

PLANNING, TOWN & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE – 9th OCTOBER 2009

AT 2.00 PM

OPEN SESSION:

During the public participation session, a local businessman addressed the meeting to raise concerns about the restrictions placed on advertising for businesses within listed buildings.

Although aware this was a District Council issue, he felt that Town Councillors would be concerned. He had recently been informed by Planning Enforcement that the signs advertising his bed and breakfast, and restaurant menu, at 'Candlesticks Inn', Christchurch Road, were in violation of new regulations which came into effect in 2007.

Although he was allowed to retain the basic information signs such as 'restaurant', further information indicating whether there were B&B vacancies or not and menu details was no longer permitted. He had tested removing the signs, and found his trade reduced by 50%. Several other listed public houses in Town were experiencing similar problems.

The Chairman thanked him for bringing the matter to the attention of Members. The Town Mayor advised him of a forthcoming 'surgery' when he could talk further to individual councillors.

The Chairman commented that it was recognized by the Committee that some conservation officers had too narrow a view and did not take into account important social/economic issues. He said he would look into taking the matter up with Mr Elliott at New Forest District Council.