

DEVELOPMENT & CONSERVATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on 3 December 2020 commencing at 5.00 pm

Present: Cllr. Hunter (Chairman)

Cllr. Thornton (Vice Chairman)

Cllrs. Barnett, Cheeseman, Clayton, Penny Cole, P. Darrington, Fothergill, McGregor, Pett, Reay, and Roy

Cllr. Perry Cole was also present.

57. Minutes

Resolved: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Development and Conservation Advisory Committee held on 20 October 2020, be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

58. Declarations of interest

No additional declarations of interest were made.

59. Actions from previous meeting

There were none.

60. Update from Portfolio Holder

The Portfolio Holder reported that performance was still strong on major and minor planning applications. 1238 applications had been processed since April 2020 which was within 3% of the same period the previous year. 83% of appeals had been dismissed which was up on the previous year, and some large planning applications were on the horizon. Income was on budget despite the pandemic and Building Control had exceeded expectations.

There would be a Local Plan update at the next meeting as options were currently being considered. She took the opportunity to remind Members that there was still protection from the current Local Plan. In response to a question, the Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Officer for Planning & Regulatory Services advised that Neighbourhood Plans needed to accord with the Council's Development Plan and could not introduce any additional protection. That said, any Parish or Town Councils wishing to make progress on one could contact the planning policy team for bespoke advice.

Development & Conservation Advisory Committee - 3 December 2020

61. Referral from Cabinet or the Audit Committee

There were none.

62. Innovation Update

The Chairman introduced the Planning Improvement and Standards Manager and thanked her and her team, and all staff in general, for carrying on with the same high standard of provision of services. The Planning Improvement and Standards Manager presented the report and gave an informative [presentation](#) which updated Members on the work around existing and proposed innovation projects designed to improve efficiency, streamline processes, improve communication with customers and reduce unnecessary contact.

Members took the opportunity to ask questions and make some suggestions. It was advised that consistency was paramount and ideas needed to be examined along with any restrictions not within the Council's control, but greater use of text alerts and ways to keep Members up to date with matters like enforcement actions, would be investigated.

It was hoped some practices used during the pandemic which freed up officer's time, could continue. In response to a question, the Deputy Chief Executive and Planning & Regulatory Officer advised that shortening the length of time given to a planning applicant to post an on-site notice could be looked at.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

63. Work plan

The work plan was noted with the addition of a Local Plan Update, Government Response to White Paper Consultation, and National Model Design Code consultation.

THE MEETING WAS CONCLUDED AT 5.44 PM

CHAIRMAN