

Public Document Pack

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL

CASTLE MORPETH LOCAL AREA COUNCIL

At the meeting of the **Castle Morpeth Local Area Council** held at Remote Meeting on Monday, 8 March 2021 at 4.00 pm.

PRESENT

(in the Chair)

MEMBERS

D Bawn	J Beynon
S Dickinson	R Dodd
L Dunn	J Foster
P Jackson	V Jones
D Ledger	G Sanderson
D Towns	R Wearmouth

OTHER COUNCILLORS

OFFICERS

L Dixon	Democratic Services Apprentice
D Hadden	Solicitor
P Jones	Service Director - Local Services
M King	Highways Delivery Area Manager
D Lally	Chief Executive
R Laughton	Planning Officer
L Little	Senior Democratic Services Officer
P Lowes	Neighbourhood Services Area Manager
C Mead	Highways Development Manager
R Murfin	Director of Planning
R O'Farrell	Executive Director - Corporate services - Planning & Economy
R Soulsby	Planning Officer
M Williams	Team Leader - ICT Practitioner SIFA

Around xxx members of the press and public were present.

204 PROCEDURE TO BE FOLLOWED AT A VIRTUAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

L Dunn, Vice-Chair (Planning) (in the Chair) outlined the procedure which would be followed at the virtual meeting and of the changes to the public speaking protocol

Ch.'s Initials.....

205 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Armstrong

206 **MINUTES**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held of the Castle Morpeth Local Area Council held on Monday 8 February 2021, as circulated, be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

207 **DETERMINATION OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

The report requested the Committee to decide the planning applications attached to the report using the powers delegated to it. Members were reminded of the principles which should govern their consideration of the applications, the procedure for handling representations, the requirement of conditions and the need for justifiable reasons for the granting of permission or refusal of planning applications.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

208 **19/04708/CCD**

Provision of a new car park on the site of the former Morpeth First School to provide a total of 142 no. parking bays. It is proposed to provide 128 no. standard parking bays, 8 no. disabled parking bays and 6 no. electric vehicle charging bays.

Morpeth First School, Goose Hill, Middle Greens, Morpeth, NE61 1TL

There were no questions on the site visit videos which had been circulated to Members in advance of the Committee.

R Laughton, Planning Officer introduced the application to the Committee with the aid of a Power Point presentation.

A written statement from C Vinnicombe, C Hopkins, V Crole and M Money in objection to the application was read out to the Committee by L Little, Senior Democratic Services Officer. A copy would be filed with the signed minutes of the meeting and would be uploaded to the Council's website.

In response to questions from Members of the Committee the following information was noted:-

- The traffic assessment had taken into consideration the traffic turning right out of the site and the proximity of the pedestrian crossing to the junction with modelling undertaken to 2031. It was acknowledged that there was some queuing at the junction however the levels were not unacceptable. The increased use of the pedestrian crossing would assist in allowing vehicles to exit and the timings changed if this was necessary . The situation would be kept under review.
- The operation of the car park as a 24 hour facility could be reviewed or a

Ch.'s Initials.....

parking management plan could be attached if the Committee felt this would be necessary and reasonable. The traffic survey had taken place during school term time and Officers were satisfied that it was representative of the normal traffic since the school on the application site had closed and was pre-lockdown.

- Officers were not aware of any proposals for CCTV to be installed and this had not been considered as part of the planning application. The car park would operate in a similar manner to other town centre car parks. If there was a persistent problem then this could be investigated. The Director of Planning suggested that if Members wished a condition could be attached for a review to be undertaken after 12 months.
- A landscaping plan for the site had been submitted and as much shrub planting around the boundary would be used as possible of appropriate species within the limitations of the use of the site as a car park. The Committee were reminded that this was a town centre site and would be developed and would not be left as an open area.
- A condition could be added to any permission granted for a management plan to investigate and provide any infrastructure for CCTV and additional electric vehicle charging points to be installed to prevent additional costs being incurred in the future.
- In the short term the provision of the car park would alleviate parking problems within the town centre as a result of other car park closures due to developments taking place and would provide additional long term spaces. As the car park would be in the Council's ownership then the future use could be reviewed if it was no longer required.

Councillor Dickinson joined the meeting at 4:16pm but took no part in the discussion of this item and did not take part in the vote.

Councillor Bawn proposed approval of the application as outlined in the report with an additional condition for a management plan to be provided which would include a review to be undertaken after 12 months. This was seconded by Councillor Towns.

