

Planning Training for Town and Parish Councillors

Parish Councils and Planning Committee

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Areas to be Covered

- Planning Committee Members
- The Role of Planning Committee
- Committee Items
- The Committee Cycle
- Public Speaking
- The Responsibilities of Town and Parish Councils

Planning Committee Members

- 11 Elected Councillors
- Membership proportionate to that of the Wider Council
- Chair and Vice Chair
- Substitutes

The Role of Planning Committee

- The Most Public Facing Council Committee?
- Public Speakers
- Officers role is to assist members in Decision Making
- Specialist Technical Advisors
- Legal Advisor
- Weigh Up All Material Considerations to arrive at a Balanced Judgement
- The Development Plan as the Starting Point

Committee Items

- Delegated Powers (90%+)
- Planning Committee
 - Town/Parish Council Objection
 - 5 or more objections
 - Call In by Councillor
- Significant/controversial schemes
- Cost/resources.

The Committee Cycle

- 4 weekly cycle
- Agenda dispatched 5 clear working days in advance of the Meeting
- Reports prepared by Officers well in advance of the Meeting

Public Speaking

- Objectors/Commentators.
- Town and Parish Councils
- Applicants.
- Councillors.
- Committee Services: Managing Public Speakers.

The Responsibilities of Town and Parish Councils



The Responsibilities of Town and Parish Councils

- Planning decisions are serious matters and affect peoples lives.
- Local input is important and valued.
- Forms a key element of the consideration of a planning application.
- TPC responses must therefore be prepared carefully with that in mind.
- They must be based on sound planning reasons/material considerations relating to the specific proposal being considered.

The Responsibilities of Town and Parish Councils

- Start with the presumption in favour of sustainable development unless material considerations indicate otherwise.
- Have an awareness of key planning guidance:
 - Residential Design Guide;
 - HMO Policy;
 - Parking standards.
- Explain your comments as fully as possible.
- Ensure that objections are justified and based on clear planning grounds.

The Responsibilities of Town and Parish Councils

- Objection
- No objection (neutral)
- Support.

The Responsibilities of Town and Parish Councils

- Representations which are not based on planning grounds or which are not fully explained cannot be taken into account.
- Objection triggers Planning Committee consideration.
- Objection: shouldn't be recorded lightly.
- Objection: only where there are clear planning reasons to refuse permission.
- Objection: Reasonable Expectation to Attend Planning Committee

Questions and Comments



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