

## **Henley Town Council Planning Committee Report** **to the Annual Town Meeting, 4 April 2019**

The Planning Committee's remit is to debate Planning Applications, and send our 'observations' to South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC) who are the Planning Authority. The Planning Committee also has the Neighbourhood Plan Committee reporting to it.

The Planning Committee will have held 16 meetings throughout the calendar year, and debated over 200 Planning Applications, these would have been for extensions, alterations and new houses. 95% of the committee's observations are the same as SODC, and are approved by SODC Planning Officers.

The Neighbourhood Plan Committee meets every six weeks to ensure that the Joint Henley and Harpsden Neighbourhood Plan (JHHNP) is being adhered to. We have seen the completion of the McCarthy and Stone site on the corner of Mill Lane and the Oakfort site at King James Way. The old Wilkins site on the corner of Deanfield Road and the Crest Homes site at Highlands Farm are both well advanced. The appeal on the old Youth Club site at Deanfield Avenue for an elderly person's home was refused.

The JHHNP review has now been running for the past year, and a tremendous amount of work has been carried out, not just by councillors but also by members of the public that sit on the committee. The start of the process was to look at all the town's infrastructure, to see if we could take any more houses; this part of the review is still ongoing. Two months ago we advertised for a 'call for sites', this was for any land owner to come forward with land they felt could be incorporated in the review for either housing or industrial use, so far three applications have come forward. We have recently employed a company to carry out 'Community Engagement'; this is where we will be setting up exhibitions for the public to come along to the Town Hall and see what stage the review has got to, and offer their views.

The Planning Committee have also sent another response on the proposed SODC Local Plan 2011-2034. A number of our comments and questions were placed against insufficient detail on bullet points that referred to Henley. New housing policies in general were not robust enough. As yet there has been no response by SODC.

I would take this opportunity of thanking Councillors on the Planning Committee in the way they research information on Planning Applications before the meetings, plus all other aspects on the agenda's. Thank you to members of the public who sit on the Neighbourhood Plan Committee and give their time freely, they have done a fantastic job. Information on all those involved can be seen on the Town Council Website

Finally my thanks to the Planning and Project Manager Cath Adams, who has worked tirelessly on the items mentioned in this report, plus other major projects from other committees, and also to Kirsty Waterman the Planning Administrator for her support.

Cllr Ken Arlett  
Chairman HTC Planning and Neighbourhood Plan Committees