

WELCOME TO DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL'S PLANNING COMMITTEE

HOW THE MEETING WILL BE CONDUCTED

Unless the Chair of the Committee advises to the contrary, the order in which the main items will be taken will follow the agenda set out at the front of this report.

General introduction

The Chair will open the meeting at 9.30am and welcome everyone to the Planning Committee.

The Chair will ask if there are any apologies for absence and declarations of interest.

The Chair will invite Officers to make a brief introduction to matters relevant to the meeting.

Officers will outline as appropriate items which will be subject to public speaking, requests for deferral, withdrawals, special reports, and any Part 2 items where the press and public may be excluded. Reference will be made to additional information circulated in the Council Chamber prior to the start of the meeting, including the late representations/amendments summary sheets (blue sheets) and any supplementary or revised plans relating to items for consideration.

The 'Blue Sheets' contain important information, including a summary of material received in relation to items on the agenda between the completion of the main reports and the day before the meeting. The sheets also set out the proposed running order on planning applications, to take account of public speaking requests.

In relation to the running order of items, any Members seeking to bring forward consideration of an item will be expected to make such a request immediately following the officer's introduction. Any such request must be made as a formal proposal and will be subject to a vote.

The Planning Committee consists of 30 elected Members. In accordance with protocol, 15 Members must be present at the start of a debate on an item to constitute quorum and to allow a vote to be taken.

County Council Members who are not elected onto Planning Committee may attend the meeting and speak on an item, but are not able to make a proposal to grant or refuse, or to vote.

CONSIDERING PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The sequence to be followed

The Chair will announce the item which is to be dealt with next. In relation to planning applications, reference will be made to the application number, the basis of the proposal, and the location.

If there are public speakers on an item, the Chair will invite them to address the Committee. Where there are speakers against and for a proposal, the speaker against will be asked to go first. The Chair will remind speakers they have a maximum of 3 minutes to address the Committee. Public speaking is subject to a separate protocol.

Where appropriate, the Chair will offer the opportunity for Members to read any late information on an item on the 'Blue Sheets' before proceeding.

If any Member is minded to propose deferral of an item, including to allow for the site to be visited by a Site Inspection Panel, the request should be made, with the planning reason, before any debate on the application. Opportunity will be given for discussion on the request, and a vote will be taken to determine the course of action.

The Chair will seek propositions and seconders for or against the officer recommendation, or any other resolutions.

The Chair may invite officers to provide a brief introduction to an item where this is considered to be worthwhile in view of the nature of the application.

If any application has been subject to a Site Inspection Panel prior to the Committee, the Chair will normally invite those Members who attended, including the Local Member, to speak first.

On all other applications, the Chair will permit the Local Member(s) to speak first, should he/she/they wish to do so.

Members are normally limited to a maximum of five minutes speaking time, and the Chair will conduct the debate in accordance with Standing Orders.

Once a member has spoken, he/she should not speak again unless seeking clarification of points arising in debate, and then only once all other Members have had the opportunity to speak, and with the agreement of the Chair.

At the conclusion of Members debate, the Chair will ask officers to respond as appropriate to questions and points raised, including advice on any resolution in conflict with the recommendation.

The Chair will announce when the debate is closed, and that voting is to follow.

The voting procedure

Before requesting Members to vote, the Chair will seek formal resolution(s) on each item, clarification of what resolutions have already been made, and how the vote is to proceed. Further clarification may be sought of amendments, new or additional conditions and reasons for refusal, so there is no ambiguity over what the Committee is voting for or against.

Where Members are proposing to refuse or to grant permission contrary to Officer recommendation, the Chair will request members to state, for the minutes of the meeting, the planning reason(s) for doing so. The Chair may request comment from the Legal and Planning Officer on the validity of the stated reason(s).

If any member requests a Recorded Vote, this must be dealt with first in accordance with Standing Orders. The Chair and Officers will clarify the procedure to be followed. The names of each voting Member will be called out and each member will announce whether their vote is to grant, to refuse, or to abstain. Officers will announce the vote on the item.

If a vote is to proceed in the normal manner via the electronic voting system, the Chair will ask officers to set up the voting screen(s) in the Chamber, and when requested, Members must record their votes by pressing the appropriate button (see following sheet).

Members have 10 seconds to record their votes once the voting screen is displayed, unless advised otherwise by Officers.

On failure of the electronic voting system, the vote may be conducted by a show of hands. The Chair and Officers will clarify the procedure to be followed.

On conclusion of the vote, the Chair will announce the decision on the item.

Where the formal resolution of the Committee is contrary to Officer recommendation, the Chair will request Members to agree the process through which planning conditions or reasons for refusal are to be drafted, in order to release the Decision Certificate (e.g. delegating authority to the Planning Officer, to the Planning officer in liaison with Local Members, or by referral back to Planning Committee for ratification).