

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL

CASTLE MORPETH LOCAL AREA COUNCIL

At a meeting of the **Castle Morpeth Local Area Council** held in the Council Chamber on Monday, 14 January 2019.

PRESENT

Councillor E. Armstrong
(Chair, in the Chair)

(Planning Vice-chair Councillor S Dickinson in the chair for items 85-91)

COUNCILLORS

Bawn, D.L
Beynon, J.A
Dickinson, S.
Dodd, R.R.
Dunn, L. (part)
Foster, J.D.

Jones, V.
Ledger, D.
Sanderson, H.G.H. (part).
Towns, D.J (part)
Wearmouth, R

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Oliver, N.

Corporate Services & Cabinet Secretary

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Bennett, Mrs L.M.
Bulman, M.
Fairs, G.
King, M.
Murphy, J.
Sinnamon, E.
Soderquest, P

Senior Democratic Services Officer
Solicitor
Highways Development Manager
Highways Delivery Area Manager
Principal Planning Officer
Senior Planning Manager
Head of Housing and Public
Protection,
Planning Officer
Neighbourhood Services Area
Manager
Planning Technician

Soulsby, R.
Wardle, S.

Willis, C.

85. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor P.A. Jackson.

86. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Castle Morpeth Local Area Council held on Monday, 12 November 2018 as circulated, be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

87. DISCLOSURE OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Councillor D. Bawn declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Planning Application 18/04025/FUL.

Councillor J. Foster declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Planning Application 18/01908/FUL.

DEVELOPMENT CONTROL

88. DETERMINATION OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The attached report explained how the Local Area Council was asked to decide the planning applications attached to this agenda using the powers delegated to it and included details of the public speaking arrangements. (Report attached to the signed minutes as **Appendix A**)

RESOLVED that the report be noted

89. 18/01908/FUL

**Construction of Place of Worship (Use Class D1) together with car parking and external works
Land North Of Caldburne Drive Retail Units, Caldburne Drive, Collingwood Manor, Morpeth**

Richard Laughton, Planning Officer, introduced the application and provided a brief overview. It was noted that no objections had been received from Highways. It was not anticipated that there would be a severe impact from traffic, particularly as the church would be used primarily on Sundays and some weekday evenings. A condition would be imposed to ensure that the Management Plan will be place. A late objection had been received relating to the planting of trees and loss of light adjacent to the objector's property and impact amenity due to lack of light. As a result, it was recommended that condition 8 be amended and that a revised planting scheme be submitted for the entire site. An additional condition was recommended as follows to restrict permission to a 'Place of Worship' as certain developments within Use Class D1 may have a greater impact to highway safety and amenity without need for planning permission.:-

"The premises shall be used for a Place of Worship and for no other purpose (including any other purpose in Class D1 of the Schedule to the Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987, or in any provision equivalent to that Class in

any statutory instrument revoking and re-enacting that Order with or without modification)”

Reason: In the interests of Highway Safety and to protect residential amenity and highway in accordance with the NPPF”.

Mr. O’Hare Supporter spoke in support of the application and his key points included:

- The principal of the development complied with the Local Plan and NPPF.
- The original Bellway application included use classes for shops and offices and also for D1 use including places of worship.
- The original notional layout was very similar to this proposal.
- There had been no particular landscaping requirements but additional landscaping had been provided. This included nine silver birches along the road side along with a further five trees at a location to be agreed.
- The amount of car parking was fully supported by Highways and exceeded the usual requirements.
- The design of the building included some rendered walls similar to that seen on other properties in the area.
- This application would replace the existing Kingdom Hall in central Morpeth which also had a regular programme of events.
- Access to the existing Kingdom Hall had always been an issue and it was above the flood level at recent flood events. The issue of access had prevented the use of the building as a refuge. The new building would be able to be used as a refuge in flood situations.

Members then asked questions to officers and key points from responses included:

- The number of parking spaces to be provided and the number expected to be needed had been taken into account in the plan.
- The agent had considered the number of seats in the building and the number of parking spaces was double that required by planning standards.
- The number of parking spaces required was based on national guidelines and considered the numbers in the congregation at the existing building.
- The new building was on a bus route and it was expected that there would be some car sharing and walking.

Councillor Mrs E. Armstrong moved the officer recommendation to grant the application with the amendment of condition 8 and additional condition relating to the restriction of D1 use. This was seconded by Councillor D. Bawn.

On being put to the vote, it was agreed unanimously and.

RESOLVED that the application be **GRANTED** for the reasons and with the conditions as outlined in the report including the amended condition 8 and additional condition relating to the restriction of D1 use.

90. 18/03859/LBC

**Listed building consent for replacement of non original timber windows, 1 pair French doors and insertion of 1 no timber window.
Causey Park Farm , Causey Park Drive, Causey Park, NE61 3EP**

Ryan Soulsby, Planning Officer, introduced the application and provided a brief overview. This application was referred to the Members for decision as the application site was currently partly occupied by a member of the Development Management Service.

