

Seaton Valley Council

A Community Council

Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 24 August 2022 in Seaton Delaval Community Centre, Elsdon Avenue, Seaton Delaval.

The meeting started at 6.00 pm.

PRESENT:

Councillors: G. Eastwood (Chair) , S. Bowman, E Coulson and J. Henderson

IN ATTENDANCE:

S. Potts – Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer
D. Freeman – Engagement and Development Officer
Cllrs L Bowman and E Chicken

Members of the Public - 15

PL008/22 1. Welcome

The Chair opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending and explained that the meeting had been called to agree the council's response to the current planning application to locate a new high/middle school at the rear of Manners Gardens. Given the importance of the application, members out with the Planning Committee, had also ben invited to attend and take part in the meeting.

The Chair explained that those residents who had indicated their wish to speak at the meeting (three) would be allowed to do so first and then other residents in attendance would also be allowed to speak. Once residents had spoken, members would then debate the issue before agreeing the council's response to the application. In this regard the Chair said that he had received some written comments from Cllr S Dungworth which he would share with other Councillors during the debate.

PL009/22 2. Apologies for Absence

Cllrs A Stanners, S Dungworth and D Ferguson had submitted their apologies for not being able to attend the meeting.

PL010/22 3. Disclosure of Interests

Cllr Chicken declared that she is a resident of Manners Gardens and as such will be directly affected by the application.

Cllr Dungworth declared in her written comments that she is Chair of the Seaton Valley Federation of Governors but asked the Chair to allow her comments to be heard at the meeting.

The Chair felt it important to hear comments from both Councillors and therefore, agreed to let both take part in the debate (Cllr Dungworth via her written submission).

PL011/22 4. Minutes of the meeting held on 1 April 2022

The minutes of committee held on 1 April 2022 were reviewed and accepted as a true record.

PL012/22 5. Northumberland County Council's Planning Consultation 22/02627/CCD - Construction of new school buildings, sports centre, external sports pitches, landscaping, parking and access at Land North of The Avenue, Seaton Delaval and parking and access at former Whytrig Middle School Site, Western Avenue, Seaton Delaval - to formulate Seaton Valley Council's response to the consultation.

The Chair initially invited three residents to speak about the application. Each of the residents spoke for their allotted time period and then a number of other residents added to what had already been said.

In general, all residents present accepted that new school buildings were required, although most would have preferred a different site from the one chosen. That being said, residents accepted that they were required to make comments on the application submitted and, in this regard, the following common themes were raised.

Safety Issues around Transport and Highways – residents are concerned about the safety of students arriving for and leaving school. Specifically, they believe that a crossing point is needed at the top of The Avenue; sight lines and visibility (of pedestrians) needs to be improved at both the junctions of Prospect Avenue and Western Avenue with Astley Road; and further thought needs to be given to the traffic restrictions proposed on Western Avenue, Prospect Avenue, Astley Road and Manners Gardens. Residents of Manners Gardens are particularly concerned about the likelihood of inappropriate parking at school drop off and pick up times. Similarly, concerns were expressed about the effect the development could have on two local businesses in particular the glazers and the funeral directors.

Noise – a number of residents expressed concern about the noise that may be generated from the community sports facilities and asked for further work be carried out to look at ways of reducing said noise – the possibility of using acoustic fencing was mentioned.

Visibility – concerns were expressed about the potential visibility of the development from The Avenue, especially given that part of the development will fall in the Seaton Delaval Hall Conservation Area. In this regard residents hoped that additional natural screening could be planted and that the developers could be asked to use building materials more sympathetic to the Conservation Area.

Councillors then debated the issue with all, more or less, agreeing with the general gist of the comments already made. The Chair confirmed that Councillor Dungworth's written comments were also in line with the comments already raised above.

At the end of the debate the committee **RESOLVED TO: support the application in principle but draw the concerns outlined above to the attention of the County Council. (The Councils actual written response can be accessed via NCC's Planning Portal).**

PL013/22 6. Planning Applications

There were no issues to raise with any other outstanding planning applications listed at Appendix 2 to the Clerk's report.

PL014/22 8. Date of next meeting

As and when required

The meeting closed at 7:30 pm.

Signed by the Chair:

Dated:

DRAFT