



Coleford Town Council

Planning Committee Tuesday 13 October 2020 Minutes

**Attendees: Cllrs M Cox, Penny, Drury, S Cox, Elsmore
Mr Ed Drewitt,**

1. Apologies were noted from Cllr Lusty.
2. There were no declarations of interest on items on the agenda
3. There were no dispensations requests
4. The minutes of 29 September were agreed

Cllr. M Cox signed minutes

5. To raise matters from the minutes of 8 September 2020

Item 8: Cllr. Drury sought an update on Lidl disability access, and Cllr. M Cox updated, that there had been no formal response from Lidl, despite having chased, although some signs of activity.

6. **To welcome Ed Drewitt, and to discuss planning and diversity.**

Cllr. M Cox welcomed Mr Drewitt, and he presented as summarised below:

Introduction: he has specialisms, including bio-diversity, environment, and climate change, and is particularly focussed, across the Forest of Dean, on grass verges, working with a number of organisations, including the Forestry Commission, and Woodland Trust.

Emphasised how important grass verges were, for habitat, and that these could be much enhanced, through education around overall maintenance, grass management, equipment used for cutting, hedgerow management generally, heights of hedgerow, also the choice, and varieties of flowering plants (either planted or growing wild), and how they are maintained, or not. All this has massive impact on the environmental issues, and bio diversity.

Planning and biodiversity: expressed particular interest in the new Lidl development, and ways the boundary landscape could be improved, with planting of local species; suggested ways that councils, and partnering organisations could think strategically to develop specific areas and increase biodiversity by planting types and management.

Cllr. M Cox thanked Mr Drewitt for his presentation and, in turn, shared the council's vision across these issues; also emphasising the importance of the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) in this context, and that there was work to be done across the environment, bio-diversity, and climate change agendas, and initiatives. Noted the successful application to the Woodland Trust and asked for his views on effecting the planting/ areas appropriate bearing in mind the high number of trees that the council have secured.

It was agreed that Cllr. M Cox would forward the link to Coleford's NDP; the monitoring report for Full Council (likely to be Nov 3) and Mr Drewitt agreed to consider this in the context of tonight's discussions, and to present a brief commentary focussing particularly on how the town council might enhance the environment and biodiversity. Tree planting, landscaping, roadside/ gateway issues, planning policies and applications all to be considered.

Ed Drewitt left the meeting at 6.27pm

7. **There were no members of the public present**



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8. To note responses to consultation documents: Planning for the Future; Transparency and Competition; FoDDC Housing Strategy

Cllr. M Cox reported that all the responses had now been sent, and Cllr. Penny thanked Cllr. M Cox for the amount of time, and effort, compiling these extensive documents

9. To update on review of NDP

Cllr. M Cox updated, and it was initially suggested for agenda at next Full Council, but Cllr. N Penny suggested that these needed to be focussed on more specifically, and separately, as it needed proper time, and sat neatly with the emerging environmental, bio-diversity, and climate change, themes. It was proposed that a specific NDP/Environment meeting be scheduled for first Tuesday in November. Also to invite Sarah Cheese, as representative from Angus Buchanan Recreation Ground Trust, and Mr Drewitt.

Proposed: Cllr. Penny

Seconded: Cllr. Elsmore

On being put to the vote it was unanimously agreed.

Cllr. Drury left meeting at 6.37pm

10. To note recent planning decision, including appeal decisions

Noted the decision on land east of Harpers Close, appeal dismissed: FoDDC reasons as outside the defined settlement area, were upheld.

11. To consider the following appeal notice:

References	Address	Proposal	Comment
FoDDC P1937/19/FUL Inspectorate reference APP/P1615/W/20/3258302 (Further comments to above by 29/10)	Owen Farm Staunton Rd Coleford GL168QR	Conversion of 2 no. agricultural buildings into 3 no. units of holiday accommodation with associated works. Modifications to approved vehicle layout, parking arrangements and landscaping to that approved under applications P0098/18/FUL and P1176/19/FUL.	Objection: Very concerned that additional water information, and data, is not available, and should be, before any further decisions are taken. Concerns also re: possible impact on existing issue at Thurstan's Rise estate development, just downstream from this

12. To consider the following applications:

Reference	Address	Proposal	Comment
P1525/20/FUL	Oakdene Gorsty Knoll Milkwall GL16 7LR	Demolition of existing garage/store. Construction of new holiday let/annexe with garage, storage and home gym.	Objection:
Decision: OBJECTION This application requires demolition of 2 buildings and replacement with one larger building: extension effectively adds 42msq. This is outside the defined settlement boundary and is in the Green Ring South (CNE2). Concerns also re scale of development, and headroom only 1.8m. We note the bat			



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survey provided, however this is in the area of impact on bat routes so further survey work should be completed. Bat boxes may be required.(CNE3). Its access adjoins Gorsty Knoll mesne, which contains a Nature Conservation Area and is also a Local Green Space, number 13 (CC3).

Meeting ended: 6.50pm