Councillor R. Wearmouth moved the officer recommendation to grant the application. This was seconded by Councillor H.G.H. Sanderson.

There were no questions or debate on this application.

On being put to the vote, it was agreed unanimously and

RESOLVED that the application be **GRANTED** for the reasons and with the conditions as outlined in the report.

91. 18/04025/FUL

**Rear First Floor Extension
39 Howard Terrace, Morpeth, NE61 1HT**

Connor Willis, Planning Technician, introduced the application and provided a brief overview. This application was referred to the Members for decision as the application had been submitted by or on behalf of an elected Member of the Council.

Councillor E. Armstrong moved the officer recommendation to grant the application. This was seconded by Councillor D. Ledger.

There were no questions or debate on this application.

On being put to the vote, it was agreed unanimously and

RESOLVED that the application be **GRANTED** for the reasons and with the conditions as outlined in the report.

OTHER LOCAL AREA COUNCIL BUSINESS

On the conclusion of the development control business, the meeting adjourned as the remainder of the agenda consisted of other Local Area Council business scheduled to begin at 6pm.

92. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The Chair explained that this item provided an opportunity for members of the public to ask questions either at the meeting or submit them in advance.

Councillor Alan Sambrook (Pegswood Parish Council) raised three questions:-

- (1) *He referred to a response received at the previous meeting. A recent planning application for Pegswood had included a Section 106 agreement providing funding for education provision. However, this money had been allocated to Ashington Academy. Could a breakdown of how the funding had been spent be provided?*

Councillor D. Towns added that he had been informed that the justification for the funding being allocated to Ashington Academy was that it was the catchment school for children from this new development. However, he had now heard that Ashington Academy was consulting on reducing its pupil numbers. He feared that, ultimately, this funding may not be spent in Ashington or even Northumberland.

- (2) *What was the timeframe for road safety measures to be implemented at Pegswood?*
- (3) *When was the safety crossing point, footpath and hedge removal to be implemented at Cookswell House, Pegswood?*

RESOLVED that written replies be sent to Councillor A. Sambrook.

Councillor A. Tebbutt (Morpeth Town Council) stated that he had submitted three questions, two of which had subsequently been answered by Paul Johnson, Interim Director: Place. The third question was as follows:-

'The Post Office has announced that the Mace shop in St Mary's Field is to provide a new Post Office service from 13 February. There has been no consultation on this with local elected members, or officers as far as is known. Whilst MTC welcomes this new provision, there is considerable concern about traffic congestion at this shop. There is no dedicated parking and the shop is very close to the junction of the A197 and the Sun Inn which already suffers considerable congestion at peak periods. MTC wishes to know if NCC Highways has been consulted by the Post Office, if it has, what response was given? If there has been no discussion will Highways make urgent representations about the traffic congestion concerns? Will Highways carry out a full risk assessment of this additional service being provided in this shop? MTC asks the Area Council to recognise the urgency of this issue.'

Councillor Tebbutt asked a supplementary question. *Does Northumberland County Council still have an anti-poverty strategy in relation to all of its financial recommendations?*

RESOLVED that a written reply be sent to Councillor Tebbutt.

Ed Brown

The introduction of car parking charges at Morpeth Station means that commuting by train is now less viable for me. This will force people to use their cars at a time when everyone is encouraged to commute via public transport. What is Northumberland County Council's view about the introduction of charges?

Members commented that the introduction of charges was enabling the provision of an additional 30 spaces. A time limit of 72 hours was also being introduced to prevent long term parking. It was noted that a season pass had been introduced which would cost approximately 30p a day. It was likely that commuters would have to pay considerably more in parking charges at their destination if they chose to drive.

RESOLVED that a written reply be sent to Mr. Brown.

93. PETITIONS

This item is to:

(a) Receive any new petitions: to receive any new petitions. Mr. Beattie was invited to briefly introduce his petition

- Speeding through Ellington Village from A1068 roundabout

Mr. Beattie explained that residents of Ellington were becoming more and more concerned at the speed of vehicles along Front Street and Lynemouth Road. In preparing the petition he had targetted residents whose houses or drives opened directly onto these roads. Of those approached, 122 had agreed to sign and five had declined. Residents were continually asking what was going to happen.

Councillor L. Dunn added that there was strong support for a 20 mph limit such as had been introduced in Cresswell. Residents felt that this would make it safer for children, walkers, cyclists and pedestrians. The request mirrored the Corporate Plan in creating a safe and healthy environment for residents.

RESOLVED that the petition be received and a response would be submitted to a future meeting.

