

Tuesday 31 January 2012
at 6.00pm

Planning Committee

MEMBERS: Councillor UNGAR (Chairman); Councillor HARRIS (Deputy Chairman); Councillors COLES (as substitute for Miah) HEARN, JENKINS, TAYLOR, and Mrs WEST.

(Apologies for absence were reported from Councillors Miah and Murray)

51 Minutes.

The minutes of the meeting held on 3 January 2012 were submitted and approved and the Chairman was authorised to sign them as a correct record.

52 Declaration of Interests.

None declared.

53 Report of Head of Planning on Applications.

1) EB/2011/0594 - Eastbourne Seafront, from Holywell to Sovereign Harbour - Erection of permanent non illuminated directional and distance information signs – **DEVONSHIRE.**

The application went before Planning Committee on the 29 November 2011; the committee raised concerns regarding the signage supports and requested that when redesigning the signage, consideration be given to the existing street furniture along the seafront. Councillor Jenkins requested that the signage be extended along the seafront to include Sovereign Harbour, as this area was not represented, and should be tied in as part of the entire seafront. Consequently amended plans have been received showing altered timber supports with cast iron tops and the extension of the signage to include two further signs at Sovereign Harbour.

The observations of the Conservation Officer, Development Manager Trees and Woodland, Planning Policy and Tourism were detailed within the report.

At their meeting on 10 January 2012 the Conservation Area Advisory Group stated that they objected to the revised posts and it was felt that maintenance would be a problem. The Group supported the design of the timber sample brought by Mr Clark as it was less bulky than what had originally been proposed. The Group also suggested that the posts have an iron cast top for protection. It was also advised that the panelling at the top of the signage be replicated below.

RESOLVED: (Unanimous) That permission be granted subject to the following conditions: 1) Commencement of development 2) In accordance with plans

2) EB/2011/0601 - Eastbourne Centre, 47-53 Grande Parade -
Display of two totem signs fronting Grand Parade – **MEADS.**

The observations of the Conservation Officer were detailed within the report. A motion to refuse the application was lost 2 votes to 5.

RESOLVED: (By 4 votes to 3) That permission for Lascelles Terrace and Howard Square signage be approved subject to the following conditions: (1) – (5) Standard Advert Conditions

3) EB/2011/0705 - Flat 2, 6 South Cliff - Replacement uPVC windows – **MEADS.**

Members agreed that delegated authority should be given to the appropriate officer to serve an enforcement notice in order to secure the removal of the unauthorised development following the passing of the necessary timeframe.

RESOLVED: (By 5 votes with 2 abstentions) That permission be refused on the grounds that The proposed development is refused permission by reason of its adverse impact upon the character of the host property and its detrimental effect on the character of the wider Conservation Area. The proposed design and materials conflict with policy WD2 of the Eastbourne Townscape Guide, 2004. In conclusion, the proposal is contrary to policies UHT1 and UHT15 of the Eastbourne Borough Plan 2001 - 2011 (Saved policies 2007).

RESOLVED: (By 5 votes with 2 abstentions) That delegated authority to appropriate officer to serve an enforcement notice in order to secure the removal of the unauthorised development following the passing of the necessary timeframe (appeal period for this application).

Appeal: Should the applicant appeal the decision the appropriate procedure to be followed, taking into account the criteria set by the Planning Inspectorate, is considered to be written representations.

54 South Downs National Park Authority Planning Applications.

None reported.

55 Draft Parking Strategy.

The committee considered the report of the Senior Head of Development and Environment seeking members views on the Draft Parking strategy due to be reported to Cabinet on 8 February 2012.

Members noted that the current strategy for parking in Eastbourne was set out in the Eastbourne Urban Area Local Transport Plan, which was prepared

ten years ago. It was therefore considered that a new up-to-date Parking Strategy for the Borough was required.

In addition, during the early stages in the preparation of the Eastbourne Town Centre Area Action Plan, it was determined that as part of the evidence base a Parking Strategy was required in order to:

- assess the supply and demand for on and off-street parking in the town centre;
- understand the potential impact of future development in the town centre on the supply and demand; and
- determine what interventions could be required to manage the supply and demand for parking space more effectively.

In January 2011, the Council appointed WSP to develop a new Parking Strategy for the Borough. The project had been fully supported by East Sussex County Council, who had funded survey work and provided both quantitative and qualitative survey data. The Strategy would sit alongside local policy and plans for Eastbourne and would contain recommendations on how best to provide for and manage the provision of parking in the town centre over the next 15 years in light of anticipated land use changes and vision for enhancing the Town Centre.

The preparation of the draft Parking Strategy had been informed by two discrete evidence gathering stages of work.

Stage 1 which was completed in March 2011 looked at the Issues and Options for parking in the town centre and was used to inform the Area Action Plan. This stage included a review of relevant policy documents, on and off-street parking data and user and stakeholder feedback, which included interviews, questionnaires and a workshop.

Stage 2 which was completed in September 2011 extended the parking review over the wider Eastbourne area. This stage was informed by a second stakeholder workshop which took place in June 2011 and further surveys to explore the utilisation of parking in Eastbourne town centre during the peak summer season. It also considered a number of areas in more detail, including:

- Provision of special parking requirements for:
 - Disabled people
 - Cyclists
 - Loading and unloading
 - Powered two wheelers (motorcycles/scooters)
 - Lorries
 - Coaches
 - Taxis
- Management and enforcement arrangements
- Scope for park and ride provision
- Parking provision at new developments
- Future supply of and demand for parking in Eastbourne

An Executive Summary of the Stage 2 Technical Review which summarised the key issues and recommendations was attached at Appendix 2.

