

NEW FRANKLEY IN BIRMINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Planning, Environmental, Highways and Public Transport Committee held at the Parish Council Offices, 12 Arden Road, Frankley on Monday, 30th June 2008 at 1930 hours.

Present

Councillor Eric Carter (in the Chair)

Councillors Ian Bruckshaw, Gareth Griffiths, Des Rogers, Geoff Stephenson and Stephen Trefor-Jones

Also in attendance Councillor Joanna Walker

APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence due to work commitments was submitted on behalf of Councillor Grey. The apology was accepted.

MINUTES

Referring to the final paragraph of the item Traffic Calming Proposals For Ormond Road, Councillor Trefor-Jones stated that it was the City's Highways Engineers who were to carry out speed checks on Ormond Road before and after the work, not the Police.

- 141 RESOLVED: That, subject to the amendment referred to above, the Minutes of the meeting of the Planning, Environmental, Highways and Public Transport Committee held on 2nd June 2008, having previously been circulated, were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

S/02920/08/FUL

**Frankley Community High School, New Street, Frankley
Installation of 2 no. 25 Metre High wind turbines**

The following outline details of the application were submitted –

(Interleaved document no. 1)

During the ensuing discussion, whilst mindful of the green benefits of the proposal, Members expressed the following concerns -

- the height of the proposed masts – 25m (82ft) - was considered to present a significant visual intrusion in what was an urban environment and it was suggested that the proposal would be more suited to a rural environment;
- solar panels were felt to be a more environmentally friendly solution to reducing the carbon footprint of the school with little or no visual intrusion to the surrounding neighbourhood;
- there was concern over the location of the proposed wind turbines adjacent to school buildings and the school caretakers house given that there had been instances reported of the turbine blades on wind turbines disintegrating;
- it was felt that there could also be health and safety issues associated with the proposal with children accessing the area used for the masts;
- given the significant visual impact that the proposal would present to the surrounding residential areas, it was of concern that it appeared that the public notice advising of the Application had not been published over the wider area which would be effected by the proposal.

142 RESOLVED That the Planning Committee be advised of the Committee's concerns as set out in the foregoing preamble.

S/02787/08/FUL

**A38 (Bristol Road South), Lickey Road and Longbridge Lane, Longbridge, Birmingham
Construction of new highway, associated service infrastructure, drainage, bridge over river, foot and cycle ways, crossing facilities, access points and landscaping following part closure of existing highway.**

Councillor Trefor-Jones was against the proposal whilst there was still a chance of the reinstatement of the rail link – he was aware that St Modwen and Advantage West Midlands had written to the Planning Inspectorate expressing the view that the City's plans for the site were unsound – therefore, in his opinion, there was still a possibility of a rethink with regards to the reinstatement of the rail link. However, Councillor Rogers advised that the reinstatement did not figure in the CENTRO's capital plans and was therefore extremely unlikely to proceed.

Councillor Stephenson, whilst expressing disappointment that the rail link would not be reinstated, requested that the remaining rail infrastructure around the former Longbridge Works be photographed for historical archives.

143 RESOLVED That the Planning Committee be advised that this Committee has no objections to the proposals set out in the above Planning Application but requests that the railway infrastructure adjacent to the former west works be visually recorded for display in the proposed heritage museum.

RESPONSE TO THE LONGBRIDGE AREA ACTION PLAN

The Chairperson advised that there nothing to report

PROPOSED NEW BUS SERVICES FOR FRANKLEY

The Chairperson advised that there was nothing to report.

FRANKLEY CENTRE DEVELOPMENT

- 144 The Clerk reported that at the last meeting of the Frankley Officers Group, in response to questions relating to the apparent lack of visible progress by the developer around the Centre, the meeting was told that discussions were still continuing between the City Council, Grimleys and Taylor Wimpey regarding the development proposals. However, the Clerk went on to advise that on the BBC Business Website that day, it had been reported that Taylor Wimpey had been affected by a significant downturn in the housing market arising from the credit crunch and were exploring the possibility of refinancing the business through an open offer of new shares. It was therefore likely that the financial problems of the developer were the reason for the delay in commencing the project.

THE NEIGHBOURHOOD CARETAKING SCHEME

- 145 The Chairperson advised that despite numerous conversations with City Council officers and Ward Councillors, nobody seemed to know what would be happening to the Caretakers Scheme after September.

Although, following discussions with Tracey Radford, it had been agreed that the Parish Council be supplied weekly with a list of jobs received and those completed, there was no direct contact with the Caretakers and therefore he considered that the Parish Council no longer had control of the system on Frankley.

Councillor Trefor Jones reported that the Wards were not happy in having to pay some of their Community Chest funding to finance the new caretakers scheme.

TRAFFIC CALMING PROPOSALS FOR ORMOND ROAD

- 146 The Chairperson reported that the Constituency Highways Engineer had confirmed that work on the measure would commence after the schools returned in September.

The meeting ended at 2005 hours

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Chairperson