(b) Receive any updates on petitions for which a report was previously considered:

- Riversdale House, Stakeford, Choppington

The Head of Housing and Public Protection presented a verbal six monthly update and raised a number of issues:-

- a number of multi-agency meetings, facilitated by Housing and Public Protection had been held attended by the police, Parish Council, and agents for the larger portfolio. In recent months there had been a major reduction in reports of concerns to both the Council and Northumbria Police from residents.
- Work would be ongoing with management agents to instill an appropriate approach to property management. To assist landlords, a model tenancy management scheme had been developed with support from Legal Services, and which had been issued to all landlords.
- The main concern relates to how the flats were managed and it was hoped that the tenancy management scheme would help address some of the issues. As part of this the agents would be advised of Northumberland County Council's expectations. Property owners had been informed that if properties were not let in accordance with an appropriate scheme of management, they may be deemed to be failing in their duties and Community Protection Warning may be issued which, if not complied with, could result in service of a Community Protection Notice.
- Refuse storage on site had been reviewed and the bin store would be re-arranged. An additional bin would be provided too.
- Improvements were still very much in the early stages and it was important to get the other management agents to work with the Council.

Councillor J. Foster thanked Mr. Soderquest, his team and Members for taking ownership of this problem and making a difference for residents. She acknowledged that there was still some way to go but there were definitely improvements. She added that Mr. & Mrs Glass, the petitioners, had also brought up the issue of a number of flats which had been empty for some time. It was hoped that these flats could be brought back into use.

RESOLVED that the report be noted and a further update report be provided in six months.

94. LOCAL SERVICES ISSUES

Members received a verbal update from the Area Managers with the opportunity for members to ask questions afterwards.

Neighbourhood Services

Stephen Wardle, Neighbourhood Services Area Manager, reported that the Waste staff had worked very hard over the Christmas/New Year period and collected 835 tonnes of waste, 76 tonnes more than in the previous two weeks' collection.

Technical Services

Martin King, Highways Delivery Area Manager, updated Members about a number of schemes either planned or underway in the Castle Morpeth area ranging from major works as part of the LTP and smaller patching repairs. At this time of year there were always a lot of requests for work to be carried out and these were been dealt with as

quickly as possible. There was still a long list of works to be picked up and pothole repairs to be carried out. Mr. King was happy to meet with Members to discuss particular issues in their areas.

Members welcomed the report and the work being carried out in the area.

Councillor R.R. Dodd requested that a report be considered at the March meeting relating to the protocol for cycling events and races.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

DISCUSSION ITEMS - CORPORATE

95. REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Medium Term Financial Plan 2019-22 and Budget 2019-20

Councillor N. Oliver gave a presentation outlining the Council's strategy to its Medium Term Financial Plan and Budget. The presentation provided details of the approach to setting the budget for the next financial year and the broad impact this would have on the delivery of services. (Presentation is attached to the signed minutes.)

The presentation covered the following areas:-

- The context of the plan in relation to savings, reduction of debt, the capital programme and increasing demand for services.
- An analysis of funding over the years 2014 to 2022.
- Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement
- Additional funding available in Northumberland from extra Rural Services Delivery Grant, Rate Retention Levy Surplus and Social Care Funding.
- Savings would be spread over the Council whilst trying to protect front line services wherever possible.
- Movement in total borrowing from March 2013 to December 2018.
- Ambitious Capital Programme covering the themes of the Corporate Plan; Living, Enjoying, Connecting, Learning and Thriving
- Budget position was challenging but under control with £36 million savings to be found.
- Investment from the North of Tyne Devolution Deal could make a difference to people's lives whilst the Borderland Growth Deal could act as a catalyst for further investment.
- It was hoped that the plan would ensure that Northumberland was a more prosperous county.
- The next steps were:-
 - invite views from the Overview and Scrutiny Committees and Local Area Councils
 - Final version to be considered by Council in February 2019 alongside the Medium Term Finance Plan 2019-22.

Members asked questions and points raised included:-

- There would be significant investment from the North of Tyne Devolution Deal and Borderlands and would be spread over all portfolios. Rural areas would get a fair share of funding.
- It was aimed to mitigate negative effects on adult services. Some savings may be achieved by introduction of charges in cases where individuals could afford to pay for services.
- Facilities would be built in communities to improve support networks close to where people lived.
- None of the savings identified in Adult Services were to be made by cutting the care of people. Some savings would be made in assessing packages. There was a cost to the service for the assessment of individuals who were self funding and a consultation was underway regarding charging for this service.

RESOLVED that the presentation be received.

96. REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF LOCAL SERVICES AND HOUSING DELIVERY

Members Local Improvement Schemes - Progress Report

Members received a progress report. (Report attached to the signed minutes as **Appendix C**)

RESOLVED that the report be received.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

97. LOCAL AREA COUNCIL WORK PROGRAMME

Members received the latest version of agreed items for future Local Area Council meetings (any suggestions for new agenda items will require confirmation by the Business Chair after the meeting). (**Appendix D**)

RESOLVED that the report be received.

98. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Monday, 11 February 2019, at 4.00 p.m. in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Morpeth.

CHAIRMAN

DATE