

**Minutes of Okehampton Town Council Planning Committee held on  
Monday 12 October 2015 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Okehampton at 7.00 pm**

**Committee Members Present:** Councillor A Leech (Chairman)  
Councillor Mrs V Cushing  
Councillor Mrs J Goffey  
Councillor Dr M Ireland  
Councillor R Rush  
Councillor B Stephens  
Councillor P Vachon (Town Mayor)

**Other Members Present:** Councillor Miss C Holt  
Councillor Mrs J Yelland

**In Attendance:** P R Snell (Town Clerk)

	<b>Action</b>
<b>215. <u>Apologies for Absence</u></b> - Apologies for absence were presented on behalf of Councillors Cummings and Marsh.	
<b>216. <u>Deferment of Business</u></b> - No public present.	
<b>217. <u>Members' Questions</u></b> - Councillor Ireland noted that unauthorised parking was an increasing problem in the town and asked why the Enforcement Officers were not in evidence. The Chairman agreed to ask further of the County Member.	Cllr Leech
<b>218. <u>Minutes</u></b> - The minutes of the Planning Committees held on Monday 24 August and Monday 14 September 2015 were approved and signed by the Chairman on the proposition of Councillor Ireland, seconded Councillor Goffey and agreed.	
<b>219. <u>Matters Arising</u></b> - No matters arising relevant to the last Planning meeting.	
<b>220. <u>Planning Applications:</u></b> <b>00911/2015</b> Certificate of Lawfulness for Proposed Works to a Listed Building. Application for a lawful development certificate for periodic maintenance, using scaffolding, replacement of 1986 wooden casement window and potential replacement of lintel over window, replacement of all single pane glazing with 'heritage' double glazing units at The Old Mill, Mill Road, Okehampton EX20 1PR. Councillor Rush declared an interest, briefly introduced the application and left the room for the ensuing discussion. <b>After discussion it was proposed to support the application on the proposition of Councillor Goffey, seconded Councillor Vachon and agreed.</b>	

**00938/2015**

Full.

Application for erection of two residential dwellings on land adjacent to Castleford, Castle Road, Okehampton EX20 1DD.

Mr J Feaver

**Resolved to object to the proposal for reasons as follows: parking and access concerns for the rear building, public footpath access during development, over development of site and access onto a highway. This on the proposition of Councillor Ireland, seconded Councillor Goffey.**

- 221. Planning Decisions** - The Committee noted the following decisions: **00695/2015** and **00699/2015**. In addition the Clerk reported that an appeal had been lodged with reference to application **00977/2014** with reference to 129 Station Road, Okehampton EX20 1EH.
- 222. Our Plan** - The Chairman reported that the delay in finalising West Devon Borough Council's Our Plan had been caused due to a combination of amendments to Government Planning Regulations and responses to the draft from both developers and the public. The new draft, when completed, would need to go through a further public consultation stage. In the interim, the key planning documents remained the Core Strategy 2006-2026 and the East of Okehampton Development Plan. The implications of this delay were that Our Plan could not be used for planning purposes and that the Core Strategy, which had been approved by the Planning Inspector, had made provision for the building of an additional 900 houses. The Committee noted the report, expressing concern about the number of housing units to be built in Okehampton relative to those planned for Tavistock, the lack of 'good' public transport - especially since the cessation of the town bus service in September - and the delivery of road infrastructure to alleviate town centre congestion.
- 223. Crediton Road Housing Development** - The Committee considered the notes from the Developer's Forum and expressed a number of concerns with reference to the density of housing proposed, the quality of the access/trunk link between Crediton Road and Exeter Road, the section 106 provision that had not yet been agreed in relation to parcel 2 and the affordable housing percentage provision to be applied to parcels 3 and 4. It was agreed to convene a Working Group to compose a response letter from the Council, to be drafted for the Council's endorsement at their next meeting, on the proposition of Councillor Rush, seconded Councillor Ireland. The Working Group would comprise those Councillors who attended the Developer's Forum on 7 September and other Councillors who wished to participate and in addition to invite Councillor Rev'd M Davies.
- 224. Traffic Management Plan Working Group** - The Clerk reported that a briefing paper from the Working Group was in preparation and would be submitted to the next full Council meeting as an agenda item.

		Action
225.	<b><u>Consultation on Proposal to Close Okehampton Office of Jobcentre Plus</u></b> - The Chairman outlined the chronology of the consultation before opening discussion on the subject. It was agreed to delegate to the Clerk that a letter incorporating the concerns that there were 62 current clients, the impact of bus fare costs to Exeter, the rural disadvantage that would arise in the event of closure of the office and the positive alternative solution proposed by the Ockment Centre should be sent to the regional Jobcentre HQ office by way of response to the consultation and copied to Mel Stride MP, this on the proposition of Councillor Stephens, seconded Councillor Ireland.	Clerk
226.	<b><u>Prior Notification Applications</u></b> - The Clerk reported that he had registered the Council's concern about non-consultation in the case of the new classification of prior notification applications. This concern had been echoed by many Town and Parish Councils in West Devon. The Clerk further reported that he had requested that the Borough Council continue to provide a copy of planning applications available in paper form as the planning search website continued to suffer failures.	

Due to a significant overrun, the Chairman asked that Members' reports be circulated by email and the meeting was closed at 8.58 pm.

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**Councillor Leech**  
**Chairman**