

**Minutes of Okehampton Town Council Planning Committee Meeting held on
Monday 16 December 2013 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Fore Street,
Okehampton at 7.00 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 M McDonald (Chair P & R)

Other Members Present:

In Attendance: Mrs J Gillard (Deputising for Town Clerk)

Declarations of Interest: Councillor M Davies and Councillor A Leech declared an interest in item 6 as they are both known to the applicant.

347. Apologies for Absence - Apologies for absence were presented on behalf of Councillor Mrs C Marsh and Councillor D Weekes.

348. Deferment of Business - (for comment by the public) - There were no members of the public present.

349. Members' Questions -

- (i) In response to a question raised by Councillor Mrs M McDonald, the Chair advised that the installation of a cash machine at Martins Newsagents was previously refused by West Devon Borough Council, but permission had now been given on appeal.
- (ii) Councillor Mrs J Goffey advised a sign was in the window of the former Martins Butchers shop advising Two Rivers restaurant opening March. The Chair advised that no planning application had yet been submitted.
- (iii) Councillor M Ireland advised of parking issues in various areas of the town including New Road and Crediton Road. It was agreed to initially raise these issues at the next Okehampton Matters meeting and, depending on the response received, then escalate to Devon County Council and Highways. It was also agreed to raise the visibility issue at the top of the Link Road adjacent to the roundabout as an issue at this meeting.

350. Minutes - The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on Monday 18 November 2013 were approved and signed by the Chair on the proposition of Councillor M Ireland and seconded by Councillor C Letchford.

351. Matters Arising -

351.1 Buses/Bus Stops - Western Greyhound advised the Council they are awaiting delivery of new double-decker buses which would hopefully alleviate the passenger crowding and lack of room for luggage issues. Councillor M Ireland questioned whether signage could be placed by the Exeter-bound bus stop outside the sandwich

shop in order to clarify queuing arrangements. Responsibility for this type of signage to be ascertained.

351.2 Green Spaces/TPO's - Online mapping system on order and to be viewed by Committee at next meeting.

351.3 Northfield Road Development - The Chair advised that following the question raised by Councillor Letchford at the previous meeting, it was ascertained that Bovis owned the majority of the site with the remainder being owned by West Devon Borough Council. Planning records show there are no outstanding planning applications on the land and the demolition of the garages does not constitute starting a development.

352. Plans -

01166/2013 259990,95380

Full

Householder application for two-storey side extension and single-storey rear extension

6 Great Links Tor Road, Okehampton EX20 1TD

Mr R Richards

Resolved to support this application. All Councillors in favour with Councillor A Leech and Councillor M Davies abstaining.

353. Past Planning Applications -

00957/2013 - Listed building application for replacement of first floor windows with like for like at 1 & 2 Heather Close, East Street, Okehampton EX20 1DB - notice of conditional consent. Noted.

00316/2013 - Application for erection of dwelling and associated works including formation of vehicular access at land to rear of 65 Exeter Road, Okehampton EX20 1QF - notice of conditional consent. Noted

00998/2013 - Application for conversion of workshop/store into 2 one-bed flats at 5 St James Street, Okehampton EX20 1DW - notice of conditional consent. Noted.

00840/2013 - Application for conversion of existing property to form 3 one-bedroom flats at 4 Mount Prospect, High Street, Okehampton EX20 1JW - notice of conditional consent. Noted.

01010/2013 - Householder application for erection of single storey rear extension at 66 The Heathers, Okehampton EX20 1TB - notice of conditional consent. Noted.

354. Okehampton Masterplan - To be discussed in Part Two of meeting.

355. Emergency Planning - The Chair advised Devon County Council were producing Emergency Plans which were available on their website. It was agreed to review the Okehampton Town Council Emergency Plan and circulate copies to all Councillors and consider inclusion of document on website.

356. Update on Licensing Fees - The Chair advised of increase to many licence fees which have yet to be ratified by West Devon Borough Council.

357. Existing and Future Land for Building - The Chair advised that after completion of the Masterplan there would be consultations by West Devon Borough Council to identify future development areas in the town.

358. Members' Reports -

- (i) Ockment Centre - Councillor Leech advised the revenue grant from Okehampton United Charities had been received.
- (ii) Devon Voice - no report.
- (iii) Dartmoor Railway Supporters' Association - Councillor Ireland advised that Dr R H Wood, Chair of the DRSA, has written to BARS re the alleged unauthorised removal of parts from engines requesting an explanation for these actions. Councillor Ireland also advised there were further concerns about the safety where Polar Express staff are sleeping in a railway carriage at the station, it is alleged flammable material is being used to insulate the carriage. It was proposed by Councillor C Letchford and seconded by Councillor M Davies to raise concerns with West Devon Borough Council Environmental Services.
- (iv) Okehampton Matters - meeting to be held early January.
- (v) Okehampton Vision - Councillor Vachon advised meeting held 27 November, mission statement discussed together with draft strategy that Destination Okehampton had been working on has now gone to members for consultation.

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 and seconded by Councillor Mrs M McDonald.

359. Dartmoor Railway

360. Okehampton Masterplan

Meeting closed at 8.50 pm.

Councillor A Leech
Chairman