

Derry City and Strabane District Council

Open Minutes of the reconvened meeting of the Planning Committee Meeting (Wednesday 7 October 2020) held remotely on Thursday 8 October 2020 at 4.00pm.

Present: - Councillor Jackson (Chairperson), Aldermen Bresland, Kerrigan, McClintock; Councillors Boyle, Gallagher, Kelly, McGuire, McKinney and Mooney.

In Attendance: - Head of Planning (Ms M Fox), Head of Planning Performance and Improvement (Mr E Molloy), Lead Legal Services Officer (Mr P Kingston), Principal Planning Officer (Mrs S McCracken) Senior Planning Officer, (Enforcement Section) (Mr C Rogers), Business Services Officer (Mrs L McKean), Committee Services Assistant (Mrs J Short).

P130/20 Notice and Summons for Meeting

The Head of Planning read the Notice and Summons for the meeting.

P131/20 Member Attendance and Apologies

The Head of Planning took the roll and recorded apologies from Councillor's Mellon and Dobbins.

P132/20 Statement for Remote Meetings

The Chair read the Statement for Remote Meetings.

P133/20 Declarations of Members' Interests

Councillor Boyle declared an interest with Agenda Item: Proposed Court Action LA11/2017/0182/CA.

Open for Decision

P134/20 Chairperson's Business

The Chairperson had no business to address on this occasion.

Open for Information

P135/20 Planning Appeals Update

The Principal Planning Officer presented the above report details of which had been previously circulated to Members. The purpose of the report was to appraise Members on planning appeals currently in the system and of any decisions made since the previous meeting.

Members noted the above report for information.

P136/20 Enforcement Review for Business Year 2019/2020

The Senior Planning Officer (Enforcement Section) presented the above report, a copy of which was previously circulated to Members. The purpose of the report was to update Members on the progress made by the Planning Enforcement section for the business year 2019-2020.

The Chair expressed appreciation to the Enforcement Team for the work carried out despite restrictions due to the current pandemic.

Councillor Gallagher sought clarification in relation to enforcement costs. The Lead Legal Services Officer clarified that enforcement was a statutory obligation could not be undertaken on a cost recovery basis.

The Head of Planning stated that the above report showed a significant increase in the number of enforcement notices processed over the previous year. She asked Members to be cognisant of the amount of work that goes into these complex cases by Officers. She also expressed appreciation to the LLSO for his professional expertise when seeking legal opinions with such cases.

Members noted the above report for information.

P137/20 Enforcement Review April-June 2020 (1st Quarter)

The Senior Planning Officer (Enforcement Section) provided the above report a copy of which was previously circulated to Members. The purpose of the report was to update Members on the progress made by the Planning Enforcement section for the first quarter of the business year 2020-2021.

Members noted the above report for information.

P138/20 Permitted Development for Agricultural Buildings and Operations

The Principal Planning Officer presented the above report, a copy of which was previously circulated to Members. The purpose of the report was to appraise Members on the Permitted Development for Agricultural Buildings and Operations.

Members noted the key points and legislative requirements in relation to permitted development for agricultural buildings and operations.

P139/20 Update on Ammonia Emitting Projects following correspondence from Friends of the Earth

The Principal Planning Officer provided the above report, details of which had been previously circulated to Members. The purpose of the report was to appraise Members on the position regarding the assessment of planning applications that required the appropriate assessment of ammonia emissions, following receipt of correspondence from Friends of the Earth on 14 August 2020.

Councillor Kelly stated that whilst the paper concluded no financial implications, he remained of the view that there were cost implications imposed because of the change of regulations on several occasions. He added that these were hidden costs associated with Officer time spent during the assessment of applications as a result of inconsistencies with regulations to be applied.

Members noted the update paper that provided the context and background to the correspondence received from Friends of the Earth.

P140/20 List of Decisions Issued – September 2020

Members noted for information the List of Decisions issued during the month of September 2020.

The meeting went into confidential business.