

**Notes of a meeting of Chatteris Town Council's Planning Working Group held at the Council Chambers and via Zoom on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2022.**

**Present:** Cllr Bill Haggata (Chairman), Cllrs L Ashley, J Carney and A Gowler. Present via Zoom Cllrs F Newell and J Smith and the Clerk.

**P38 21/22 Apologies for Absence**

Cllr Benney sent apologies for absence.

**P39 21/22 Speaker: Mr Nick Carver, from Floorspan Contracts on Expansion Plans**

Due to hold ups Mr Carver was unable to make the meeting.

**P40 21/22 Speaker: Mr Mark Williams on plans for Armed Police Museum**

Mr Williams the curator of the Armed Police Museum was welcomed to the meeting. Cllr Haggata explained that Mr Williams was keen to update the council on ambitious plans and alterations to the museum. Cllr Haggata had explained that the Council could not commit itself by indicating whether it was in favour of the plans but Councillors could hear about the ideas and ask questions.

Mr Williams explained he had launched the Police Firearms Association, with his late wife, when he retired in 2013 after finding that police officers and their families were not looked after when they had been involved in incidents. To date the Association had 11,000 members and for a small monthly fee members received incredible welfare support including a 24/7 helpline. The Association was run from the Armed Police Museum in Chatteris.

Mr Williams said in 2014 he learned that the police were moving out of the police station in Chatteris and he secured a 15 year lease on the premises so he could use it for office space and as a museum. Over £50,000 was spent renovating the building and creating the museum which had been visited by Royalty.

The charity was now growing as was the museum so the facilities needed to grow. Expansion would allow for classroom based training which would bring in more people and more revenue.

Originally Mr Williams had considered building a new headquarters nearby but there were too many issues and it would be too expensive. Staff at the existing museum all lived locally and wished to stay in Chatteris and it was, therefore, decided to approach Cambridgeshire Constabulary and ask if they would be interested in selling the building. This had been

agreed, subject to planning, and Mr Williams was now forging ahead with his exciting project.

He explained that part of the building would be available to the police so they could re-open the station two days a week. Local people would be able to pop in with queries, to hand in keys, etc. The accommodation would also be available for such things as council surgeries.

Mr Williams explained he wished to get rid of the radio mast (which was an eyesore but he was unsure who used it), completely refurbish the main building by getting rid of the asbestos, changing the windows, etc., and then build a second floor, timber-framed, barn type structure on the garages at the rear of the site. This would be no higher than the existing police station and would be sympathetic to the area (neighbours would be consulted) but would give much needed extra space for offices and extensions to the museum. It would allow the introduction of a virtual firearms range and would allow him to run insight days for anyone interested in joining the police or taking on a firearms role. The aim was to invest in Chatteris, increase visitors numbers, who in turn would use local businesses, and bring employment for local people.

Cllr Gowler asked if the police had agreed to man the station for two days a week and Mr Williams explained they had not committed but there had been positive noises. Members agreed it would be popular with the public. Cllr Gowler advised Mr Williams to get letters of support for the project when he submitted the planning application.

Mr Williams was thanked for attending and left the meeting.

#### **P41 21/22 Appeals, Decisions & Withdrawn Plans**

The Clerk updated members on the latest planning decisions from Fenland District Council. The following had all been approved:

Reserved matters application relating to detailed matters of appearance, landscaping, etc., for erection of 248 dwellings at Womb Farm, Doddington Road;

Works to two Platanus x Hispanica trees at 8A Park Street;

Internal and external works to listed outbuildings at 21 Wenny Road;

Change of use of part ground floor from commercial use to additional living accommodation at 104 High Street;

Erect 3-storey, 5-bed dwelling at land south west of 24 Doddington Road (accessed via Albert Way);

Erect single-storey extension to existing dwelling at Ladys Acre, Langwood Fen Drive;

Erect single-storey rear extension to existing dwelling at 51 Green Park;

Install new doors and windows to existing dwelling at 6 Black Horse Lane;

Erect extensions to existing dwelling at 34 Eastwood;

Erect extensions to existing dwelling at 17 Willey Terrace.

The Clerk notified members that application F/YR21/1346/F (change of use of land to domestic and erect a 2-storey, self-contained residential annex involving the demolition of existing outbuildings at Bromsgrove House, Honeysome Road) would be considered by FDC's planning committee on the 6<sup>th</sup> April. The recommendation was to refuse as the self-contained unit was "of a form and character not in keeping with the development in the locality and encroached on land categorised as countryside and thereby protected for its own sake." In addition the area fell within Flood Zone 3. The Town Council had supported the plan.

#### **P42 21/22 Applications & Revised Applications**

- a) F/YR22/0241/F - Alterations to shop front including bricking up window and replacement window frame at 5 Park Street – *Support (this was agreed via email)*
- b) F/YR22/0269/F - Erect a single-storey rear extension to existing dwelling involving the demolition of existing conservatory at 3 St Peters Drive - *Support*
- c) F/YR22/0293/O - Erect 1 x dwelling (outline application with all matters reserved) at Ferry Farm, London Road – *Support*
- d) F/YR22/0301/LB - Internal and external works to a listed building, including outbuilding (to enable a change of use of existing building from bank to museum) at 2 Park Street - *Noted*
- e) F/YR22/0319/A - Display of 3 x signs (1 x internally illuminated freestanding sign; 1 x internally illuminated fascia sign & 1 x window vinyl) at Jacks, Fenland Way - *Support*
- f) F/YR22/0320/F - Change of use from agricultural processing to Parcel Delivery Depot (Use Class B8) (retrospective) at Washway Farm, Huntingdon Road – *Support*
- g) F/YR22/0298/F - Porch alterations to front of existing dwelling at 79 Fairbairn Way – *Support*

#### **P43 21/22 Street Naming – Land at Womb Farm**

The Town Council had been asked to suggest street names for the new development at Womb Farm.

It was agreed to put forward the following suggestions:

The main link road from the A141 should be Vermuyden Way and the main link road from Doddington Road should be Fillenham Way.

The streets off should be called:

Wheatfields, Barley Close, Cornfields, Plough Close, Harvest Way, Farmers Way, Peat Lane or Westwater Lane

All the names were associated with farming and drainage of the Fens to reflect the previous use of the land and the drainage systems in place.

**P44 21/22 Correspondence**

The Clerk had received the Powerpoint presentation of the Planning Training Session on the Local Plan which had been attended by Cllr Ashley. She offered to forward the presentation to members.

**P45 21/22 Any Other Business**

Enforcement: The Clerk confirmed she had heard nothing further after enquiring about enforcement action at 90 High Street and the unsafe balcony in the High Street. Cllr Ashley said Cllr Hay had received a complaint from the residents of 126 Tithe Road who found their dropped kerb constantly blocked by a neighbour's vehicles. It was agreed there was little action that could be taken.

Signs: Cllr Smith said she had been approached by a resident of Pecks Yard asking if the street sign on her home was to be restored as she had heard nothing since filling out a form. The Clerk said FDC had been speaking to contractors but she was unsure of the latest position and would enquire.

Caterpillar: Cllr Ashley said the caterpillar trail of painted stones was now in place thanks to her husband and Cllrs Smith and Carney. A small fence around the creation would be installed on the 31<sup>st</sup> March to help protect the stones which were painted by children during lockdown.