

Your Chairman of the Planning Sub-Committee and Clerk attended this meeting.

Mr. Wilson dealt with the new system of planning consultations with Parish Councils which had been operating from April 1. Cambridgeshire Parish Councils tended to overlook that the system of consultation they had enjoyed for the last 10 years was priveleged but now it had become a statutory formality and as 'of right' for the Parish Council. The system operating since April 1 in South Cambs. District was better and more detailed than we had been having under the County and we were ahead of many other Counties and Districts who were only now starting off from scratch with rather brief consultation and sparse details such as the former Cambridgeshire County had operated.

Response from the 101 parishes of the South Cambs. District had far outlived his expectations and was nearly 100%. Comments were well reasoned and informed and he congratulated Parish Councils on the relevance of their comments. He could not emphasize enough the careful consideration necessary by a Parish Council sub-Committee or the whole Council. Careful interpretation of plans was important - remembering that the final appearance of any development, house or factory, could be very different. He quoted an example where everyone through whose hands a particular set of plans had passed, had overlooked an important visgal aspect which completely spoilt the result.

Design was often controversial and was subjective - personal opinions differing. He said that where there was an appeal to the Secretary of State design was liberally interpreted and if not 100% bad was not interfered with.

Parish Councils should not fall into the error of putting forward the views of a vocal minority; nor should they overlook residents views completely. An example of this was the reply of 'no comment' from a Parish Council followed by a petition of objection signed by 200 people and the Parish Council, then changing its comments to 'refusal', gave no reasons.

The District Council were now taking measures to get villagers observations independent of Parish Council comment. These include: writing direct to any person who has shown an interest in the proposed site in the past; site notices if the character of the area is threatened and advertisement where necessary.

He commended the Cambridge Independent Press for publishing weekly a complete list of current planning applications in the area.

Other consultations are made by the District Planing Office as appropriate: Highways Dept.; Water Authority, Village Societies etc. and his Dept has ascertained that 93% of the District Planning Committee's decisions agreed with Parish Council recommendations.

Consultation was not just a charade.

R.T.Summerfield
K.P.Humphries.

A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL'S PLANNING SUB-COMMITTEE HELD AT 51, OLD SCHOOL LANE on MONDAY, OCTOBER 28, 1974 at 8 p.m.

Present: Mr.R.T.Summerfield (in the Chair), Mrs.B.C.Watson & the Clerk.

Apologies: Mr.H.W.H.Easy; letters also received from non-Sub-Comm. members, Mr.P.Kiddle & Mrs.M.E.Jones.

2523 MINUTES OF PLANNING SUB-COMMITTEE of SEPTEMBER 17, 1974 (previously circulated - were confirmed and signed.

DECISION RECEIVED

2524 S/0692/74 Rickards, 4, Willow Crescent: ext. for double gge. & entrance lobby - Granted.

FOR COMMENT

2525 S/0953/74 Trinity College, Science Pk. - layout of roads for ext. ~~to~~
(2504/2/7) Science Pk.; plans & supporting statement supplied.

The sub-comm. noted that app. was for layout of roads only (on a site approved in principle by the Minister as a Departure). They also felt the College's approach in their supporting statement was to be commended. Accordingly approved the layout extension within the restraints and proposals set out in the statement, as follows:

1. Sewerage: submission of details of factories to await availability of adequate drainage.
2. Traffic: within the limits envisaged
3. Landscaping: the Council commend the landscaping already achieved and also the expressed intention to 'ensure that landscaping is established well in advance of the construction of buildings' in the proposed extension plans.

2526 S/0908/74 H.C.Moss Ltd: continuation of Shirley Lodge Estate - erection of 40 low-cost 2 & 3 bed. units giving an average of 40 persons/acre.

The Clerk briefly reviewed the history of this development and how it had been withdrawn by the developer (it is understood at the request of the County Planning Office) in 1970 following prolonged negotiations when agreement was reached between the Parish Council and the County Planning Dept. for two accesses : Fen rd. & Old School Lane - and no through road across the Estate.

Mrs. Jones' & Mr.Kiddle's letters were then considered: They both felt the Parish Council's decision in 1970 should be fully adhered to and objected to increase in density. Mrs.Jones felt a need for 2 bed. houses for retired or newly-marrieds. Mr. Kiddle was in favour of making exception to the sewerage embargo so that the Estate may be finished.

The sub-comm. then commented for return as follows:

1. Completion of long-outstanding Estate approved in principle and the relaxation of embargo to this end. Loss of points in the Best Kept Village competition due to the untidiness of the unfinished Estate noted.
2. Somewhat uneasy at apparent increase in density; comment reserved until detailed app. received.
3. Comment also reserved on any fresh access proposals (if any) in view of village opinion in 1970.

2527 PLANNING SUB-COMMITTEE(2512) The Clerk reported he had sought advice from Mr. Martindale following a Press report (11 October) criticising the holding of Committee meetings (e.g. Planning) by Parish Councils in the absence of the Press or public. It appeared the correct procedure would be to form a Sub-Committee which must, of course, report to a Committee. Mr. Martindale, therefore, suggested the formation of a 'middle tier' i.e. a Committee which could conveniently be the full Council ~~meeting~~ before or after a normal Council meeting at which the Press and public had the opportunity of being present, as of right.

The Planning Sub-Committee, therefore, recommend to Council that the above procedure be further adopted to that outlined in MIN: 2512 and already adopted by Council and that a Planning Committee (thus composed of all Council members then present) meet either before or after the normal Council meeting. This Planning Committee to receive the reports and minutes of any Planning Sub-Committee meetings held since the previous Council meeting.

FOR DECISION.

This concluded the business and the Chairman closed the meeting.

Signed *J. Pearson* Date *12-11-74*