

AT A MEETING of the REGULATORY COMMITTEE of HAMPSHIRE COUNTY
COUNCIL held in the Council Chamber at The Castle, Winchester on
Wednesday 17 December 2014

PRESENT:

Chairman:
p Councillor R.C. McIntosh

Vice-Chairman:
p Councillor G Hockley

Councillors:

p C Carter	a R Huxstep
p C Choudhary	p P Latham
p M Cooper	p F Pearce
p J Frankum	a R Price
p C Greenwood	p T Rolt
p K House	p D Simpson
p R Humby	a S Wheale

The Chairman announced that the press and members of the public were permitted to film and broadcast the meeting. Those remaining at the meeting were consenting to being filmed and recorded, and to the possible use of those images and recording for broadcasting purposes.

153. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Huxstep, Price and Wheale.

154. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Members were mindful that where they believed they had a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in any matter considered at the meeting they must declare that interest at the time of the relevant debate and, having regard to the circumstances described in Part 3 Paragraph 1.5 of the County Council's Members' Code of Conduct, leave the meeting while the matter was discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with Paragraph 1.6 of the Code. Furthermore Members were mindful that where they believed they had a Non-Pecuniary Interest in a matter being considered at the meeting they considered whether such interest should be declared, and having regard to Part 5, Paragraph 2 of the Code, considered whether it was appropriate to leave the meeting whilst the matter was discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with the Code.

155. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 November 2014 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

156. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman reminded Members that they had attended site visits for both of the items on the agenda.

157. DEPUTATIONS

The Committee was advised that five deputations had been received for this meeting.

158. APPLICATION FOR CLAY EXTRACTION AT SCHOOL HOUSE FIELD AND HILLSIDE FIELD AND RESTORATION TO AGRICULTURE, TEMPORARY STORAGE OF CLAY WITHIN EXISTING QUARRY AND RESTORATION TO AGRICULTURE INCLUDING VARIATION OF CONDITIONS TO ENABLE EXTENSION OF TIME FOR CLAY STORAGE AND RESTORATIONS AT MICHELMERSH BRICK & TILE CO LTD, HILL VIEW ROAD, MICHELMERSH, SO51 0NN. (APPLICATION NO. 14/01234/CMAS) (SITE REF: TV111)

The Committee considered a report from the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment (Item 6 in the minute book) regarding an application for clay extraction in Michelmersh.

The Officer introduced and summarised the report, highlighting a number of key aspects of the application. It was confirmed that a revised condition of the proposal was sought, whereby extraction at School House Field should take no more than six weeks, dependent on the weather (para 5, integral appendix B refers).

The views of the local County Councillor, (Councillor Gibson) was outlined. It was explained that he had several objections to the proposals, on the grounds of the impact on the landscape and local amenities, lack of support from locals and because it would only support the brickworks for another 10 years. Should it go ahead, his preference would also be for a reduced slope of 1:5 ratio.

The Committee received two deputations on this item:

Councillor Robert Davis (Michelmersh and Timsbury Parish Council) spoke against the application, in particular highlighting the negative impact on residents of dust and noise. He also expressed concern at the unnatural landscape that would result from the work. His primary concern related to the proposals for Hillside field and requested that a decision on this be deferred to enable further consideration. He also asked for safeguards to ensure that site restoration would be done after the completion of any work.

Steve Bowley and Paul Freeman spoke on behalf of the applicant in favour of the application. They highlighted the mitigation methods that were included in the proposals, to reduce the impact on local residents. The importance of securing the future of a business which employed 80 people was also explained; the clay proposed for extraction was the last remaining resource in the area and therefore essential to continued operation. It was confirmed that the Hillside site was not owned by the brickworks and therefore the owner would ensure restoration.

During questions of the officer, it was confirmed that it would be possible to set up a liaison panel to monitor the impact on School House field prior to work beginning on Hillside. It was also confirmed that slope stability would be monitored.

RESOLVED:

Permission for Clay extraction at School House Field and Hillside Field and restoration to agriculture, temporary storage of clay within existing quarry and restoration to agriculture including variation of conditions to enable extension of time for clay storage and restorations at Michelmersh Brick & Tile Co Ltd, Hill View Road, Michelmersh SO51 0NN (Application No:14/01234/CMAS)(Site ref:TV111) was granted subject to the conditions listed in integral Appendix B, with condition 5 amended as above.

Voting:

Favour: 12 (unanimous)

159. APPLICATION FOR ERECTION OF A NEW DETACHED TWO STOREY 6 NO. BEDROOM 'FAMILY UNIT' SIZED CHILDREN'S HOME, SERVING FOUR CHILDREN, AND ASSOCIATED BUILDING WORKS, AND CHANGE OF USE FROM FORMER PRE SCHOOL PLAY GROUP TO C2 RESIDENTIAL INSTITUTIONAL AT FORMER ANDOVER PRESCHOOL PLAY GROUP SITE, SWALLOWFIELDS, ANDOVER HAMPSHIRE SP10 5PN. (APPLICATION NO. 14/02120/HCC3N) (SITE REF: TVE063)

[Councillor Rolt removed himself from the Committee for this item, as he wished to make a deputation as the local Member]

The Committee considered a report from the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment (Item 7 in the minute book) regarding an application for a Children's Home in Andover.

The Committee were shown a location plan and site layout, it was confirmed that adequate car parking would be included. It was noted that objections had been received from members of the public concerned about the possibility of increased crime. An objection had also been received from Test Valley BC on the basis that the development would result in the loss of a community facility. The officer confirmed that the Children's Home would be a new community facility.

The Committee received three deputations on this item:

Susan Lomax and Tamara Pearcey (Manager at Cypress Lodge Care Home) spoke in favour of the application. She outlined the County Council's strategy surrounding Children's Homes and explained that all were rated as either Good or Outstanding and the children housed in them were making exceptional progress. The Homes were designed to be long term residence and sites were chosen to allow the children to become part of the community. They fostered a family environment and had proven to be very successful in other parts of the County.

Andy Pritchard (HCC, Property Services) also spoke in favour of the application. He confirmed that the site was appropriate because of its location within an established residential neighbourhood. It had been subject to considerable design consultation and was based on Cypress Lodge in Basingstoke. No adverse comments had been received from the police.

Councillor Tim Rolt (Local County Councillor) spoke on behalf of local residents to express concerns that the Home would become a magnet for undesirable elements in society.

The Committee questioned mitigation measures in place to avoid any adverse impact on crime and disorder. Using the example of Cypress Lodge, it was explained that a high adult to child ratio and an open, supportive atmosphere with clear boundaries ensured that there were very few problems. Furthermore, children were actively encouraged to be part of the positive relationship between the Home and local residents. Members of the Committee accepted that the fear of crime was important, but also noted that the development was an important element of the County Council's strategy to look after vulnerable children.

RESOLVED:

Planning permission in respect of erection of a new detached two storey 6 no. bedroom 'Family Unit' sized children's home, serving four children, and associated building works, and change of use from Former Pre School Play Group to C2 Residential Institutional at Former Andover Pre-School Play Group Site, Swallowfields, Andover Hampshire SP10 5PN. (Application No. 14/02120/HCC3N) (Site Ref: TVE063) was approved for the above reasons, subject to the conditions listed in integral Appendix B.

Voting:

Favour: 11

Abstention: 1 (Cllr Tim Rolt was a deputation and therefore did not vote on this item)

Councillor R McIntosh
Chairman
11 February 2015