

Dear Sir / Madam,

I am to inform you that a meeting of the **ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE** will be held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, on **WEDNESDAY, 29th MAY 2013 at 7.15 p.m.**

Yours faithfully,

Town Clerk.

AGENDA

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

To receive apologies for absence.

2. **MEMBERS' DISPENSATIONS**

To consider written requests for dispensations from members who have declared interests under Disclosable or Non-Disclosable pecuniary interests – Section 33 of the 2011 Localism Act.

3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

To notify of any items that appear in the agenda in which you may have an interest that has not been recorded in the Members Register of Interests.

4. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

Members of the public are permitted to make representations, ask questions and give evidence in respect of any item of business included in the agenda. Questions will not be received by the Council which are in furtherance of a person's individual circumstances or which are about a matter where there is a right of appeal to the courts, a tribunal or government minister. A question will not be received by the Council where the issue it concerns has been the subject of a decision of the Council in the last six months.

5. **MINUTES**

To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Environment Committee held on the 10th April 2013.

... 6. **ALLOTMENTS REPORT**

To consider the attached report from the Works Manager for the seven weeks ended the 19th May 2013.

... 7. **ENVIRONMENT REPORT**

To consider the attached report from the Works Manager and the Environment Officer for the seven weeks ended the 16th May 2013

... 8. **BUS SHELTER REFURBISHMENT**

To consider the attached report from the Works Manager.

9. **GRANTS OF GRAVE SPACE**

To report that the undermentioned grant of grave space has been issued:

West Cemetery

Grave No. R 31 Doreen Holt

Grave No. I 127 Mary Redhead

Grave No. R 116 Craig Johnson and Victoria James

... 10. **JOHN MEYNELL FUNERAL SERVICE – SIGNAGE**

To consider a request from John Meynell Funeral Services to erect a sign on the grass verge at the entrance to the Cemetery.

... 11. **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE**

To consider the attached report from the Town Clerk and Corporate and Policy Officer.

... 12 **LORRY PARK**

To consider the attached report from the Town Clerk.

13. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

(1) To consider the undermentioned planning applications:-

(a) Erection and display of internally illuminated 2 No. fascia signs – 1 projecting sign and ATM collar signage – Halifax – 58 Beveridge Way, Newton Aycliffe.

(b) Erection of conservatory to the rear – 2 Cheltenham Way, Newton Aycliffe.

(c) Installation of pitched roof over existing flat roof – 10 Wycliffe Close, Newton Aycliffe.

(2) To receive for information the undermentioned planning applications, prior notice of which has been circulated to all Members of the Council. Durham County Council have been notified of the listed comments on each application:-

(a) Erection of porch to front and single storey extension to rear – 4 Hickstead Rise, Newton Aycliffe.

No objections.

- (b) Outline application to demolish existing buildings and construct 7 No. houses (appearance reserved for future consideration) Bluebell Filling Station, Greenfield Way.

The Town Council would have no objection to the proposal for outline planning permission, however, they would like to note that there may be future highway issues on an already busy road and junction with the proposed future housing development planned for Eldon Whins on the other side of Middridge Lane from this development. It is expected that part of the development on Eldon Whins will include the construction of a roundabout at the junction of Middridge Lane and the C35 (i.e. near the location of the above application).

- (c) Car park extension to provide 27 additional car parking spaces at 3M (UK) Ltd. – Heighington Lane, Newton Aycliffe.

No objections.

- (d) Erection of conservatory to the rear – 14 Hickstead Rise, Newton Aycliffe.

No objections.

- (e) Conversion of existing garage to study / utility room, single storey front extension, side extension to provide garage and rear extension to provide sunroom – 15 Burnynghill Close, School Aycliffe.

The Town Council would normally object to any forward extension as it may have a detrimental impact on the street scene. However, in this instance, this is the only property without a partial forward extension or front canopy. This proposal would bring the property in line with the rest of the street. Therefore the Council would, in this instance, have no objection to the proposal.

- (f) Trimming of all overhanging branches to the common boundary of 1 No. Sycamore tree at Ashwood, The Grange, Newton Aycliffe.

The Town Council would have concerns over the cutting back of the tree in question and would object to the application. However, if the application was to be approved, the tree must be pruned in a sympathetic manner using sound arboriculture practices to ensure the shape and stability of the tree remains. The Town Council's concern is that a severe cut to one side could render the tree unstable which may lead to the tree needing to be totally removed at a future date. Any recommendations from D.C.C.'s Tree Officer must be followed for any works that may be undertaken in relation to this application.

- (g) Erection of conservatory to the rear – 35 Oaklea Mews, Aycliffe Village.

No objections.

- (h) Non-material amendment for additional window in the east facing elevation of extension – 10 Felton Close, Newton Aycliffe.

No objections.

- (i) Erection of first floor extension – 14 Durham Road, Aycliffe Village.

No objections.

- (j) Internal first floor office extension with new window arrangements at IK-PEI Ltd. – Grindon Way, Aycliffe Industrial Estate.

No objections.

- (k) Reserved matters pursuant to planning permission 7/2010/0248/DMJ (131,540 sqm of Bi, B2 and B8 floor space) including details of layout, scale, appearance and landscaping for the erection of phase 3A building with ancillary works, land south of Heighington Lane, Newton Aycliffe.

The Council would support the proposals in order to accommodate the proposed Hitachi development.

- (l) Screening option for development of Class B2 train assembly and testing facility, access roads, car parking areas, rail lines, landscaping and drainage – land at Heighington Lane, Newton Aycliffe.

The Council does not have a comment on this application and the need or otherwise for a further additional environmental assessment is left to Durham County Council to decide.

- (m) Change of use from industrial unit to gym – Unit 8, Northfield Way, Aycliffe Industrial Estate.

The Council would object to the proposal as the proposed gym falls outside the uses identified as acceptable under the local plan policy IB6.

Although the industrial estate has relied heavily on a wide range of business and manufacturing uses in the past there is a clear need to be flexible in the range of future uses for currently empty units. However, the frequency of the change of use to leisure purposes is not allowing sufficient time to test the viability and sustainability of this type of use in an industrial setting.

Although a precedent has been set with a number of change of uses from business to leisure this proposal will only create 1 full-time job. Clearly the Town Council would prefer to see this unit employing more people in an industrial use.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Councillors E. Adam, J. Atkinson, B. Blenkinsopp, R. Bowman, A.M. Chandran, Mrs. B.A. Clare, J.D. Clare, J. Clark, N. Collinson, Mrs. M. Dalton, M.A. Dalton, R.S. Fleming, I. Gray, G.C. Gray, Mrs. S. Haigh, B. Hall, K. Henderson, Mrs. I. Hewitson, J.P. Hillary, Mrs. W.P. Hillary, M. Iveson, Mrs. S.J. Iveson, W. Iveson, P. Kjenstad, Mrs. V.M. Raw, D. Summers, T. Twissell and C. Wheeler.