

Sandy Town Council

Minutes of a meeting of the Development Scrutiny Committee of Sandy Town Council held in the Council Chamber at 10, Cambridge Road, Sandy, Bedfordshire on Monday 6 January 2014 commencing at 6.45pm

Present: Cllrs A Jackson, C Osborne, M Pettitt (Chairman), M Scott, D Sharman, and S Sutton.

Absent: Cllr J Ali, K Lynch, and A Maycock.

In attendance: Cllr N Aldis, the Town Clerk and two members of the public.

1 Apologies

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Ali and Lynch.

2 Declarations of interest

- i) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests - none
- ii) Other Interests - Cllrs Osborne Scott and Sharman noted that they were patients at Kings Road Surgery.

3 Planning Applications

The following planning applications were reviewed by the committee.

3.i	19/12/13 01/14	CB/13/03694/ FULL Dr J P Graffy Kings Road Surgery 27b Kings Road Sandy SG19 1EJ	Change of use from residential dwelling (27a) to office space in connection with the adjacent surgery at 27b Kings Road, Sandy.
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Dr J P Graffy and his colleague were in attendance at the meeting in order to explain their future plans for the surgery at Kings Road. Dr Graffy advised that the current premises were inadequate for their practice having been designed for 2,700 patients whereas their patient list (now closed to new patients) was now 5,700 strong. The increase had been chiefly caused by the closure of the St Neots Road surgery and both Kings Road Surgery and Sandy Health Centre were struggling to provide the number of appointments needed in Sandy.

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The constraints of the existing premises meant that Dr Graffy's practice could not employ as many staff or provide as many services as would be expected in the normal course of primary care provision and staff were working in unsatisfactory conditions. The practice was keen to develop new long term facilities for its patients but meanwhile had purchased Dr Daunt's former house which was not to be used for consultations but it was intended to put a second portakabin on this site whilst efforts continued to secure a complete new surgery for the practice. The proposed development was seen as a short term solution which would improve conditions for patients and staff and would also provide an additional 8 parking spaces for the surgery.

The Chairman noted that members of the committee had made a site visit to the surgery on 4 January 2014 and thanked Dr Graffy and Dr Gledhill for explaining their plans to members. He also noted that an email to Central Bedfordshire Council objecting to the proposed development had been copied to the committee from a near neighbour of the proposed development. This resident was concerned that the site was unsuitable for a commercial enterprise being in the midst of a residential area and that neighbours were already experiencing difficulties with inconsiderate parking by surgery users and the writer expressed fears that these problems would be worsened by the proposed development and criticism of Central Bedfordshire Council for not enforcing parking restrictions in the area.

RESOLVED to support the proposed development and to welcome the creation of 8 new off street parking spaces.

3.ii	19/12/13 02/14	CB/13/04364/ FULL Mr P Larkins 68 St Neots Road Sandy SG19 1LG	Two storey side/rear extension and new window (obscured glazed) to existing first floor side elevation at 68 St Neots Road, Sandy, SG19 1LG.
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RESOLVED to make no objections to the proposed development which was behind the property and so had no impact on the street scene in St Neots Road.

4 Late Planning Applications

A late planning application from Central Bedfordshire which otherwise

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could not be commented upon was reviewed.

19/12/13 03/14	CB/13/04469/ FULL Mr P Holloway 19 Carlisle Close Sandy SG19 1TY	Two storey rear extension at 19 Carlisle Close, Sandy.
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RESOLVED to make no objections to the proposed development.

5 Minutes of previous meeting

RESOLVED to approve the minutes of meetings of the Development Scrutiny Committee held on Monday 25 November 2013 and Monday 16 December 2013 as a correct record of proceedings.

6 Items for Information

The Chairman had been researching the position at Long Lake Meadow following the issuing of two stop notices in late 2013. He had been advised by the planning department of Central Bedfordshire Council that a lawful development application was being considered but that a case officer had yet to be assigned. The Clerk offered to write to CBC to clarify exactly what was being considered. Meanwhile the Chairman noted that the planning department was relying on local residents and neighbours to keep them informed about any additional activity at the site.

Cllr Aldis advised that the Gypsy and Traveller Plan would be considered at the next meeting of CBC's Sustainable Communities Committee during the week ahead. There was no further update on progress with the proposed wind turbine at the RSPB and this matter was not on the Development Control agenda for 8 January 2014.