

**Minutes of the meeting of  
THE CONSULTATIONS COMMITTEE  
8<sup>th</sup> July 2019 at 7.30pm**

Present: Cllrs Arundel (Chair), Bloxsom, Cranston, Naumann and Poulton

In attendance: Kate Russell – Senior Conservation Officer, Stroud District Council,  
A relative of a resident at Wyatt House, Sheral Gardner, Assistant Clerk

**Action**

**1. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Campbell (personal), Hale (personal) and Townley (working).

**2. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations.

**3. Minutes of the meeting of 10<sup>th</sup> June 2019**

These were approved as a correct record and signed by Cllr Arundel.

**4. Public question time**

Cllr Sutton submitted a letter and petition prior to the meeting, from residents of Farmhill/Paganhill, regarding planning application number S.19/1153/FUL – 20 Mill Farm Drive.

The letter was noted. The application was considered at a previous meeting and a response had already been submitted to the planning authority.

No further questions were put to the Committee.

**5. Listed Buildings/Conservation areas**

Kate Russell, SDC was invited to talk to members about her role as Senior Conservation Officer, listed buildings and conservation areas. A number of questions were prepared prior to the meeting.

- How does the Conservation Officer's role fit in with the direction of travel of SDC carbon neutral pledge? Legislation is in place and is complied with. However, it is always possible to find solutions to work around the legislation. Anything that might damage the building will not be allowed. SDC is fully on board with carbon neutral.
- KR explained the applicant for proposals at 7 Parliament Street (S.19/0852/FUL) were advised to have doors fronting the road. This was to encourage the interaction of neighbours and to establish a rhythm onto the street line. Also important is the beautiful view looking down the hill, into Stroud. Designers are currently looking at proposals and a revised scheme is due in.
- The application for Ryeleaze, Ryeleaze Road, (S.18/2734/HHOLD) was refused on good solid planning policy reasons i.e. cramped and overdeveloped, the view out of Stroud would be obscured, including listed buildings e.g. the church. Development on this site is possible in the future, but not on this scale.

- Listed Buildings at risk in Stroud include The Duke of York, Thames and Severn Warehouse, Fromehall Mill and the Chapel of Rest, Stroud Cemetery. These are all on the watch list. SDC has a good track record of getting at risk buildings off the list.
- SDC will always support the NDP and is generally influential in shaping Stroud, including buildings like the Police Station, which is felt to have potential to be quite iconic. Applicants are required to go through a pre-application process and officers work closely with developers. SDC is looking at an holistic approach getting everyone involved.
- A revised shop front design guide is currently being produced, for the NDP. KR explained returning to a falsified past is not the way for Stroud to go. Applicants are encouraged to come up with good designs, which is important to the vitality of the town.
- KR felt the NDP is a robust and good document, incredibly well thought out by people who know the town.

The Chair thanked Kate Russell for her time and for the informative insight into her role at SDC. KR left the meeting.

#### **11. Proposed closure of Southfield Care Home and Wyatt House**

This item was brought forward.

A resident explained her mother is currently residing at Wyatt House and she is concerned about the process Gloucestershire County Council is following and the impact of the closure on residents at both Wyatt House and Southfield Care Home.

Members are concerned that there are not substantial vacancies currently available elsewhere for the 56 residents at the two care homes threatened with closure. It is believed numbers quoted do not add up. Only 21 rooms are available within a 2 miles radius, therefore forcing residents out of the area they know, causing hardship to visitors supporting their families - putting extra pressure on care staff and causing an environmental impact with visitors having to travel. Although residents have the option of staying in Stroud, this is not the parish, but the district.

There were concerns that although residents and families have been advised a social worker will be assigned to help with the process of moving residents, it is unlikely there will be the resources to carry this out.

It was noted dementia sufferers rarely begin and end their condition at home and therefore with an ageing population and an increase in people being diagnosed with dementia, more care homes will be needed in the future. To enable people to be cared for in their own homes during early stages of dementia there will be a greater need for more respite and day care. No forward provision appears to have been considered. And no availability of empty beds for emergency situations.

The age of the building is not relevant. The quality of care, safety, security and protection from the elements is far more important. These buildings have been neglected for years.

There were concerns that the reports available do not include medical opinions on residents. It was felt there is a real risk of transfer trauma when moving residents.

It was agreed to OBJECT to the closure of Wyatt House and Southfields Care Home for the reasons discussed and because of the inadequate process carried out by GCC, including the lack of time available to consider the proposals.

The Assistant Clerk and Town Clerk will draft an objection, to be circulated to members before submission.

Assistant Clerk  
/Town Clerk

The resident left the meeting.

**6. Planning applications**

Responses were agreed as shown in the attached appendix.

The Assistant Clerk will advise SDC.

Assistant Clerk

**7. Planning Decisions**

These were noted.

**8. Assistant Clerks report**

The Committee had no observations regarding an application for short term Street Trading consent for stalls on the Subscription Rooms forecourt for the Vegan Fair on 21<sup>st</sup> July 2019.

Assistant Clerk

**9. GCC Roadworks**

These were noted.

Members asked what are Highways Act Permits. The Assistant Clerk will ask GCC.

Assistant Clerk

The Assistant Clerk was asked to find out what type and the likely duration of work to be carried out in Beeches Green.

Assistant Clerk

**10. SDC consultation on Street Trading Policy**

The Committee had no observations.

The meeting ended at 9.45pm

Chair.....

Date.....