

Minutes

Meeting of : Western Area Committee
Meeting held in : Nadder Hall, Tisbury
Date : Tuesday 19th December 2006
Commencing at : 4.30 pm

Present:

District Councillors

Councillor E R Draper – **Chairman**

Councillor Mrs J Green – **Vice-Chairman**

Councillors A J A Brown-Hovelt, T F Couper, P D Edge, J B Hooper, G E Jeans, Mrs C A Spencer and Mrs S A Willan

Apologies: Councillor J A Cole-Morgan

Parish Councillors:

Mr Adcock (Compton Chamberlayne), Mr Lockyer (Dinton), Mr Nixon (Maiden Bradley), together with a representative from West Knoyle Parish Council

Officers

A Bidwell (Development Control), C Bruce-White (Development Services), J Crawford (Legal and Property Services), A Davies (Democratic Services), O Marigold (Development Control) and A Skyring (Community Initiatives)



Awarded in:
Housing Services
Waste and Recycling Services



671. Public Questions/Statement Time:

There were none.

672. Councillor Questions/Statement Time:

There were none.

673. Minutes:

Resolved – that the minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 23rd November 2006 (previously circulated) be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

674. Declarations of Interest

There were none.

675. Chairman's Announcements:

The Chairman informed Members that the Dinton Parish Plan endorsement (as detailed under Agenda Item 10) would be considered before the Planning Applications (Agenda Item 8).

676. Neighbourhood Policing and the future for the South Wiltshire Rural Areas:

The Chairman welcomed Acting Inspector McGrath of Wiltshire Constabulary to the meeting who gave a presentation on the Neighbourhood Policing Teams Project for the Western Area.

Acting Inspector McGrath informed Members that there were five neighbourhoods in the Western Area – Tisbury, Mere, Wyllye, Chalke Valley and Wilton. Information on the Beat Officer for each area would be advertised in due course.

The Committee noted that the figures detailed for the allocation of Police Community Support Officers (PCSO) had altered from those indicated in the presentation (by approximately 25%). However, the number of PCSO's in Wilton, Mere and Tisbury had not changed.

Acting Inspector McGrath informed the Committee that the Police were looking to enhance community safety partnerships, e.g. with residents groups, licensed premises, young people and Parish Councils. The aim was to try and reach all the different groups of people living within local communities and identify joint priorities.

Following the presentation, the Chairman invited questions from members of the public. Some of these included the following questions:-

The representative for West Knoyle Parish Council asked what would happen when no one was actually on duty? Acting Inspector McGrath replied that Police resources did have to be utilised where they were needed. He added that effective planning would always be in place to ensure that officers were in the right area to ensure consistent coverage.

Mr Adcock of Compton Chamberlayne informed the Committee that the Parish used to use one contact number for their local policeman. He asked if the same would apply in light of the new proposals. Acting Inspector McGrath replied that Pete Jung would become the Beat Manager for Compton Chamberlayne. He would also be responsible for a number of other villages. Acting Inspector McGrath added that crime is low in the western part of Salisbury District.

The representative for West Knoyle Parish Council asked when the new changes would take effect? Acting Inspector McGrath replied that the Police were still in the planning phase at the moment. It was anticipated that the proposals would go live in Wilton and Tisbury in January 2007, and Mere in April.

Councillors then asked a number of questions. These included:-

Q: How would priorities be identified during the consultation process?

A: Through consultation with individuals (door knocking), mail shots and taking advantage of consultation structures already in place.

Members suggested that consultation should also take place with local District Councillors and Parish Councils. Acting Inspector McGrath added that once priorities had been identified, they would not change until they had been resolved.

Members went on to suggest that using an established forum such as the District Council's Area Committees would be useful and help avoid consultation overload that many people feel nowadays. It would also be

useful if the Police could tap into the existing Community Planning process and use this as a way of reporting progress updates to the Area Committees in due course.

Q: Contacting the police by phone/email has not been that successful. How can we be assured that such communication will be responded to?

