

PLANNING COMMITTEE WORKING GROUP held at ZOOM on WEDNESDAY 24TH AUGUST 2022 at 2.00 pm

Present: Councillor S Merifield (Chair)
Councillors R Freeman and R Pavitt

Officers in attendance: N Brown (Development Manager), D Hermitage (Director of Planning), A Lindsell (Democratic Services Officer) and P Swarn (Lawyer)

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no apologies for absence or declarations of interest.

2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 25 July 2022 were approved as an accurate record.

3 MEMBER TRAINING PROGRAMME UPDATE

The Development Manager shared the revised Members Training Schedule 2022/23:

When	Theme	Provider	Format
Late September 22	Solar Farms	NB/DH	2 Hour Session
29.9.22	Committee Tour	Planning Team	Day Tour
October 22	Appeal Costs in Decision Making	External barrister	2 Hour Session
November 22	SUDS & Water Infrastructure	ECC SUDS Team/Green Infrastructure	Half Day Workshop
Autumn 22	Reg 18/Tilted Balance	PAS	Half day Workshop
January 23	Biodiversity (inc. BNG)	Place Services Ecology (tbc)	Half day Workshop
February 23	Viability	tbc	Half day Workshop
March 23	Highways	ECC Highways	Bite Size (1 Hour Session)

Councillor Freeman said that he would welcome additional training on challenging decisions, and said that the High Court could overturn Planning Inspectorate decisions.

The Director of Planning said that challenging decisions could be addressed when the barrister was delivering the Appeal Costs in Decision Making training.

The Development Manager said that they aimed to allow Parish Councils to also attend the Solar Farms, SUDS and Water Infrastructure and Viability training sessions and that much of the training sessions would be held virtually to maximise the potential for attendance.

The Director of Planning said that it would be useful to have Parish Council leads attend the legal challenge training and increase understanding at their level.

The Chair said that it would be helpful to share the training schedule and dates as early as possible with Members to maximise attendance.

The Development Manager said that the 2022 training dates needed to be finalised and circulated as a priority.

The Chair said the Helena Romanes School application was coming forward again with Department For Education funding.

The Director of Planning said that he had offered them dates in early October.

The Development Manager said that the appeal was underway and that both processes would be addressed simultaneously.

4 **DEPARTMENT FOR LEVELLING UP, HOUSING AND COMMUNITIES UPDATE**

The Director of Planning said that the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities had written to Uttlesford District Council at the end of July, reminding the Council that they were designated and asking them to submit an action plan for the incoming Secretary of State.

He had shared this information with the Informal Cabinet Briefing who agreed that he submits an action plan working with Councillors Merifield and Evans. The plan would be based on all the work currently being undertaken and is required to reach DLUHC by 5 September 2022.

5 **PLANNING COMMITTEE WORKING GROUP MEETING DATES**

The Development Manager said that the protocol of how to work with increasing involvement with Parish Councils, which was drafted in 2020, had been on the backburner and required revision.

He said that the Director of Planning and the Planning Advisory Service needed to review the protocol before it came to PCWG for consideration in October and then Planning Committee in November.

Due to time constraints it was agreed that the next meeting of the PCWG would be in six weeks, on 5 October 2022.

Councillor Freeman said that it was very important to involve Parish Councils and ward Members.

The Development Manager said that the protocol could be used when working with developers and encouraged parishes to get involved without prejudice.

The Chair said that she had asked for all Planning Committee Members to receive notification of all major appeals decisions.

The Director of Planning said that the first S62a decision had just been received and that the Government had updated their policy only the day before.

The Development Manager suggested that the one site visit to Little Dunmow on 30th August was scheduled for 10:30am. The Chair submitted her apologies for the site visit.

The meeting ended at 2:23pm.