

MINUTES of the meeting of the PLANNING COMMITTEE held at Mountfield, Bridport on Monday 1 November 2021 at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT            Cllr    Ian Bark (in the chair)

                         Cllrs: Geoffrey Ackerman            Julian Jones  
                         Sarah Carney                            Anne Rickard  
                         Kelvin Clayton                        Dave Rickard  
                         Barry Irvine

ALSO PRESENT        Will Austin (Town Clerk),

## **PUBLIC FORUM**

Kim Sankey spoke as the applicant for P/HOU/2021/03727 and P/HOU/2021/03728L. The proposals would maximise the use of space for three generations of her family, would use local businesses and materials, and would not adversely affect neighbours.

Sam Russell spoke as the applicant for P/HOU/2021/03411 and P/HOU/2021/03412L. The proposals provided a sustainable, energy efficient and affordable solution, replacing a poorly constructed, damp and cold extension. The extension would be 1.5 storeys rather than 2 as shown in the description. She had the support of all neighbours bar one, whose fears she considered unfounded.

The Chairman thanked Kim and Sam for their contributions.

### **51. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Dave Bolwell.

### **52. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **53. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 27 September 2021 were confirmed as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### **54. THE PURSUIT OF HOPPINESS**

Alasdair McNab, owner of The Pursuit of Hoppiness, summarised his request for an extension to licensed sitting out hours. He was grateful for the Town Council's support for pavement licensing during the pandemic, and was now seeking to extend the licensed hours to incorporate a short amount of 'drinking up' time beyond the allotted 11pm deadline on Monday to Thursday, and extended hours to midnight on Friday and Saturday. This would match the premises licence hours. The layout would remain as at present with four tables and a minimum 2m passage on the pavement. The proposed arrangement would compensate for the loss of space inside, which had resulted in a major reduction from the pre-pandemic capacity of 30. He advised that there had been no licensing problems at his premises.

The Town Surveyor reported that the Police had no objection to licensing up to midnight, and suggested that the arrangement could be approved on a 12-month pilot basis.

Members welcomed the evening atmosphere created by the pavement licensing provisions, and considered that a pilot to extend the hours to midnight would not set a precedent. If successful it could then be considered for other premises.

RESOLVED: that the request for extended sitting out hours for The Pursuit of Hoppiness be approved on a 12-month pilot basis, subject to detailed agreement delegated to the Town Surveyor.

## **55. ACCESS & MOVEMENT STUDY – FOUNDRY LEA ADDENDUM**

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 3663. The report presented an addendum to the Bridport Access & Movement Study for approval, and recommended further actions for its incorporation into relevant future projects/developments. The addendum considered how to optimise cycling and walking routes between Foundry Lea and the town centre and to encourage modal shift.

The Project Manager & Community Initiatives Officer stressed the need for quality connections between the Foundry Lea development and the town centre, which was the focus of this addition to the Study. The document could be used as leverage with decision-makers, most notably Dorset Council as highway authority.

Finlay McNab of Streets Reimagined, who had produced the study on behalf of the Town Council, summarised the report, which included an introduction, a review of the masterplan, a strategic options analysis, other related considerations, conclusions and recommendations.

Members considered:

- Cyclists' desire for the most direct route possible;
- Ownership and other issues affecting the creation of a route past the Dreadnought Trading Estate;
- The challenge of securing funding for major investment in cycling/walking infrastructure;
- The structural and financial challenges associated with a widened bank across Plottingham Fields;
- Whether or not the outline permission granted for Foundry Lea, and the associated Section 106 Agreement, would assist in achieving the desired links;
- The need to consider other walking and cycling links from Foundry Lea, for example to Eype;
- Whether external grant funding could be available;
- The potential need for a crossing at Magdalen Lane; and
- Segregation of vehicular traffic from cycling/walking traffic across the Dreadnought Estate.

Following this discussion it was

RESOLVED: that the committee:

- (i) Notes the findings of the addendum;

- (ii) Agrees that the evidence and options should be shared with Dorset Council Highways, and developers of the Foundry Lea development; and
- (iii) Agrees that the addendum be used as part of the Town Council submission to the Local Transport Plan review, review of the BANP and any transport/town centre policies/programmes developed with Dorset Council or other relevant agencies.

**56. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

RESOLVED: that the recommendations set out in column 4 of the attached [Schedule A](#) be forwarded to Dorset Council.

**57. PLANNING DECISIONS**

The Town Clerk reported for information, the planning decisions received relating to applications previously considered by the Committee, ENCL: 3662.

RESOLVED: that the planning decisions be noted.

**58. COMMUNICATIONS AND ONGOING ISSUES**

Cllr Sarah Carney reported that Housing Week took place between 23 and 30 October. A public meeting and housing fair had been successful and it had been pleasing to see Dorset Council represented at the fair. Attendance had been good, and there had been opportunities for networking and ideas. Thanks were given to Bridport Area Community Housing for organising the week.

The meeting closed at **9.08pm**.

**The next meeting of the Planning Committee will be held on 6 December 2021**