

**GREATER WILLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL**  
**Planning Committee**  
**1<sup>st</sup> October 2014**  
**Minutes of Meeting**

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Councillor Tinsley, Councillor Henfrey, Councillor Graham,  
Councillor Todd, Councillor Bennett, Councillor Greensmith  
Councillor Carr, Councillor Buckham  
Helen Cogdon Town Clerk,  
Emma Mennouni Community Services Officer  
County Councillor Gunn

Councillor Tinsley opened the Planning Committee meeting.  
He informed those in attendance of housekeeping rules regarding the fire exits.  
Councillor Tinsley said that Greater Willington Town Council is not the determining authority. The role of the Town Council planning committee was not to make decisions on applications but to make submissions on behalf of the GWTC area if appropriate.

**1. APPROVAL OF APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillor Smith, Councillor Etherington, Councillor Cogdon and County Councillor Gunn.

Acceptance of apologies were proposed by Councillor Tinsley and seconded by Councillor Henfrey.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Buckham declared an interest on all planning matters as a member of South West Durham Planning Committee.

He said that as a Councillor who may speak at planning committee he can't support one side then speak at committee, as the matter may be a material issue. He must remain independent of pressure groups.

Councillor Tinsley commented that discussions in this forum would not preclude a County Councillor vote at Planning Committee.

Councillor Buckham said he will listen but not make a statement.

**3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Resident's agenda items requested through the Clerk.

None received.

**4. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE LAST PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING 3<sup>RD</sup> SEPTEMBER 2014**

The minutes of the 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2014 as printed and circulated were approved and taken as a true record.

Proposed Councillor Buckham

Seconded Councillor Carr

**4.1 MATTERS ARISING (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)**

Councillor Todd asked what the position was with the former Health Centre Site application. Councillor Tinsley said that you could still make submissions.

Councillor Todd said that there had been no consultation with the Doctors Surgery and Sure Start.

The Clerk said it was usual for D.C.C to display notices on the lampposts throughout the consultation period and to notify neighbouring properties of the application.

Councillor Buckham said in respect of the Sunnybrow 150 dwellings application where he had declared a personal interest. He has taken legal advice and his connection with the landowner is not sufficient to withdraw from discussion. Councillor Tinsley said following the last Extra Ordinary Planning meeting he has made a submission regarding the Sunnybrow and West Road site application. The document comments on compliance with planning policy and the issues raised by residents. This is to be copied for residents. It is anticipated that the SW Planning Committee will consider both applications at a meeting early December. (Date to be determined)

Councillor Greensmith said she had been told that there was to be no more regeneration for Willington. Does this mean by D.C.C or by private companies as well. Councillor Tinsley said regeneration was dependant on securing investment from both parties together with a range of other inward investors.

## **5. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE EXTRA ORDINARY PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING 15<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2014**

The minutes of the 15th September 2014 as printed and circulated were approved and taken as a true record.

Proposed Councillor Todd

Seconded Councillor Buckham

### **5.1 MATTERS ARISING (for information only)**

The Clerk has offered the developer office space to hold an information session to discuss residents issues. This has been accepted and following the developer's request, available dates will be offered for next week.

## **6. NEW PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

- 28 Abbots Green, Willington – Two Storey And Single Storey Extensions To Rear And Garage Conversion – No objection

## **7. OUTSTANDING APPLICATION DECISIONS**

- 5 Myers Grove, Willington – Erection of single storey side extension – Approved
- 4A Wells Grove, Willington – Erection of detached single garage – Approved
- The Willington Victoria Club, Colliery Road, Willington – Proposed demolition of former social club – Prior approval is not required
- 1 Goodwell Field Cottage, Brancepeth – Conversion of agricultural building to dwelling - Approved
- 1 Goodwell Field Cottage, Brancepeth – Extension to North West elevation, conservatory to east elevation, raise eaves height to north elevation – Approved
- 1 Goodwell Field Cottage, Brancepeth (DM/14/02200/LB) – Conversion of agricultural building to residential – Approved
- 1 Goodwell Field Cottage, Brancepeth (DM/14/02199/FPA) – Conversion of agricultural building to residential - Approved

## **8. LICENSING**

None.

### **COUNTY DURHAM PLAN (for information only)**

Councillor Tinsley said that he attended the D.C.C. pre inspection draft local plan meeting at the Riverside, Chester le Street.

He had made representations that Willington should be moved up the hierarchy from a small town and be recognised as a major town like Crook.

This is based on population figures. Willington and Sunnybrow now have 7190 people and as a ward including Hunwick this rises to 9500. It would appear that for some reason Willington and Sunnybrow have been separated when scored.

By comparison Crook and Roddymoor have 9000 residents.

Additionally Willington has the catchment area Secondary School, Sure Start, the care village and a Business Park.

As an area we have been left with the old perceptions surrounding the previous Wear

Valley Strategy from which we need to move on.

Councillor Tinsley has asked the Inspector to consider identifying Willington as a major town when the County Durham Plan is finalised next year.

To support the introduction of the of the Durham City Western Relief Road and the wider A690 corridor, to assist GWTC resident who have to travel through Neville's Cross to access employment and education.

**9. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2014 at 6.30pm

Signed by the Chairman.....

Dated: 5<sup>th</sup> November 2014