A: Acting Inspector McGrath replied that if anyone had experienced problems in contacting their local Beat Manager then he would like to be informed. He added that he was aware of some of the difficulties and assured the Committee that these were being addressed.

Q: How are you going to advertise the new police contact details?

A: Acting Inspector McGrath replied that a marketing exercise had been undertaken. This included photographs in the Western Gazette. Details would also be available in libraries, community and parish magazines.

Members suggested that advertising also be undertaken through the Salisbury Citizen.

Q: Will you continue to make good use of the Tisbury Community Safety Partnership? Is it worth making a letter drop, including names and contact details, to each individual household. It is vital to give local people the confidence that they can contact the Police under this new system.

A: The new PCSO will be locally recruited and will obviously have knowledge of the local area. They will become a visible presence. We will certainly be looking to make use of the Community Safety Partnership in Tisbury and Mere. We will try to circulate our newsletter to every household, but we need to be mindful of costs and balancing the need to do mail drops against actual policing.

Q: Will PCSO's have the power of arrest and how can you tell the difference between a PCSO and a Police Constable (PC)?

A: PCSO's will be able to issue Fixed Penalty Notices, e.g. for disorder and littering. However, they will not have the power of arrest as this will take them away from their area whilst engaged with dealing with custody procedures.

You can tell the difference between PCSO's and Police Constables by the uniform they wear – white shirts for PC's and blue shirts for PCSO's.

Q: If PCSO's have no powers of arrest, surely the public will try and take advantage of this?

A: Acting Inspector McGrath hoped that this was not the case since PCSO's are often highly regarded within their local community and command respect.

Q: Are PCSO's paid or do they work on a voluntary basis?

A: PCSO's are paid for undertaking this full time job; however, they are paid less than police officers. Often, where we have lost PCSO's this is because they have gone on to become Police Constables. PCSO's have the back up from PC's if needed.

Q: How do you get young people to become PCSO's?

A: Adverts have been placed in the Salisbury and Amesbury Journal. We recognise that some places of work may be too far from where people live. We are trying to position people in areas that are the most appropriate for them and drawing on their strength of local knowledge.

Agreed: that Acting Inspector McGrath be thanked for his very informative presentation and question and answer session.

677. Planning Application S/2006/2087 – Erect double garage: Talbot Cottage, Hazzards Hill, Mere, Warminster – for M A and S J Thompson

Mr Thomson, the applicant spoke in support of the above application.

Further to the receipt of this statement and further to the site visit held earlier that day, the Committee considered the report of the Head of Development Services (previously circulated).

Resolved

- (1) That the above application be refused for the following reason:

The site relates to part of the residential curtilage of Talbot Cottage, comprising a prominent corner plot within the Mere conservation area. Mere, and especially its conservation area, is very strongly characterised by the use of natural stone and tiles within its buildings. It is proposed to erect a timber clad double garage with a shallow pitched roof, which would not be in keeping with its surroundings in terms of design and materials. As such, the proposed

development would be detrimental to the character of Talbot Cottage and the Mere conservation area, contrary to policies G2, D3, and CN8 of the Salisbury District Local Plan.

- (2) That the applicant be reminded that planning permission S/2002/1166 for a natural stone and tiled roof garage could still be implemented, subject to the conditions applied thereto.

678. Planning Application S/2006/2188 – Fell and remove 6 horse chestnut trees: New Broadchalke Primary School site, Knighton Road, Broadchalke, Salisbury – for Fowler Fortescue

Further to the site visit held earlier that day, the Committee considered the previously circulated report of the Head of Development Services (previously circulated), together with the schedule of late correspondence circulated at the meeting.

Resolved -

That the above application be refused for the following reason:-

The application fails to provide clear evidence of significant detriment to the trees (considered to be of high visual amenity value) and no justification has been made clearly confirming they are dead, dying or dangerous to an extent whereby their felling/loss is the only reasonable course of action. As such, it is considered that their removal would be detrimental to public amenity and would detract from the landscape setting.

