

**North Area Committee
Minutes**
At Manor Community College

14 May 2009
6.30pm –10.10pm

PRESENT:

THOSE PRESENT FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF APPLICATIONS FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

City Cllrs: Armstrong, Blair, Liddle, Pitt, Upstone and Ward
Cllr Nimmo-Smith arrived during the consideration of application 09/0345/FUL and took no part in considering this application

THOSE PRESENT FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE MEETING

City Cllrs: Armstrong, Blair, Boyce, Liddle, McGovern, Nimmo-Smith, Pitt, Todd-Jones, Upstone and Ward
County Cllrs: Hughes, Huppert and Wilkin

09/20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

City Cllrs: Levy.
County Cllr: Moss-Eccardt

09/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor	Agenda item	Interest
Blair	3.2	Personal interest. Her husband is a director of NAPP which is Mr Martinelli's employer
Blair	6	Personal interest. Has had discussions with residents in regard to the EIP request and the gas lamp.
Huppert	8	Personal interest as parents live in the Defreville Avenue area.
Pitt	3.1	Has had conversations with applicant but not fettered his discretion

09/22 APPLICATIONS FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

These minutes and the appendix should be read in conjunction with the reports on applications to the committee, where the conditions to the approved applications or reasons for refusal are set out in full and with the Amendment Sheet issued at the meeting. Any amendments to the recommendations are shown.

Full details of the decisions, conditions of permissions and reasons for refusal may be inspected in the Environment and Planning Department, including those which the committee delegated to the Head of Development Control to draw up.

Under paragraph 4.2.1 of the Council Procedure Rules, the Chair used her discretion to alter the order of the planning applications. However, for ease of the reader, these minutes will follow the order of the agenda.

1
Site 42 Ramsden Square
Proposal Erection of detached two storey dwelling with new additional access to off street parking
Applicant Mr Darren Chandler
Application No 09/0286/FUL
Recommendation **Refuse**
Public Speakers Chris Reid (applicants agent)
Decision **Refused** as per officer recommendation by a vote of 5 to 3
Additional refusal ground on non S106 completion was added.

2
Site 378 Milton Road
Proposal First floor front extension and conservatory to rear
Applicant Mr Martinelli
Application No 09/0245/FUL
Recommendation **Refuse**
Public Speakers Mr Reeve (applicants agent)
Decision **Refused** as per officer recommendation on ground two by a vote of 6 to 1
Ground one was rejected by a vote of 5 to 2 and was struck out.

09/23 MINUTES

The minutes of the 6 March 2009 were amended to add Cllr Ward as present for both planning and the main meeting. They were then approved and signed as a correct record.

09/24 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

- **09/17 Q1 Adoption of Road in Vie development**

Discussions on this are on-going with the Highways department.

- **09/17 Q2 Changes to open spaces plan on the Miller homes development**

Active communities were not aware that the play area had been enlarged and are investigating.

- **09/17 Q5 Garry Drive**

The Anti Social Behaviour Team have now found an approach to this problem that is enforceable. Action is expected shortly. More information will soon be available.

09/25 OPEN FORUM

Q1. What is happening to the gas lamp in Thrift's Walk?

A. County Cllr Huppert responded that the gas lamp was in poor condition and had been disconnected as it was unsafe. It will be replaced when a suitable replacement can be found. It is possible that there is another lamp somewhere in the City that could be refurbished and transported to this site. Cllr Blair stated that Thrift's Walk is a conservation area and planning permission is needed before a Grade Two listed lamp can be removed. Funding a replacement or repair is a County issue. There is a gas lamp in Martin Stile Lane but it is not connected and the top section was removed some years ago leaving just the column.

Q2. To whom do residents have to address their thanks for the magnificent display of flowers at the Milton Road / Elizabeth Way junction.

A. Cllr Nimmo-Smith stated that the comments were welcome and confirmed that last years scare stories predicting no flowers this year were without substance. Cllr Ward suggested that residents could write to the Chief Executive as this would ensure the team involved would be informed.

