### ANNUAL REPORT 2008

#### PLANNING, TOWN & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

#### REPORT BY THE CHAIRMAN

Your Committee has, on your behalf, considered a wide range of topics and planning applications, some small, some of considerable significance in the medium and long term.

#### WHAT WE HAVE CONSIDERED:

In total the Committee made its recommendations to the New Forest District Council and National Park Authority Planning Committees on the following applications, broadly categorized as: -

##### *National Park Authority:*

Alterations/extensions/garages 18 No

##### *Ringwood Town/New Forest DC:*

Fell or prune trees 28 No

Alterations and/or extensions (a reduction on last year) 107 No

New Houses (some of which are repeat applications) 34 No, including an

application for 31 No units off Eastfield Lane

Flats/apartments 4 No, which could

produce in excess of 17 units.

Change of use/alterations of planning

conditions

4 No

Control of advertising

6 No

Conservatories

9 No

Commercial/ industrial/educational

28 No, including

the last site on Embankment Way.

The trend identified last year for more and larger development proposals on 'brown field' backland has continued, which incrementally will change the nature of parts of our town. In comparison with last year there has been a decline in the absolute number of applications. It will be interesting to see if changes in the wider economy have an impact on the local market with possibly an emphasis on alterations and/or extensions?

#### WHAT WE HAVE COMMENTED ON:

We have commented on a wide range of topics covering:

- Minerals and Waste Development Framework – waste sites may be a future issue;
- Planning for a Sustainable Future – very ambitious but hard to relate to our sphere of competence;
- Community Strategy Review – a similar comment;
- Changes to permitted development – allegedly a simplification;
- Survey of Taxi Ranks – the case for more;
- Transport in the Community – alternatives to the bus, community transport;

- Changes to the Planning Application requirements – another simplification, which does not seem to have achieved that goal, and premised on electronic exchange of information;
- NPA – Proposed Conservation Area, Western Escarpment, which the committee did not support as a blanket designation.

Generally, the Committee sees its duty to review and comment on all consultations as in the past Town and Parish Councils have not done so and then felt aggrieved that their viewpoints had not been considered. Our comments are framed in the context of Ringwood to-day and tomorrow.

**THOUGHTS FOR 2008/9:**

The Committee will continue to be one of the busiest of the Council's committees, with a wide and challenging remit. There will be continuing incremental change of the Town's urban character either by alterations or extensions to existing properties and by infill development on existing sites at substantially higher densities; Ringwood meets all the requirements of a 'good' place to live.

Major planning guidance in the shape of the South East Plan, the complementary South West plan (what happens in East Dorset and the conurbation of Bournemouth and Poole will have a major change on employment and traffic levels) will become clearer over the year. Similar clarity will also appear over the year for the New Forest Local Development Framework and the County's Mineral and Waste Strategy

Against such guidance your committee will do its best to support individual planning applications mindful of the planning framework, and a desire to sustain the identity and vitality of Ringwood.

Nigel Clarke  
Chairman