



Working in Partnership



Planning Applications Committee

Minutes of the meeting held in the Council Chamber, County Hall, St Anne's Crescent, Lewes, East Sussex, BN7 1UE, on 6 December 2023 at 5:00pm

Present:

Councillor Lucy Agace (Chair);
Councillors Paul Keene (Deputy-Chair), Ian Alexander, Roy Clay, Becky Francomb, Christoph von Kurthy, James Meek, Isobel Sharkey and Stella Spiteri

Officers in attendance:

Marc Dorfman (Senior Planning Specialist), James Emery (Planning Officer), Jennifer Norman (Committee Officer, Democratic Services), Leigh Palmer (Head of Planning), Nick Peeters (Committee Officer, Democratic Services), Joanne Stone (Principal Planning Solicitor) and Elaine Roberts (Committee Officer, Democratic Services)

64 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on the 11 October 2023 were submitted and approved and the Chair was authorised to sign them as a correct record.

65 Apologies for absence/Declaration of substitute members

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Graham Amy and Sean MacLeod.

66 Declarations of interest

There were none.

67 Urgent items

There were none.

68 Petitions

An e-petition with 790 signatures was received: Reject the proposed housing development between Chailey and Newick, East Sussex, (LW/21/1000).

The petition organiser, Mr Matt Hobbs, summarised the petition.

The Council's Head of Planning acknowledged receipt of the e-petition, and the Chair thanked Mr Hobbs for his participation.

69 Written questions from councillors

There were none.

70 Officer update

Two supplementary reports were circulated to the Committee prior to the meeting, updating the main reports on the agenda with any late information (copies of which were published on the Council's website).

71 LW/23/0594 - Martello Kiosk, Esplanade, Seaford, East Sussex**Resolved:**

That planning application LW/23/0594 for a detached prefabricated changing place facility for members of the public with severe disabilities and assistants be approved, subject to the conditions set out in the report, Appendix 1 and supplementary reports.

72 LW/23/0583 - Land North of The Old Brickworks, Station Road, Plumpton Green, East Sussex, BN7 3DF

Councillor Nick Beaumont (Chair) spoke on behalf of Plumpton Parish Council. Sarah Sheath (Agent) and Paul Stevens (CPRE Sussex) spoke in support of the proposal.

Resolved:

That planning application LW/23/0583 for the development of land to provide mixed use leisure and commercial park, including new commercial units, office hub, craft workshops and a wellness/fitness centre be approved, subject to a S106 Legal Agreement to cover the implementation and on-going maintenance of the Community Orchard, Meadow and Community Area, and the conditions set out in the report and supplementary reports.

73 Planning Appeal Decisions and Analysis

The Committee received the report which provided a summary of the Appeals performance 2021-2023 and 2023-2024 to date.

The Senior Planning Specialist (SPS) summarised the report, highlighting key issues surrounding the likelihood that Lewes District Council will be designated as failing to meet the national planning indicator for quality decisions on major planning applications.

The SPS further highlighted that if this were to happen, it could have a significant impact on major planning application decision making and the reputation of the Council and its services.

The SPS noted that Officers and Committee Members would meet to develop an action plan to deal with major application decisions and appeals.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

74 Date of next meeting

It was noted that the next meeting of the Planning Applications Committee was scheduled to be held on Wednesday, 17 January 2024, in the Council Chamber, County Hall, St Anne's Crescent, Lewes, East Sussex, BN7 1UE, commencing at 5:00pm.

The meeting ended at 6:47pm.

Councillor Lucy Agace (Chair)