The report highlighted the draft parking strategy for Eastbourne, and consultation process.

The report sought approval for the Draft Parking Strategy for the Town and Authority to consult with the community and stakeholders. The committee were asked to consider the report and any comments would be reported to Cabinet at their meeting on 8 February 2012.

The Chair wanted Cabinet to be informed that the Planning Committee had discussed the Parking Strategy and wanted their comments to be noted.

Councillor Ungar stated that there was no reference to affordability of parking – and that there was a need to ensure people could afford to park in town. The current parking scheme wasn't working particularly well – it used to be much easier to park in the town centre. Finally, Councillor Ungar felt that the Council should strive to deliver good parking signage with live information available.

Councillor Hearn felt that parking charges were destroying parts of the town and that it should be cheaper to park and to use public transport in Eastbourne.

Councillor Taylor stated that he was very happy with parking situation and that the previous enforcement wasn't sufficient. Councillor Taylor would like to see parking controls extended in Meads.

Councillor Harris stated that there was very good car park signage in Brighton and that Eastbourne needed better quality off street car parks.

RESOLVED: 1) That Planning committee support the Draft Parking Strategy
2) That the committee's comments be reported to Cabinet at their meeting on 8 February 2012.

56 Cycling Strategy.

The committee considered the report of the Senior Head of Development and Environment seeking members views on the Cycling strategy due to be reported to Cabinet on 8 February 2012.

Scarlett McNally, Bespoke addressed the committee in support of the Strategy and wanted to see more utility cycling (home to work and school etc.) as people had safety concerns about cycling. Cycling would improve health and would improve town's finances. Bespoke supported the proposed routes however they questioned whether they would ever be provided due to a lack of funding. Mrs McNally also highlighted the petition of 3200 signatures calling for "improved provision for cycling in Eastbourne and a seafront cycle route"

Members were advised that on 14 July 2010, Cabinet resolved that the Council should work in partnership with East Sussex County Council to develop a Cycling Strategy for the Town and that it should continue to work with local groups to ensure that a town wide cycle network was developed and implemented.

The Strategy which would run until 2027, would replace 'A Healthy Cycling Plan for Eastbourne' which was produced by Sustrans in 1994 and would be aligned with the County Council's Cycling Strategy which was published in March 2009.

The Strategy would also contribute to the Council's wider objectives to reduce traffic congestion and support low carbon initiatives which would also improve air quality, health and accessibility. The Strategy also fitted in with a priority of 'Pride of Place', the East Sussex Integrated Community Strategy, which was to encourage the use of alternative methods of transport to reduce the number of car journeys made in Eastbourne and specifically to improve facilities for cycling and walking.

Details on the objectives of the Strategy, consultation and responses to the draft strategy were detailed within the report.

The report sought approval for the Cycling Strategy following a 12 week consultation with key stakeholders between 29 September and 22 December 2011. The committee were asked to consider the report and any comments would be reported to Cabinet at their meeting on 8 February 2012. Members made the following comments:

Councillor Taylor stated that resources needed to be used to make roads safer, and that he would prefer that there were no segregated cycling/pedestrian routes. Councillor Taylor also raised concerns about child safety outside St. Bede's School

Cllr Hearn confirmed that she had concerns regarding shared space for pedestrians and cyclists

Councillor Ungar acknowledged that there was 91% support for the Strategy overall and that there needed to be the political will to deliver the routes. Councillor Ungar also felt that it was important to encourage physical activity and that there was a need to face up to problems of conflicts between different users of the seafront.

RESOLVED: 1) That Planning committee support the Cycling Strategy
2) That the committee's comments be reported to Cabinet at their meeting on 8 February 2012.

57 Draft Torfield Conservation Area Appraisal.

Members considered the report of the Planning Policy Manager seeking authority for consultation on the draft Torfield Conservation Area Appraisal.

Members noted that the draft Torfield Conservation Area Appraisal set out the special interest of the area and reviews the boundary of the existing

Conservation Area, with a recommendation for the boundary to remain as it was.

The purpose of the draft Torfield Conservation Area Appraisal was to define the special architectural and historic interest of the designated area in the form of a detailed character analysis. The Character Appraisal included a review of the Conservation Area boundary.

Members noted that it was proposed to carry out public consultation on the draft Torfield Conservation Area Appraisal with residents and occupiers of the area through advertising with local community groups, and an exhibition would also be held. Copies of the document would be available to view and download on the Council's website at www.eastbourne.gov.uk and at the Council's main office at 1 Grove Road, Eastbourne, during office hours for the 12 week consultation period. The consultation period would start on the 3 February 2012 and run until the 27 April 2012 in compliance with the Council's adopted Statement of Community Involvement.

Councillor Liddiard addressed the committee in support of the report and thanked officers for the efforts in producing the report. Councillor Liddiard asked that the boundaries be extended to include a wider area and also raised concerns about the future protection of the current St Wilfrid's Hospice.

The committee agreed, in the light of issues raised by Councillor Liddiard that the report should be deferred pending further consideration of the extension of the boundaries.

RESOLVED: (Unanimous) That the draft Torfield Conservation Area Appraisal be deferred pending consideration of points raised by Councillors Liddiard and Jenkins.

NOTED.

The meeting closed at 7.40 pm.

**Councillor Ungar
(Chairman)**