

**Minutes of Okehampton Town Council Planning Committee Meeting held on
Monday 31 March 2014 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Fore Street,
Okehampton at 7.15 pm**

Committee Members Present: Councillor A Leech (Chair)
Councillor Mrs J Goffey (Vice Chair)
Councillor C Letchford
Councillor P Vachon
Councillor Dr M Ireland
Councillor M Davies (Town Mayor)
Councillor Mrs C Marsh (Chair, Parks) not present for whole of meeting
Councillor Mrs M McDonald (Chair P & R)

Other Members Present: Councillor Mrs J Yelland

In Attendance: Mr P Snell (Town Clerk)
Mrs J Gillard (Acting Town Clerk)

521. **Apologies for Absence** - Apologies for absence were presented on behalf of Councillor D Weekes.
522. **Deferment of Business** - (for comment by the public) - There were no members of the public present.
523. **Members' Questions** - Councillor Vachon raised issues currently being encountered by residents of the Oaklands Residential Park. They were experiencing problems with the tenancy agreement for their properties, resulting in several residents having to sell their properties at a significant loss, this was due to the residency permits in place not tying in with the lease arrangement. It was advised that the very recent amendment to the Mobile Homes Act 2013 would help the residents' situation, the land is leased by the Okehampton and District Agricultural Association. The leaseholders now have to be licensed by West Devon Borough Council and it was agreed that the licence needs to be right for the tenants of the properties. Councillor A Leech agreed to take these concerns forward with West Devon Borough Council and to investigate further the requirements of the changes to the Mobile Homes Act.
524. **Minutes** - The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 3 March 2014 were accepted and signed by the Chairman on the proposition of Councillor Dr M Ireland and seconded by Councillor C Letchford.
525. **Matters Arising** -
- 525.1 **Buses/Bus Stops** - The Acting Clerk advised that she had liaised with Devon County Council and they had requested that future issues, if any, be raised to them direct and as the contract to operate the service was between Devon County and the company, that they would monitor and raise issues with the operating company as appropriate. Councillor Ireland reported further issues encountered on 29 March, the 9.45 service at The Heathers did not turn up, Clerk to raise issues with Devon County Council.

526. **Plans** - Personal interest declared by Councillor Mrs C Marsh as she is Chair of West Devon Borough Council Planning Committee. Councillor Mrs Marsh therefore abstained from all votes on the planning applications reviewed.

00345/2014 258689,95342

Full

Insertion of additional doors and windows

Waitrose, School Way, Okehampton EX20 1WL

Waitrose Ltd

All Councillors resolved to support application

00339/2014 258689,95342

Full

Removal of existing chiller units to be replaced with two new water chillers

Waitrose, School Way, Okehampton EX20 1WL

Waitrose Ltd

All Councillors resolved to support application

00340/2014 258689,95342

Full

Creation of external seating area and new sloped access with associated handrail

Waitrose, School Way, Okehampton EX20 1WL

Waitrose Ltd

Resolved to support application with 3 abstentions

00355/2014 258689,95342

Advertisement

Advertisement consent for installation of new and replacement signage

Waitrose, School Way, Okehampton EX20 1WL

John Lewis Partnership

All Councillors resolved to support application

00369/2014 259281,94313

Full

Householder application for conversion of attached garage to annex including replacement of flat roof with pitch roof to form additional living accommodation

Heathfield House, Klondyke Road, Okehampton EX20 1EW

Mr B Hendy

All Councillors resolved to support application

00375/2014 258776,95555

Tree application

Application to carry out works to trees under tree preservation order for the pollarding of an oak to 3m - the oak is located on the back boundary of the car park fronting

Rivers Edge Court

Rivers Edge Court, Oaklands Drive, Okehampton

Peverell Retirement

All Councillors resolved to support application

01089/2013

Outline

Revised description and additional plans. Outline application to include layout to identify the specific primary school site and the provision of access. Scheme for residential development (up to 375 dwellings) primary school and retail unit Land north of Crediton Road, Crediton Road, Okehampton

All Councillors resolved to support application

527. Past Planning Applications -

00029/2014 Division of one dwelling into two and extension to basement at 127 Station Road, Okehampton EX20 1EH - conditional consent, noted.

01166/2013 Householder application for two storey side extension and single storey rear extension at 5 Great Links Tor Road, Okehampton EX20 1TD - conditional consent, noted.

528. Okehampton Masterplan - The Chair advised the Masterplan for the east of Okehampton has now been adopted, no further action required at this point.

529. Street Naming and Numbering - The Chair advised that he questioned with West Devon Borough Council the naming of the new development off Crediton Road as Meldon View, he was advised this is purely a marketing name and will cease being used once the roads have been formally named. He also advised that there was to be an introduction of a fee for renaming of houses.

530. Off-Street Car Parking - The Chair advised that Devon County Council was taking over responsibility for on-street parking and enforcement of regulations, off-street parking responsibility still remained with West Devon Borough Council.

531. Members' Reports -

(i) Ockment Centre - Councillor A Leech advised the Children's Centre was definitely moving to the Ockment Centre, legal documents transferring the property to the trustees were in progress.

(ii) Devon Voice - no report.

(iii) Dartmoor Railway Supporters' Association - Councillor Ireland advised the group had recently undertaken a visit to West Somerset Railway. He also advised a group had had to move their coach and tools out of the shed at Meldon at the request of BARS as they were due to have a rail inspectorate. The shed ownership is still an outstanding issue to be resolved. He also advised some of the coaches were being converted to dining coaches which would impact the Sunday Rover train service by reducing it from 5 trains to 4 trains per day. The Granite Line Company have permission to run their own Heritage Trains. Data sheet for potential Exeter to Plymouth rail routes notes produced by the Peninsula Rail Group distributed. He also advised several Councillors were attending the rail forum in Exeter on 10 April to further lobby the reintroduction of the rail link to Okehampton.

(iv) Okehampton Matters - Councillor Mrs M McDonald reported park vandalism had been discussed, West Devon Borough Council were now looking at introduction of Dispersal Order for the summer months. Areas covered by the Alcohol Designated Zone were being reviewed to see if the area could be extended. West Devon Borough Council advised they may be able to fund purchase of additional dog bins, this to be investigated by them further.

Congestion in the town centre including the parking of vehicles in bus bays was raised thus impacting on emergency vehicles travelling through the town.

- (v) Okehampton Vision - Councillor Vachon advised at the recent meeting there was a presentation by Wren on Okehampton as a cultural centre. The reintroduction of the railway discussed and, again, all encouraged to lobby government for reinstatement. The Strategic Plan final draft document was discussed, this was to go to the public for consultation during April.

PART TWO ITEMS

It was resolved that under section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 that the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following item as it involves the likely disclosure of sensitive and confidential information. Proposed by Councillor M Ireland, seconded by Councillor P Vachon.

532. **Review of Enforcement Cases** - *List of cases reviewed (for information only).*

Meeting closed at 8.50 pm.

Councillor A Leech
Chairman