

ANNUAL REPORT 2009

PLANNING, TOWN & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Firstly, I would like to thank the members of the Committee for their part in ensuring that every planning application and consultation gets the consideration it deserves and in particular Jo Stannard and Claire Perrens for their support, advice and persevering with the electronic format of presenting planning applications.

To put our role into context we have considered:

New Forest District Council – 186 No applications (142 No full, 17 No Tree, 10 No Listed Buildings & 17 No others)

New Forest National Park - 36 No (29 No full, 6 No Tree & 1 No amendment).

We have also commented on range of issues that might affect Ringwood, for instance the South East Plan, the New Forest Community Strategy and the various plans by the National Park for their Recreation Strategy and Local Development Framework Core Strategy to cite a few. Our duty, as I see it, is to consider and comment on any land use policy that has an impact on the Ringwood of to-day and tomorrow.

Which leads nicely onto my second point and to misquote a 'Coleman's Balls – see Private Eye, the flow of planning application has been in two phases. Up-to the 3rd Quarter we were considering up to 3 pages of applications, the last Quarter has seen a marked fall in the number of applications including some that I think fall within the new category of Permitted Development. The recession has come to Ringwood and from the planning list we can see the nature and volume of future additions to our housing and commercial stock, and the outlook is not optimistic.

Lastly, the planning system is complex, quasi legal and is framed by the evolving Local Development Plan and therefore confuses many an applicant.

May I make two suggestions if you are considering altering or extending your home or business: speak to Jo or me and we will do our best to advise you; or given the fact that you have now certain Permitted Rights that are not widely publicised, go to the Government Planning Portal www.planningportal.gov.uk/uploads/hhg/housholdguide.html and persevere as it may well meet your needs.

Nigel Clarke, Chairman