679. Planning Application S/2006/2049 – New garage and studio (2 storey-detached), Keepers Cottage, West Hatch, Tisbury – for Coe Design Limited

Further to the site visit held earlier that day, the Committee considered the previously circulated report of the Head of Development Services (previously circulated).

Resolved –

- (1) That the above application be refused for the following reason:-

The proposed building, by reason of its size, height, scale and location would represent a significant amount of additional development in the open countryside and Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, resulting in the proliferation of built form for which no overriding justification has been given, contrary to policies C1, C2, C4 and C5 of the Adopted Salisbury District Local Plan and the advice in Planning Policy Statement Seven.

680. Wall at the rear of Morgan's Chapel, the Quarry, Tisbury

Mr Smith, a nearby resident to the site, informed Members that there was no mention of the water well, which was of important historic value. He also informed Members that to lose the wall would not enhance the site. He understood that the new owner had given an undertaking to rebuild the wall but asked when this would be.

Following the receipt of these comments, the Committee considered the previously circulated report of the Head of Development Services.

Resolved – That consideration of the enforcement report be deferred until Members have undertaken a site visit and that the Conservation Officer, Enforcement Officer and English Heritage all be invited to attend the site visit.

(NOTE: the application for Conservation Area Consent to demolish the wall (Planning Application S/2006/2221) has been refused under delegated powers on 22nd December 2006).

681. Dinton Parish Plan Endorsement

The Committee received a presentation from the Principal Community Development Officer and considered the previously circulated report of the Assistant Community Development Officer, together with Dinton Parish Plan 2006 (previously circulated).

The Principal Community Development Officer explained that Dinton Parish Council and the Steering Group had drawn up the Parish Plan on a voluntary basis. The plan has been produced by the community for the community. Once the Parish Plan has been validated, the Parish Council then adopts it and the Area Committee is asked to endorse it and take it into account when making decisions affecting the community.

Mr Lockyer on behalf of Dinton Parish Council informed the Committee that the Parish Council fully supported the plan.

There then followed a question and answer session. During this time the following matters were discussed:-

Q: How can we be assured that any Parish Plan will be taken into account when determining Planning Applications?

A: Parish Plans are something Development Services will be mindful of when formulating recommendations in relation to planning applications. But there are some points, which Development Services cannot control, for example street lighting which is controlled by the Health and Safety Executive. But, Parish Plans could be used to strengthen arguments for minimal street lighting. Other things, such as affordable housing is already supported by the Local Plan.

At the moment there is a national debate taking place in relation to the use of Parish Plans as Supplementary Planning Guidance. It is recognised however, that some items included in Parish Plans are not robust from a planning point of view.

Q: How long are Parish Plans "live" for?

A: Parish Plans are usually "live" for 3-5 years. Parish Councils are recommended to review their Parish Plans annually. It is recognised that Parish Plans are resource intense. At this stage, it is not yet known how the review process will develop. Action plans contained within Parish Plans can be reviewed and updated but they would need to come back to the Area Committee for endorsement.

Q: Maiden Bradley developed its Parish Plan in 2005, but did not go through the validation process. It would not be reasonable to expect the Parish Council to go through this process again.

A: Validation is optional. Maiden Bradley is welcome to submit its plan even though it has not gone through the same process. The main benefit of validation is that it ensures that the process has been comprehensive and is robust.

Q: Are Parish Plans a duplication of the Community Planning Process? Also, during the Local Development Framework Process should specific planning issues be targeted to make Parish Plans more pertinent?

A: Parish Plans are aspirational documents. The Local Plan is evidential based. This is a new process, which is still in its early stages. We will need to see how the role of the Parish Plan in the planning process develops.

Resolved – That the Dinton Parish Plan be approved for endorsement (on the basis that the process was comprehensive; the validation process does not make a judgement on the content or any form of commitment to actions from Salisbury District Council or other agencies)

682. Extension of the Meeting

In compliance with Council Policy, as the Committee could not conclude its business within 3 hours, it resolved to extend the meeting by one hour (during which time the matters recorded under minutes 679 and 680 were considered).

The meeting closed at 8.20pm

Members of the public: 6