In debating the application, Members welcomed the provision of additional car parking spaces which it was hoped would help attract visitors to the Town to support local businesses as they opened following the pandemic and provide much needed longer stay places for workers in the town centre.

A vote was taken on the proposal to grant the application subject to the conditions as outlined in the report with delegated authority to the Director of Planning to provide the wording for an additional condition for the provision of a management plan which would include a review to be undertaken after 12 months as follows:- FOR 10; AGAINST 0; ABSTENTION 1.

RESOLVED that the application be GRANTED for the reasons and subject to the conditions as outlined in the report with delegated authority to the Director of Planning to provide the wording for an additional condition for the provision of a management plan which would include a review to be undertaken after 12 months.

209 **THE NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL (LAND NORTH OF 7A**

Ch.'s Initials.....

LADYWELL WAY, PONTELAND, NORTHUMBERLAND) TREE PRESERVATION ORDER 2020 NO 05 OF 2020)

There were no questions related to the site visit photographs previously circulated to Members of the Committee.

R Soulsby, Planning Officer provided an introduction to the report with the aid of a Power Point presentation. In response to a question to the Officer, Members were advised that it was considered necessary for a TPO to be provided in order to provide longer term protection over the three years which had been included within the planning consent.

Councillor Wearmouth proposed acceptance of the recommendation as outlined in the report which was seconded by Councillor Dodd.

It was stated that this was a sensitive site sitting outside the built up area which led to flat agricultural fields with no character. The trees were important to the feel of the area and broke up the built up nature of the area when viewed from a distance.

A vote was taken on the proposal and it was unanimously

RESOLVED that the Northumberland County Council (Land North of 7a Ladywell Way, Ponteland, Northumberland) Tree Preservation Order no. 5 of 2020 be confirmed.

210 APPEAL UPDATE REPORT

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

A short break was held at this point and the meeting reconvened at 4.55 pm with Councillor D Towns, Vice-Chair in the Chair.

211 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

No public questions had been submitted.

212 PETITIONS

No new petitions had been received and there were no updates on previous petitions.

213 LOCAL SERVICES ISSUES

M King, Highways Delivery Area Manager provided an update to the Committee advising that there had been no positive cases of Covid within the Castle Morpeth Area Team. There was a backlog to the maintenance programme due to staff being transferred to assist in providing additional support through the recent bad weather, with additional gritting routes added and flooding throughout the County. He thanked all staff involved in providing the winter services, including farmers and landowners who had assisted in keeping the County's road network open.

Ch.'s Initials.....

Routine maintenance inspections had fallen behind and reactive third party inspections had increased due to the weather with additional resources being provided. It was hoped that both planned and reactive repairs would be back in line by the end of April or beginning of May. There was also a small backlog in respect of gully maintenance with additional officers added to assist. The minor patching programme works would resume in April and details of locations were provided along with a list of highways works which had been completed and which were to commence in March. A recent recruitment programme had been completed and the team had been expanded to meet demand.

In response to a query from Councillor Foster it was confirmed that a start should be made on the scheme within a few days as this was a high priority. Councillor Towns asked that his thanks be passed on to staff for the work done on the path out of Pegswood towards Whorral Bank it had made a tremendous difference for residents.

P Lowes, Neighbourhood Services Area Manager provided an update to the Committee advising of the work undertaken during the recent bad weather. The longer summer hours for grounds maintenance workers would shortly commence for the start of the season and additional staff would be employed. Weed killing would be undertaken in-house and no blue dye would be used this year. An increase in footfall in town centres was expected with the re-opening of shops and preparations had been made for enhanced cleaning of public toilets and additional emptying of waste bins for the expected influx of visitors to the area following the relaxation of lockdown rules.

Waste services had coped well during the recent bad weather and the garden waste collection service had just recommenced. The trial glass collection was going well and a report on the trial would be produced in July.

The officers were thanked for their updates.

214 **MEMBERS LOCAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES**

Details of the Castle Morpeth Members Local Improvement schemes had been provided for information. Members highlighted that it was important that members of the public understood that schemes were only paid for once they had been completed which was why it could look as if funds had not been spent, which in fact the money was allocated for a specific scheme.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

215 **LOCAL AREA COUNCIL WORK PROGRAMME**

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

216 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting which was a Planning only meeting would be held on Monday 12 April 2021 at 4.00 pm.

Ch.'s Initials.....

CHAIR.....

DATE.....

Ch.'s Initials.....