

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Parish Councils Forum

30th September 2008

Public Speaking at Planning Committee

Responsible Portfolio Holder	Mrs J. Dyer
Responsible Head of Service	D. Hammond
Non-Key Decision	

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 To consider an amendment to the Councils Constitution to enable Parish Council representatives to speak at Planning Committee meetings on planning applications that are under consideration that fall within their Parish.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That a report is taken to the Council to consider recommending amending the Planning Committee Procedure Rules and the Councils Public Speaking Procedures to undertake a one year trial period to enable Parish Councils to speak at Planning Committee on planning applications that are under consideration that fall within their Parish.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Council has been operating public speaking at planning Committee for over two years and it has been well received. Applicants/Agents, objectors/supporters and ward Councillors are able to speak directly to the members of the Planning Committee for 3 minutes on applications that are under consideration. From feedback from those involved it has been a positive experience.
- 3.2. Parish Councils are a statutory consultee within the planning application process and the comments that are received are incorporated within both delegated and Committee reports of the Head of Planning and Environment Services. Those comments are often summarised to just the main points due to the need to keep reports at manageable levels, although the original letter is available to Members to view if they wish.
- 3.3. Parish Councils do not at present have the opportunity to use the Public Speaking process to explain in detail their views to Members of the Planning Committee, although they are able to speak to a Ward Councillor to speak

on their behalf. It is apparent that the agenda's to the Planning Committee have shortened significantly over the last few years due to positive changes to the delegation schedule and therefore the Committee is not under pressure from the overall time that meetings are taking. Therefore in terms of trying to improve the decision making process within the Council it would appear that there is an opportunity to allow Parish Councils a 3 minute slot to speak to planning applications that are under consideration and fall within their ward. In order to monitor the impact of such a change, it could be introduced for a one year trial period to enable sufficient evidence to be gathered to make a formal decision thereafter.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no financial implications.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no legal implications

6. COUNCIL OBJECTIVES

6.1 The information sheet would link to Council objective 2 - Improvement

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

7.1 None

8. CUSTOMER IMPLICATIONS

8.1 Planning Committee would be more inclusive..

9. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 Planning Committee would be more inclusive

10. VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

10.1 None

11. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Please include the following table and spell out any particular implications in the relevant box. If there are no implications under a particular heading, please state 'None':-

Procurement Issues - None
Personnel Implications - None

Governance/Performance Management - None
Community Safety including Section 17 of Crime and Disorder Act 1998 - None
Policy - None
Environmental - None

12. OTHERS CONSULTED ON THE REPORT

Portfolio Holder	Yes
Chief Executive	No
Executive Director - Partnerships and Projects	No
Executive Director - Services	No
Assistant Chief Executive	No
Head of Financial Services	No
Head of Legal, Equalities & Democratic Services	Yes
Head of Organisational Development & HR	No
Corporate Procurement Team	No

13. WARDS AFFECTED

All Wards

14. APPENDICES

None

15. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

CONTACT OFFICER

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