

## **PUBLIC SPEAKING AT THE DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE**

### **1 SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report provides a review of the first six months of the arrangements for public speaking at the Development Control Committee.

### **2 REVIEW OF ARRANGEMENTS**

- 2.1 Public speaking was introduced to the Development Control Committee in September 2006. Since then a total of 21 people have spoken for or against 13 applications. A breakdown of speakers by Committee can be found in Appendix 1.

#### **Committee Decisions**

- 2.2 A comparison of officer recommendations versus Committee decision for applications where there has been public speaking can be found in Appendix 2. This indicates that of the 12 applications since September, which have been subject to public speaking, 7 were determined against officer recommendation. A total of 28 applications were determined at these Committees and of the 16 applications that did not feature public speaking, 4 were determined against officer recommendation.
- 2.3 Whilst it is important not to read too much into this analysis, there is some indication that public speaking has influenced the determination of applications.

#### **Administrative Arrangements**

- 2.4 The administrative arrangements for the notification of an intent to speak at the Committee have worked well. In one or two cases, people have contacted the Council and asked to speak after the closing time/date for notifications. Given the clear instructions that have been provided and taking into account the need to be fair to all, a firm stance has been taken and such requests have been refused. However, the overall experience is that people do understand the requirements of the procedure.
- 2.5 At the Committee, the call for speakers and their position on the right hand side of the Chairman has worked very effectively. A particular concern when agreeing the procedure was the time to be allowed for presentations. The five minute slot agreed does seem to have been very effective and it is proposed that no change be made.
- 2.6 One point of concern relates to the status of the speaker; in the majority of instances this will be self evident, ie, a resident who lives next door to the application site. In other cases though, the status of the speaker might not be

so obvious and it is suggested that all speakers should provide appropriate details. A planning agent, for example, would need to specify who they were representing and provide details of their client's interest in the application.

### **3 CONCLUSION**

- 3.1 The operation of public speaking has worked extremely well and there is no doubt whatsoever that applicants and objectors do welcome the opportunity to present their views to the Committee. It is not considered there is currently a need for any significant changes to be made to the arrangements, except for an amendment to the protocol to require people to specify their direct interest in an application when registering to speak.

### **4 RECOMMENDATION**

- 4.1 It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES**

That the report be noted and the arrangements for public speaking at the Development Control Committee be confirmed, subject to an amendment to the protocol requiring notification of interests when registering to speak.

Shaun Scrutton

Head of Planning & Transportation

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#### **Background Papers:-**

None

For further information please contact Shaun Scrutton on:-

Tel:- 01702 318 100

E-Mail:- [shaun.scrutton@rochford.gov.uk](mailto:shaun.scrutton@rochford.gov.uk)

If you would like this report in large print, braille or another language please contact 01702 546366.

**APPENDIX 1**

	<b>No. of items on Schedule</b>	<b>No. of applications with speakers</b>	<b>Total speakers at Committee</b>
<b>September</b>	5	3	6
<b>October</b>	3	2	2
<b>November</b>	5	2	3
<b>December</b>	4	0	0
<b>January</b>	5	2	4
<b>February</b>	7	3	4
<b>March (13)</b>	1	1	2

**APPENDIX 2**

**Analysis of decisions of applications with speakers**

<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Officer Recommendation</b>	<b>Committee Decision</b>
06/00567/COU	Approve	Approve
06/00650/OUT	Approve	Approve
06/00589/FUL	Approve	Refuse
06/00678/FUL	Approve	Refuse
06/00686/FUL	Approve	Approve
06/00760/FUL	Delegate to HOPT	Refuse
06/00773/FUL	Refuse	Refuse
06/00943/FUL	Refuse	Approve
06/00940/FUL	Approve	Refuse
06/01090/FUL	Refuse	Refuse
06/01096/FUL	Approve	Refuse
07/00001/FUL	Approve	Refuse

Note: Applications 06/01096/FUL was considered at two Development Control Committees and so the number of applications listed in Appendix 2 does not match the number of applications with speakers in Appendix 1.