Q3. Mr Bond made the following announcements:

- The proposed Chesterton Community Association will be holding a meeting on the 23 June to adopt a constitution.
- Chesterton Festival will be held on the 4th July across three sites. It is hoped that the incoming Mayor will open the event.
- Pye recreation ground is now looking much better following the installation of rubber matting. This is much appreciated by users of the area.

Q4. Discussions are ongoing concerning the formation of a Friends of Stourbridge Common group to give this area a voice. County Cllr Huppert lives in the area and hopes to be part of this group. However, this will be his last North Area Committee and therefore he will be unable to report back on progress with this.

09/26 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAMME

The Principal Landscape Architect introduced the item and gave an update on completed schemes and progress on other schemes as per report. Members discussed the projects in the report.

3.1 Penny Ferry, The Haling Way

This work is almost completed and temporary planting to give the area summer colour will happen in the next few weeks.

3.2 Campkin Road Shop Forecourts

Tree roots have proved to be more extensive than anticipated and the best approach in dealing with them is being discussed with the Team and with the Lead Councillor.

3.3 Trafalgar Street/Victoria Avenue bollards. Cllr Nimmo-Smith has been in discussion with County Highways and has agreed that the bollards can be replaced.

3.5 The fencing along the path between Ramsden Square and Campkin Road is completed.

Some concerns were raised about the time projects take to complete and how this is communicated to residents. It was agreed that communication with residents where improvements are planned could be better.

Questions were asked about the Penny Ferry area and what changes were made to the original plan. The officer responded that minor changes to the placement of the bollards and an extension of the drop kerb had been deemed necessary during the implementation of the work in consultation with Councillors.

A member of the public asked if cycle parking could be provided to the Post Office forecourt in Kings Hedges Road, which is technically private property. Cllr Ward felt that this would be possible. County Cllr. Huppert told the meeting about a new initiative to provide cheaper cycle parking by adding hoops to existing structure around the City. Cllr Nimmo-Smith will take this information to the City Cycle group for consideration.

County Cllr Huppert and Cllr Blair expressed support for increasing the number of dog bins located near green spaces.

County Cllr Hughes asked for an update on the footpath near St Lawrence's school. The scheduled work has been completed but this has not resolved the problem of puddles.

The fencing between a car park in Primary Court and Scotland Road Recreation ground was discussed. The fence has been repaired a number of times but damage recurs. Cllr Hughes suggested that better facilities for young people were needed in the area. Cllr Blair will investigate a Safer City Grant application for the work.

Action: Cllr Blair

The committee then considered and prioritised new schemes (see Appendix 2 of report).

Category 1 - Project priority order

Item 1 Campkin Road shop forecourts. Existing lead Cat 1 project - continue to progress.

Item 2 Nun's Way. Agreed as 2nd in Cat 1 list

Item 3 Stretten Avenue planters. Agreed as 3rd in Cat 1 list

Item 6 Mortlock Avenue refurbishment will be added to the Cat 1 priority list following consultation with residents. Agreed by a vote of 9 to 0.

Category 2 – Project Priority Order

Item 7 Trafalgar St/Victoria Av bollards. Existing lead Cat 2 project - continue to progress

Item 8 St Albans Recreation Ground lighting. Ctte discussed the need for revenue funding to support the introduction of lighting. It was agreed that Cllr. Todd-Jones would investigate bid to the climate change fund. Agreed as 2nd in Cat 2 list.

Action: Cllr Todd-Jones

Item 9 Arbury Road trees is deferred until further notice.

Category 3 – Project Priority Order

Items 10 St Lawrences School footpath project completed.

Item 11 Edgecombe flats project to be deleted from the list as it was being dealt with by Housing.

Item 12 Hawkins Rd/Downhams Lane project completed..

Item 13 Primary Court verges. Residents are supportive of verge protection work. This was agreed as the lead Cat 3 priority by a unanimous vote.

Item 14 Apthorpe Way / Campkin Road protect amenity area from parking. Project to be assessed with Councillors prior to the next meeting. Agreed by a vote of 9 to 0

New Projects.

Cllr Pitt asked for a new project to be added to resurface the footpath between Ramsden Square and Campkin Road.

