

PUBLIC SPEAKING AT THE PLANNING SERVICES COMMITTEE (Minute 169/02)

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report seeks Members' views on the proposed arrangements for public speaking at the Planning Services Committee. The introduction of public speaking was agreed as part of the action plan for improving the planning services as agreed through the Best Value Review of Development Control and Building Control.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The proposal to introduce public speaking to the Planning Services Committee was agreed as one of the items in the action plan that emerged from the Best Value Review of the Development Control and Building Control Services.
- 2.2 The action plan indicated that public speaking would commence in December 2002.

3 PROPOSED ARRANGEMENTS

- 3.1 It is intended that the arrangements for public speaking be published in an information leaflet. A copy of the initial draft is attached to this report as appendix one.
- 3.2 In summary it is proposed that any person who has previously made written representations either against or in support of an application may make a short 2-minute statement to the Committee. A maximum of two speakers against and two speakers for a proposal will be able to make a statement.
- 3.3 The leaflet explains that speakers will not be able to ask questions of the committee and conversely that the Members of the committee will not ask questions of the speakers. The speaking arrangement will simply allow supporters of objectors to make a short statement to amplify and reinforce the views previously expressed in writing.
- 3.4 In cases where there are many people who would like to speak for or against a proposal, the order of registration with the Committee Administrator will determine whether a person is able to speak. Where a petition has been submitted, the leaflet advises that a spokesperson should be selected to make the statement.
- 3.5 In terms of the arrangements at the Committee it is proposed that the Planning Officer be first invited to update the committee on additional

letters of representation and any other pertinent issues. The Parish/Town Council representative and objectors and supporters will then make their statements. It is proposed that objectors and supporters be allowed a maximum of 2 minutes each to present their views. Once the statement have been made, the Committee will then proceed to determine the application in the normal way with, if required, further comments from the Planning Officer.

6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The public speaking proposals do not have any significant resource implications and can be dealt with as a minor alteration to officer duties in respect of preparations for the Planning Services Committee.

9 RECOMMENDATION

That, subject to comments from Members, the Planning Services Committee be recommended to approve the arrangements for Public Speaking at the Planning Services Committee and that the new procedure commences on 1 December 2002. (HPS)

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