

LYDNEY TOWN COUNCIL

PLANNING AND HIGHWAY COMMITTEE MEETING – 2013/03/11 – 51

MINUTES OF THE PLANNING AND HIGHWAY COMMITTEE MEETING held in the Council Chamber, Claremont House, Lydney on Monday 11 March 2013 at 6.00 pm.

PRESENT: Cllrs W Osborne (Chairman), D Cooksley, C Harris, A Preest, B Thomas

Mr D Street – Member of the public co-opted onto the Committee

Mrs J Smailes – Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

Miss C Wheeler – Executive Officer (EO)

Two members of the public

Cllr Osborne informed all present that no practice fire evacuation had been scheduled for the duration of the meeting. All attendees were then informed of the locations of the nearest fire exits.

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Berryman, Edwards and Hobman and duly accepted.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

3. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the Planning Committee 11 February 2013 were confirmed and signed as a true record. **Proposed by Cllr Harris, seconded by Cllr Thomas.** Unanimous.

4. **OPEN FORUM**

Mr W Owen, 3 Augustus Way, Lydney – expressed concern over the number of dwellings which had yet to be occupied on the Oakdale site, together with a general lack of “life” on the whole development. Mr Owen feared that the remainder of the site would suffer a similar fate. Cllr Preest advised that he would visit the site shortly in a bid to establish if the flooding situation had been resolved.

5. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

P0251/13/FUL – Mr & Mrs A Knox, Oakhill, 45A Highfield Road, Lydney

Erection of a single storey rear extension to create a sun room.

No objection

P0255/13/APP – Mr A Thompson, Thompson & Thompson, Cross Hands Garage, Cross Hands, Lydney

Approval of Reserved Matters for a mixed use development comprising Class B1/B8 commercial units, erection of new petrol filling station and six detached dwellings with ancillary works.

No objection, subject to receiving confirmation that the houses have been positioned an adequate distance from the Petrol Station and that the “mixed” developments are monitored/mindful of any health and safety issues (e.g. fire/contamination/etc).



LYDNEY TOWN COUNCIL

PLANNING AND HIGHWAY COMMITTEE MEETING – 2013/03/11 – 52

TO NOTE PLANNING DECISIONS RECEIVED FROM FODDC

P1820/12/NONMAT – Land at Pylers Way, Lydney

Granted permission – Non material amendment to application P0762/12/FUL to allow for alterations to Plots 1, 2, 4, 5, 6 & 9.

P1799/12/ADV – Tesco Store, High Street, Lydney

Granted permission – Display of an illuminated sign.

P0042/13/HED – Land at Naas Lane, Lydney

Granted Permission – Removal of 89m of Hedgerow in four locations on land West to the A48 in Lydney.

P0019/13/TCA – 19 Church Road, Lydney

Granted Permission – Felling of one Willow.

P0001/13/FUL – 6 Ash Close, Lydney

Granted Permission – Creation of a front and rear extension to the property.

6. TEMPORARY ROAD/FOOTPATH CLOSURES

Prior to the meeting Members were provided with a copy of the e-mail which had been sent to Mr Street from the Council's Executive Officer, in which she advised that FLY 81 would now remain open. However, Mr Street highlighted that the closure notice was still displayed at the site and offered to contact the Legal Department at Gloucestershire County Council to ascertain if it could be taken down.

Action by – Mr Street

7. PLANNING CORRESPONDENCE

Prior to the meeting Councillors were provided with a copy of the Appeal Notice issued by The Planning Inspectorate, in respect of creation of an entrance from Windsor Drive. During discussion it was agreed that the CEO would write a strong letter to the Planning Enforcement Department of Forest of Dean District Council requiring them to take action to compel the applicant to reinstate the hedgerow (and surrounding area) as soon as possible. Cllr Osborne also requested that it be noted that landowners required the consent of DEFRA prior to the removal of any hedgerows.

Action by – the CEO

HIGHWAY/TRANSPORT ISSUES

8. CCTV

Members were informed that Lydney Town Hall Trust Management Committee had refused to provide the Council with a key to access the building (in the event of an emergency with the CCTV transmitter), stipulating instead that the Council was to contact the LTHTMC Trustees/Caretaking staff of the Town Hall should access be required. It was noted that LTHTMC had not stipulated if the cost of calling a member of the Caretaking staff to site would be recharged to the Council.

During discussion Cllr Cooksley (who was also a member of LTHTMC) felt that the Council would also be able to contact other members of the Management Committee who held keys to the building, should access be required.



