

ITEM 5(f) - APPENDIX D

Notes from Meeting with Local Councils

Re: Development Services Review – 26.8.10

	Comments Made By Local Councils	Proposed Response
1.	<p>Local Council Consultation</p> <p>(a) Officers offered S106 to applicant to resolve issues and Parish not notified.</p> <p>Query about S106 agreements and consultation with Parish.</p>	<p>Action Proposed –</p> <p>A new protocol for major applications and S106 planning obligations is included in the further action, (see Appendix A, 'Action Plans as approved in July 2009 to September 2010 to show progress'. This should include a greater involvement of Local Councils at the pre-application stages.</p>
	<p>(b) Parish Council form for consultations includes 'Support' – would like this removed as it is difficult for a Parish to be seen actively supporting one scheme over another. Send out form to Local Councils again as some are not using it.</p>	<p>No change. Whilst some Local Councils may not wish to indicate 'Support' for applications, they do have the option of 'No Objection' if they consider this to better reflect their viewpoint.</p>
	<p>(c) Are Parishes happy? We can't understand why Officers take a</p>	<p>No change. This is not directly an effect of the DSR.</p>

	different view. If only 73% of decisions are in agreement with Parish recommendation – what about the remainder – this should be investigated.	However, a further analysis is carried out where the District Council decision differs from the Local Council's recommendation.
	(d) The impression that Parishes are avoided if at all possible. System is run for the benefit of officers.	No change. Officers are committed to involving Local Council's in Planning Applications and do reply to the vast majority of consultations, in accordance with the Constitution.
	(e) Inconsistencies in dealing with planning applications. Can Officer's have discretion to vary the constitution to allow Parishes to put late comments in – and still have a say over method of decision (delegated)?	No change. In fairness to those Local Councils who do respond on time, there needs to be a consistent approach to decision, avoiding ad-hoc variations where possible.
2.	On Public Access Is it possible for neighbour comments to appear with a numerical reference, making it easier for Parishes to see extent of comments and cross refer to them?	This Council is due to introduce a new version on the Public Access on-line information about Planning Applications before the end of 2010. This will improve it's search and other functions. This will include making it easier for Local Councils to be informed of all types of applications and notifications made to the District Council.
3.	Site Inspections/Meetings Lack of 'proper' site meetings – much missed. Can Parish be notified of Site Inspections – may like to observe even though cannot speak. Want to air our views on site –	No change. There is now the opportunity for Local Councils to address the DCC directly, the District Council took into account Legal advice in adopting the present

	important for local democracy.	system of Site Inspections.
4.	<p>At Development Control Committee</p> <p>Public speaking changes – have only been twice and both were very negative experiences. Issues at July 2010 DCC referred to.</p>	<p>The length of debate should be left to the discretion of the Chairman and Members of the DCC. We can nevertheless include reminders of the need for brevity in pre-meeting training sessions. (Appendix A, 'Action Plans as approved in July 2009, updated to September 2010 to show progress').</p> <p>Each registered speaker is now shown to an individually labelled seat whilst they are waiting to speak, so as to improve their experience of DCC.</p>
4.	<p>At Development Control Committee</p> <p>Should look at time limited debate to avoid repetition.</p> <p>Oxford – break at 9am could be more flexible as it can finish shortly after. Pleased Parish can now speak but 3 minutes is too short – want 4 minutes as local members.</p> <p>Halstead – 3 minutes too short for complex applications.</p>	<p>The current times allowed for speaking provided for key points or new information to be made directly to DCC.</p> <p>Local Councils are able to make fuller written submissions, (which are available to DCC and the Public on-line and on file). There is a facility to allow for a longer time for certain major applications already</p>
5.	<p>Trees</p> <p>Parish is no longer consulted – this is poor. Not enough staff to cover the whole of the District. Local people know best and should</p>	<p>This part of the Development Service did not form part of the DSR in July 2009 and a separate response is</p>

	<p>be allowed to make these decisions locally. Local Councils seek an explanation of the change, of how we deal with these issues, how we protect the trees.</p>	<p>appropriate.</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>Village Design Statements</p> <p>Will they be adopted as SPD with new LDF?</p> <p>Demolition Notice Applications can there be a period for consultation?</p>	<p>This part of the Development Service did not form part of the DSR in July 2009 and a separate response is appropriate.</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>Gypsy/Traveller</p> <p>SDC to circulate link to Local Councils the DCLG webpage on gypsies. See: http://www.communities.gov.uk/planningandbuilding/travellers/</p>	<p>This part of the Development Service did not form part of the DSR in July 2009 and a separate response is appropriate.</p>