MINUTE EXTRACT



Minutes of the Meeting of the DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE

Held: TUESDAY, 21 MARCH 2006 at 5.30pm

PRESENT:

Councillor Thompson - Chair

Councillor Chohan Councillor Connelly (for Cllr. Shelton) Councillor Smith Councillor Mrs Chambers Councillor Panchbhaya Councillor Saleh Councillor Thomas

Councillor A. Vincent

In accordance with the provisions of the Constitution (4A, Rule 42) the following Councillors attended the meeting and with the sanction of the Committee, spoke on the applications indicated, but did note vote:-

Councillor Grant Application 20052383 71 Southernhay Road Councillor Bhatti Application 20060001 18 Silverstone Drive Councillor Suleman Application 20052380 143 Evington Road

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95. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were requested to declare any interests they had in the business to be discussed on the agenda including under the Council's Code of Practice for Development Control decisions and/or indicate that Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 applied to them.

Under the Code of Practice for Development Control Decisions, the following declarations were made:

Councillors Thomas, Vincent, Panchbhaya, Smith and Thompson declared that they had received representations in respect of Application 20044599C, 24A – 26A East Park Road.

Councillor Chohan declared that he had received a representation in respect of Application 20060006 461 St. Saviours Road.

Councillor A. Vincent declared that he had received a representation in respect of Application 20052380, 143 Evington Road.

Councillor A. Vincent also declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Application 20052220, Cort Crescent, Wellinger Way, as he was a resident on the street. He agreed to leave the room for discussion of the item.

99. PLANNING APPLICATION STATISTICS

The Service Director, Environment submits a report which contained; a summary of planning application statistics for Leicester for the October 2005 to December 2005 quarter; a report on a Statistical Release from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister: Planning Applications – July to September 2005 and a report on a News Release from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, which included the Planning Performance Checklist for the Year Ending 30 September 2005.

Members of the Committee noted that the Planning Service, despite receiving an increase in funding in the recent council budget, overall, faced cuts to their funding of approximately £200,000. Concerns were raised about the capacity of the planning service to meet government targets in light of these cuts and in view of the recent increase in the number of major planning applications. Concerns were also expressed about the potential loss of Planning Delivery Grant money. Members of the Committee also doubted the ability of the Service to make savings through greater use of consultants. Members of the Committee felt that the cuts to the planning service should be reversed.

The following was moved by Councillor Wann and seconded by Councillor Chohan and agreed by the Committee.

RESOLVED:

that the report be referred to Cabinet and that the Committee's concerns be responded to.