Cllr Pitt also asked that the introduction of bollards to protect a play area in Cameron Road be added to the list.

Item 5 Thrift's Walk

Mr White presented the case requesting help with the cost of resurfacing Thrifts Walk, a private road.. Over some years residents had already completed much work. . An initial quote for the current remedial works required had been sought but the final quote brought to committee offered a better environmental option as the surface would be permeable.

Members were clear that they did not wish to set a precedent in funding work on private roads but agreed that this was a special case in view of the location and historical interest of Thrift's Walk, which is part of the proposed Chesterton Conservation Area extension. A suggestion concerning options for reducing VAT on the work was discussed but agreed not to be practicable in this instance.

The amount requested was discussed at length. The committee agreed that meeting the difference in cost of the better environmental option and the cheaper quote was a good compromise. Cllr Upstone proposed a figure of £20,700 and this was seconded by Cllr Blair.

This was rejected by a vote of 2 to 6.

A lower figure of £15,000 was suggested.

This was agreed by a vote of 6 to 4 subject to conditions, including that this is a one off grant and the Council takes no responsibility for any further work or maintenance.

09/27 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT PRESENTATION

The Historic Environment Manager introduced the item and outlined the future plans.

The Council has agreed funds of £30,000 per year for the financial years 2008-9, 2009-10, and 2010-11 for pro-active conservation.

The DeFreville Conservation Area was designated following approval of the Appraisal by Environment Scrutiny Committee and the Executive Councillor in March 2009.

Chesterton and Water Lane Appraisal: Consultation on the draft Appraisal and Conservation Area extensions ended on 5 May. A report will be taken to Environment Scrutiny Committee on 23 June.

Suburbs and Approaches Studies: These innovative studies will provide assessments of Local Distinctiveness. They will not in themselves provide the basis for Conservation Area designations, but will identify areas potentially worthy of such status, and buildings of local interest.

Discussions followed on the distinctiveness of the North of the City and how this could be preserved. Estates on this side of the City may be newer than other parts of the City but have merit and historical value.

Diary date: An Environment Week event on "Historic Environment and Climate Change" has been arranged on 24th June at 7pm in the Guildhall (Small Hall). All welcome. Input from local resident with local knowledge and a view of what is of interest is very welcomed.

09/28 USE OF MIDSUMMER COMMON BY STRAWBERRY FAIR IN 2009

The officer presented the item as per the report. A member for the public asked for the total cost of policing this event.

Action: Cllr Wilkins will investigate.

The Police national policy of charging for such events was discussed. Cllr Ward stated that he has no objection to contributing to an event for the local community but is not keen on the policing required for the non local, community that follow the event and are responsible for much of the anti social behaviour associated with the event. Cllr Blair stated that many young people from the City attend and enjoy this event. It has evolved over time but is a high point of the year for many local youngsters.

Discussions followed on Police approaches to the event and the balance needed between maintaining order and being seen as heavy handed. It was agreed that this is outside the remit of this committee and an issue for the Police to resolve. Secondary action will be taken by the Transport Police to manage rail travellers to the event. Steps have been taken to limit the amount of alcohol taken onto the site by visitor to the fair.

A review will be held after the event.

09/29 Arbury Court Car Park

The Head of Parking Services introduced the report which had been produced at request of Cllr McGovern. Cllr McGovern has had complaints that the free parking is being abuse by individuals not using local facilities and occupying spaced all day leaving no spaces.

Other members suggested that the car par was rarely full and there is not a problem. It was agreed that it is hard to judge the problem on the information available. There could be busy periods of the day when the car park is full. One reason suggested was the recent work to Mansel Court which could have limited parking bays.

Solutions were discussed. One option would be to redesign the car park to make better use of the available space.

However, members agreed that no action should be taken until a clearer picture of the problem was available. A survey of car park usage, perhaps aided by staff from City homes North, was agreed.

09/30 DATES OF MEETINGS 2009-2010

Meeting dates were agreed as per the agenda.

Meeting finished at 10.10 pm.

Chair