LYDNEY TOWN COUNCIL

PLANNING AND HIGHWAY COMMITTEE MEETING – 2013/03/11 – 53

9. HIGHWAY CORRESPONDENCE

- E-mails received from Cllrs Preest and District Cllr Glastonbury re footpath from Lakeside to the Oakdale Estate, via Federal Mogul. It was noted that from the response given the matter was that of a Planning Enforcement issue to be dealt with by Forest of Dean District Council. Councillors expressed frustration that no action had been taken on the matter. Members were informed that during a conversation with Mr Nick Baynton, Forest of Dean District Council, the CEO had been informed that whilst the planning consent had required the provision of street lighting, no condition had been specified which required the lighting to be turned on. It was felt that the Town Council had no option but to continue to pursue the Forest of Dean District Council on the matter. Cllr Preest advised his fellow Councillors that he would continue to investigate the matter.

Action by – Cllr Preest

- E-mail from Mr Evans re 20 mph zone. Having received a copy of the correspondence between Mr Evans and Gloucestershire County Council to date, it was noted that roundels stating “20” would be applied to the road surface. Whilst the introduction of the 20 mph zone was welcomed by Cllr Preest, he felt that the area should have been extended. Furthermore, Cllr Preest stressed the need for enforcement action to be undertaken. During discussion Members expressed concern over the positioning of the 20 mph zone signs as they felt that they could not easily be seen/would be obstructed by hedgerows in a matter of weeks. There was also a lack of sufficient road markings etc.

Vehicle Activated Signs – 20 mph Zone

It was noted that the CEO had requested that Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) provide the Council with details of the cost of such signs, and it was hoped that this information would be received shortly. Attention was also drawn to the fact that during the consultation process the Town Council had suggested a number of locations where 20 mph signage could be placed, however, Councillors felt that their suggestions had been disregarded by GCC. During discussion Members highlighted that the shop front of Inspirations had once again been destroyed by a vehicle attempting to use the Bream Road junction and it was noted that GCC had advised that the location of the 20 mph signs would be reviewed after 6 months.

Relocation of Pedestrian Crossing

Councillors were provided with a copy of the response which had been received from Mr B Watkins, Gloucestershire Highways, regarding their suggestion to relocate the crossing point close to the junction with Forest Road to closer to the Co-operative store, and also the provision of a crossing point close to the Library in Hill Street.

It was noted that Officers at GCC’s Traffic System section had raised a number of concerns over the Council’s suggestion to relocate the crossing point; it had therefore not be considered appropriate to delay the refurbishment of the existing crossing point which had become unreliable and did not meet current electrical safety guidelines.

Attention was also drawn to the fact that GCC Asset Management Officers had undertaken an assessment on the provision of a new crossing point by the Library. From initial pedestrian surveys they reported that it would appear that pedestrians were able to cross in



LYDNEY TOWN COUNCIL

PLANNING AND HIGHWAY COMMITTEE MEETING – 2013/03/11 – 54

the daytime without any undue delay, and that during the evenings (particularly during school closing time), there was a greater concentration of pedestrians to motorists, but pedestrians tended to cross in between stationary vehicles without any noticeable difficulty, this was mooted as totally unacceptable practice.

During discussion it was agreed that the CEO would write to Mr Martins Surl, Police and Crime Commissioner for Gloucestershire in order to highlight the problems that pedestrians were experiencing.

Action by – the CEO

10. COUNCILLORS REPORTS

Cllr Thomas advised that a Local Transport Bureau meeting would take place on 21 March 2013 in order to update members on applications.

Cllr Preest highlighted the continuing problem of the “rat run” in the Bream Road car park and expressed his continuing concern over the problems experienced at the Bream Road junction and asked the CEO to once again request a response from Mr B Watkins.

Action by – the CEO

Mr Street called for a number of bollards to be erected in Woodland Rise, opposite the Methodist Church, as it was a common occurrence for traffic to become confused by the white lines on the road surface and come out onto the carriageway. CEO to ascertain cost/feasibility and approval with GCC Highways.

Cllr Harris expressed concern that a wall at the Bus Station had partially fallen down as members of the public had not realised that the cement had not dried sufficiently.

Action - CCllr Cooksley to advise GCC Highways and ask that they make good

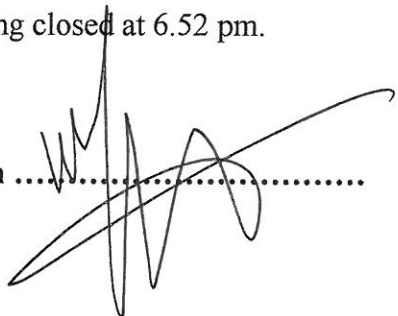
The CEO highlighted the new signage and flower planters which had been placed in the entrances and throughout the Town in the last few weeks.

11. MEETING DATES

It was noted that the next meeting of the Planning & Highways Committee would take place on Monday 8 April 2013 at 6.00 pm.

The meeting closed at 6.52 pm.

Chairman



Date 8th April 2013