

Minutes of a Special meeting of the Planning and Highways Committee held by Virtual Meeting on Zoom Monday 10th August 2020 at 7.00pm.

Present

Councillors Phil Barnett; Jeff Beck; Billy Drummond; Nigel Foot; Jon Gage (substitute); Pam Lusby Taylor; David Marsh; Vaughan Miller; Andy Moore; Gary Norman (Chairperson) & Tony Vickers

In Attendance

Hugh Peacocke, Chief Executive Officer
Kym Heasman, Corporate Services Officer

53. Chairperson's Welcome and announcements

The Chairperson welcomed everyone to the special meeting of the Planning & Highways Committee to consider Planning Application: 20/20/01238/OUTMAJ for Sandleford Park, Newtown Road, Newtown, Newbury for Bloor Homes & Sandleford Farm Partnership.

54. Apologies

Councillor Roger Hunneman.

55. Declarations of interest

The Chief Executive Officer declared that Councillors Phil Barnett, Jeff Beck, Billy Drummond, David Marsh, Andy Moore and Tony Vickers are also Members of West Berkshire Council, which is declared as a general interest on their behalf and a dispensation is in place to allow them to partake in discussions relating to West Berkshire Council business.

The Chief Executive Officer made the following statement on behalf of Councillors Phil Barnett and Tony Vickers who are Members of West Berkshire Council Planning Committee and Jeff Beck and Andy Moore who are Substitute Members of West Berkshire Council Planning Committee: "I wish to make it clear that any comments I make tonight are only being made in relation to the formulation of the Town Council's view and is not in any way prejudging the way that I may vote when any application is considered by West Berkshire District Council. At that time, I will weigh up all the evidence."

56. To hear the views and comments from the applicants and any members of the public who wish to address the Committee regarding this application

Mr David Joseph from Bloor Homes gave a short presentation to the committee and answered questions from Councillors.

The Chairperson thanked Mr Joseph for his time this evening and the work he has done with the Sandleford Joint Working Group.

There were no questions or speakers from members of the public.

58. To consider the recommendations received from the Sandlesford Joint Working Group

Councillor David Marsh, acting for the Chair of the Joint Working group, Councillor Roger Hunneman, outlined the terms of reference and the business of the Joint Working Group. He presented to the Committee their recommendations:

The Joint Working Group recommends strongly that both parish Councils should call on the Planning Authority to refuse planning permission for this application, on three main points:

- Planning Principles – A single application for the Sandlesford site and Outdated planning framework.
- Traffic modelling & Active Travel.
- Environmental & Ecological Considerations - Protection of the ancient woodlands at Sandlesford Park, Nature corridors and wildlife studies and Environment and Sustainability.

The reports submitted and the research carried out are grossly inadequate and there are strong reasons for refusal.

The Chairperson asked Councillor David Marsh to thank the Working Group on behalf of this committee, for all the hard work, time, and invaluable research.

59. To agree the response from Newbury Town Council to the planning authority

Members agreed with all of the recommendations of the Sandlesford Joint Working Group regarding the Council's response to the Planning Application:

20/01238/OUTMAJ for Sandlesford Park, Newtown Road, Newtown, Newbury for Bloor Homes & Sandlesford Farm Partnership.

Proposed: Councillor Nigel Foot

Seconded: Councillor Jeff Beck

Resolved: That this committee submits an objection to the planning authority in relation to the Sandlesford planning application 20/01238/OUTMAJ, as recommended by the Joint Sandlesford Working Group. (See Appendix 1 attached)

There being no other business the chairperson declared the meeting closed at 20.17 hrs

Chairperson

