

## **Appendix 1**

### **WWDC Bradford on Avon Area Seminar – 09.02.2006**

Questions allowed by the Chairman and referred to in Minute No. 4:

#### **Question – Bradford on Avon Conservation Area – Planning Applications**

There is shortly to be a review and assessment of Bradford on Avon Conservation Areas in which the Preservation Trust has been invited to participate. At the next meeting of WWDC Planning Committee, a decision is to be taken on the application to develop the Old Coal Wharf, Frome Road which is at present in the Conservation Area. Can the Preservation Trust have the assurance of the three councillors from that committee who are attending this meeting tonight that they will urgently consider whether the plans put forward are appropriate for inclusion in the conservation area?

The Preservation Trust has recommended refusal, but contrary to the assertions of one local councillor, we are not concerned with "pastiche" but rather to encourage good design, whether modern or traditional, that uses materials that are appropriate in the Conservation Area.

#### **Reply**

Having consulted with the Development Control Services Manager, the Chairman understood that the application, in respect of the Old Coal Wharf, was not on the agenda for the next meeting of the Planning Committee meeting which was on 16 February.

At this stage the Chairman was unable to advise when (or if) the application would go to the Planning Committee. The officer recommendation on the application had not been decided yet. In the event of officers deciding the application should be refused, it was likely that the decision would be taken under delegated powers.

It would be unwise for the Seminar to start giving detailed views on a specific applications. Local Members who also serve on the Planning Committee could run the risk of barring themselves from the consideration of a planning application that was considered by the Committee, if they have expressed clear views on an application, therefore attracting criticism of predetermination.

#### **Question – Gas Works Site**

Does the approval of the incongruous new building on the Gas Works site indicate a change in policy by WWDC for Conservation Areas involving a relaxation of Policy C18 and less adherence to Planning Policy Guidance 15?

Is it the case that the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting, which approved that Application, have been lost?

### **Reply**

The building on the gasworks site did not indicate a change in policy by WWDC for Conservation Areas involving a relaxation of Policy C18 and less adherence to Planning Policy Guidance note PPG15. The report which was considered by the Northern Area Committee about this application went to some length to explain the rationale behind the contemporary design of this building and how it was considered to comply with the local plan policy and the guidance.

The minutes of the Northern Area Committee meeting at which this application was approved had not been lost and were made available at this meeting.

The Chairman proceeded to read part of the officer's report dealing with the design of the site.

Questions allowed by the Chairman and referred to in Minute No. 6 (c):

### **Question - Air Quality Action Plan**

As the preferred option in the Air Quality Action Plan, when will details of Demand Management measures be revealed; when will action commence; and are these measures expected to achieve the Air Quality Objective for nitrogen dioxide by 2010?

### **Reply**

Appendix 2 of the Air Quality Action Plan (September 2005) details the steps to be taken in developing the Demand Management in combination with soft options scheme for Bradford On Avon including timescales through from December 2006 up to December 2010.

In June 2006 it is planned that WCC/consultants will be undertaking traffic modelling and exploration of options. It is then anticipated that public consultation on the options will be carried out around September 2007.

All work carried out as a result of the Action Plan is being undertaken to meet the 2010 Nitrogen Dioxide Objective.

WCC consultants would be producing a statement of works which would be developed into a programme of works. This would then be submitted as a bid for funding from the Transport Innovation Fund in 2007. (The Transport Innovation Fund is a new approach by DfT to the allocation of some of its budget with two distinct points of entry - one for local transport packages involving demand

management measures (congestion schemes), and the other for schemes which contribute to national productivity (productivity schemes).

### **Question - Car Parking/Decriminalised Parking**

We understand that decriminalisation of on-street parking is well advanced or already implemented elsewhere in Wiltshire, and we ask about progress in West Wiltshire on this specific aspect, and more generally on the development of a Parking Strategy for Bradford, which was a short-term recommendation in the Five Towns Initiative Report in 1998.

### **Reply**

Car Parking – WWDC are in the process of working through options for future car parking charges strategies in all of the towns. Officers have been in touch with the Town Clerk at Bradford on Avon and have also received the views of the Chamber of Commerce. WWDC are expecting a further stage of consultation and discussions before finalising the charges. Arrangements would also be made to hold the first meeting of the Car Parking Forum in the District.

Decriminalised Parking – a report on this issue was due to be considered by the District Council's Cabinet on 8 March 2006.

### **Question – Commercial Space**

Concern was raised over the loss of commercial space.

### **Reply**

WWDC are actively and positively working with the Town Councils on this issue. Officers from the District Council (including Corporate Director, Planning Policy and Development Control Managers, and others) have met with the Town Council to discuss and review the position, specifically regarding the treatment of planning applications and planning policy within the town, where previous employment space was being lost to residential development.

At the meetings, WWDC had explained the policy background and the need to work closely together to defend employment land. WWDC had also briefed on the forthcoming Employment Land Audit. This would provide key data on the level of demand and supply for employment land/space within the District and individual towns, this would assist in future planning policy direction and planning decisions. WWDC had undertaken to consult with Bradford on Avon Town Council and to investigate whether the WWDC could prioritise Bradford on Avon in this work.

In addition officers had also attended the Bradford on Avon Economic Development Group and supported the work in establishing an Economic Development Strategy and Action Plan for the town - WWDC had also been involved in this work. Consultants had now been appointed, supported through the Five Towns Initiative.

Questions allowed by the Chairman and referred to in Minute No. 7:

**Question**

Can the Coordinating Group for community concerns within Bradford on Avon and its surrounding villages rely on continued support from all Authorities and Service Providers from County, District and Town councils. In addition, how does each Authority plan to engage, coordinate and develop the Bradford on Avon Community Plan concerns and requirements over the next 12 months and beyond?

**Reply**

The Community Initiatives Manager, Gwilym Gibbons, explained that the community area partnerships were the centre of agendas for neighbourhood working and were important to WWDC. WWDC were committed to community area partnerships and there was no intention to change this. The community area plans were part of the service planning process.

Mr Clark felt there was little positive engagement by either of the County or District Councils. Any progress that had been made had been due to the Community Area Partnership.

Cllr Hames explained that there was no pot of money specifically available to implement the community plans. Now when organisations apply for grants, it must be shown that the organisation is working towards an aim of the community area plan.