

NSDC REPORT FOR STC NOVEMBER 2020 (Peter Harris & Malcolm Brock)

General: we have received frequent updates from the Chief Executive regarding the COVID -19 situation, most recently pertaining to the the action of the Council enforcing, as is their legal duty, the current situation. Most of this action in Southwell was and will continue to be giving advice to businesses.

There have been no meetings of the Council or Committees since the last Town Council meeting apart from Licensing and Planning Committees below. The Leisure and Environment meeting is next Tuesday and Economic Development Committee on the day of the STC meeting

Planning

1. There is a proposal by Lightsource bp to construct a solar farm at Winkburn Estate (NG22 8PG, off the A617) with an anticipated output power capacity of 32MW

A community information event was conducted remotely on 15/10/20 which seemed to encounter appreciable technical shortcomings. Should this scheme be approved construction will commence early 2022 and will take some 5/6 months. Its lifespan is envisaged to be of the order of 40 years. There will be a one off payment as a community benefit.

2. Application 20/01422/FUL Land at rear of 49/49A Ropewalk was presented. This was the fourth application for this site. The three earlier applications were refused. This application for 2 five bed roomed dwellings was approved.

3. Application 20/01190/OUTM Land at the rear of The Vineries was presented whereby outline consent was sought for 45 dwellings. Ward members expressed their concerns regarding both access (with mini roundabout) and possible flood risk. Legal advice regarding the former was sought during the meeting. This application was approved by the committee.

4. Adoption of policy for Proactive Planning Enforcement/Temporary Structures. This is will temporarily relax planning enforcement during the period of the Covid 19 pandemic to enable business to construct the likes of portacabins/gazebos until March 2021 (then reviewed). Businesses must first submit details of their proposals for consideration.

5. The quarterly enforcement activity update report was tabled. 'Not only has the number of enforcement cases opened increased in comparison to previous quarters, but also the number of cases being closed increased as a well as the overall number of notices being served by officers.....the main reason for investigations being closed is due to the alleged activity not being a breach of planning control'.

The Planning Enforcement Plan (PEP) has been adopted. This embraces a system of case prioritisation; viz A: high priority eg works to listed building; B: Medium; development that may be harmful; C; Low: minor breaches

6. The Development Management Performance report was tabled. The national target is to determine 60% of major applications within the statutory period of 13 weeks. Additionally, there is a local performance indicator for all types of 90% per quarter. For the period Jan to Sept 2020, the figure achieved was in excess of 95%.

Licensing and General Purposes

There has been a review of the licence for the Bramley Apple pub on Church St. Following presentations by local residents, the pub and Penny Rainbow, the Committee decided that in view of

the frustration and anger of the residents and that there had been incidents in recent months where patrons had disturbed their rest or sleep the licence could be retained but with conditions:

No drinks to be taken outside at the front of the premises after 19:00 hours any day of the week and that appropriate signage to be displayed at exits to the premises reminding customers to be considerate of neighbouring residents and to ensure noise levels are kept to a minimum - other alternative wording of the same meaning was acceptable.

The pub also agreed that the licence holder and management of the premises that after 22:30 hours each day no customers save for "members" are permitted entry to the premises and last entry for members is 23:00. This was taken by the Committee as a show of "good faith" by the licence holder and management of the premises and although is not enforceable in terms of the licence, is one of the ways they can work with local residents to prevent further issues.

A number of pubs in the area were visited - before the new restrictions - to ensure that Covid-19 restrictions were in place. They were given advice, or had no issues to report

La Parisienne had to hold a number of Temporary Event Notice events as the licence that they had applied for did not come through in time, due to the pressure on the small Licencing Team. The TENs passed off without incident. The licence is now agreed.

There will be a review of the Private Hire Vehicle policy late in 2021 as a result of new legislation, but the N&SDC's policy is already almost in line with the newer higher standards for safe hire of cabs.