

Sandy Town Council

Minutes of a meeting of the Development Scrutiny Committee of Sandy Town Council which was held in the Council Chamber at 10, Cambridge Road, Sandy, Bedfordshire on Monday 1 September 2014 commencing at 6.30pm

Present: Cllrs J Ali, T Cole, M Groom, W Jackson, M Pettitt (Chair), D Sharman, K Sharp, S Sutton and one vacancy

Absent: Cllr M Runchman

In Cllrs Aldis and Butterfield, Town Clerk, Anne Elliott-Flockhart

attendance: (Administrator), Mr C Arthey and Mr N Street from Axiom Energy Group and one member of the public

1 Apologies (38-2014/15)

Cllr Runchman had submitted apologies for absence. Cllrs Sharp and Ali submitted apologies for their anticipated lateness.

2 Declarations of interest (39-2014/15)

i) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests - none

ii) Other Interests – none

3 Presentation from the Axiom Energy Group (40-2014/15)

Cllr Pettitt introduced Mr Arthey and Mr Street who attended from the Axiom Energy Group to give a presentation on planning application CB/14/02884/FULL for a proposed Solar Park at Fernbury Farm, Tempsford Road, Everton, Sandy, Beds. After the presentation there was an opportunity for Councillors to ask questions. Councillors were concerned that as these plans were for phase 2 of the Solar Park that there would be a phase 3, to which the answer was a guaranteed no. The solar panels will be static not tracking so no noise will ensue. There will be cooling fans in the inverter cabins but noise can only be heard if you're within 100m of the cabins. Axiom are leasing the land from the Pym family for a period of 25 years. Axiom like to encourage biodiversity and as such put sheep on the land to maintain the grass, they also put bat and bird boxes around the site. There will be a farm manager to monitor the site and there will be some technical maintenance. The energy supplied by the solar park will be equivalent to 12 wind turbines.

Cllrs Jackson and Ali arrived during the presentation.

Mr Arthey and Mr Street left after their presentation and the Councillors debated the application.

RESOLVED to make no objections as there will be no adverse impact on Sandy and solar panels are preferable to wind turbines.

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4 Planning Applications (41-2014/15)

The following applications submitted for comment by Central Bedfordshire Council were reviewed and comments agreed.

07.08.14	CB/14/02852/ FULL Mr C Goll 7 Orchard Road Beeston Sandy SG19 1PJ	Ground floor extension to front at 7 Orchard Road, Beeston, Sandy, Beds. RESOLVED to make no objections to this application though it was noted that it would mean losing a car park space on the drive.
11.08.14	CB/14/03052/ FULL Mr & Mrs Woodroffe 19 Brickhill Road Sandy SG19 1JH	Single floor rear extension at 19 Brickhill Road, Sandy, Beds RESOLVED to make no objections to this application as it would have no adverse impact on the street scene.
15.08.14	CB/14/02810/ FULL Mrs I Barham 22 Peels Place Sandy SG19 1BE	Porch to front at 22 Peels Place, Sandy, Beds. RESOLVED to make no objections to this planning application as it would not detract from the street scene.

5 Late Planning Applications (42-2014/15)

The following late applications recently submitted for comment by Central Bedfordshire Council were reviewed and comments agreed otherwise the Town Council would lose the opportunity to comment.

22.08.14	CB/14/02777/LB 52 London Road Sandy SG19 1HA	Listed Building: Refurbish & alter existing building for modern residential accommodation. RESOLVED to make no objection and support this application as it means retention of a Grade 2 listed building as a residential property.
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22.08.14	CB/14/03134/ ADV Tesco Stores Ltd Tesco House Delamare Road Cheshunt EN8 9SL	Advertisement:free standing advertisement and directional signage at Tesco Stores, New Road, Sandy, Beds. RESOLVED to make no objections to this application as all signs are within the Tesco site.
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6 Minutes of previous meeting (43-2014/15)

RESOLVED to approve the minutes of meeting of the Development Scrutiny Committee held on Monday 4 August 2014 as a correct record of proceedings.

7 Items for Information (44-2014/15)

Members noted that Central Bedfordshire Council had approved the application for temporary siting for a period of 12 months for a timber clad office at 64 High Road, Beeston. With the condition that 'permission is limited to a temporary period of 12 months from the date of approval. Thereafter the building hereby approved shall be removed from the site and the land re-instated to its former condition, unless before that date the Local Planning Authority has granted permission for its retention.'

Cllr Sharp arrived at this point.

Members noted that CBC had refused permission for the application for roller shutters to the front and rear door of ground floor retail unit at 25 High Street, Sandy, which the committee had resolved no objections to. The proprietor was in attendance at this meeting to ask Sandy Town Council if they would support her if she appealed the decision. Members were concerned that to have no shutters on this business would encourage crime in Sandy and not deter it as CBC suggested. Therefore they would be happy to support the applicant in her appeal. Cllr Pettitt volunteered to attend the appeal hearing and speak if his diary permitted.