



ALCESTER TOWN COUNCIL

**PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING WAS HELD ON
MONDAY 16 OCTOBER 2023 AT 7PM
BY VIDEO CONFERENCE**

Alcester Town Council (ATC) are using Zoom software to facilitate the holding of online Planning Committee meetings. Planning applications may also be discussed by email meeting.

Present

Councillors M Bowe, G Forman, M Cargill, V Blake and C Neal-Sturgess

In attendance

Ms S Duran, Deputy Town Clerk and District Cllr J Harmer (later)

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT DISCRETION OF CHAIR

None.

1. Apologies

Cllr W Mills and District Cllr S Juned. Cllr K Foster was absent without apology.

2. Declarations of Interest

Cllr G Forman- Item 4b)

3. Minutes of last Meeting

Minutes of previous meeting were approved at Full Council.

4. Planning Applications

a) 23/02545/LDP- 148 Alcester Heath Alcester Warwickshire B49 5JJ.

Proposed: Certificate of lawful use (proposed) for a front porch, single storey side extension, new rear dormer window and two ancillary outbuildings. For: Mr K Murphy. *Notice issued for information only – no response required.*

Cllr G Forman left the meeting.

b) 23/02614/ADV - Oversley Mill Services, Alcester Bypass, Arrow, Warwickshire B49 6PQ.

Proposed: 5x Fascia sign; 7x Monument sign; 3x Banner

frame and mesh banner. For: Mr N Heard, Costa Coffee Limited. **NO OBJECTION**

Cllr G Forman rejoined the meeting.

5. Interim responses by ATC by email meeting

a) 23/02536/TREE- 28 High Street Alcester B49 5AB.

Proposed: Application for tree works in a Conservation Area T1 - ash - fell T2 - ash – fell. For: Ms N Edwards.

NO REPRESENTATION SUBJECT TO THE CASE OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

b) 23/02599/TREE- Henley Court Henley Street Alcester Warwickshire B49

5QX. Proposed: 1,2,3,4 - apple trees - Remove 5 - 6 - ash tree - Remove 7 - hollies

x3 - Remove 8 - holly - Removing up to 1 metre from the top of crown 9 - catoniasta

- To be reduced by 1 metre around canopy 10 - ash - Reduce by 20-30% up to 2m off

height and canopy 11 - silver birch - Reduce by 20-30% up to 2m off height and canopy

Rectangle - apple - To be reduced maximum of 1 metre around canopy. Canopy thinned

crossing branches removed. For: Mr James Swift, Swift Tree Care. **NO**

REPRESENTATION SUBJECT TO THE CASE OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

6. Notice of Decision by SDC

a) 23/02295/TREE - 51 - 53 High Street, Alcester, B49 5AF

Proposed:-T1 sycamore - Pollard by 50%. The crown spread is currently 12m wide

and approximately 10m high. We propose it to be 6m wide and 5m high after the work

has been carried out. For: Mrs V Finch, PMD Magnetics Leisure Ltd. **APPLICATION**

WITHDRAWN

b) 23/02380/TREE - The Mousetrap, School Road, Alcester, Warwickshire, B49

5DE. Proposed: -T1 Ash - Fell. T2 Magnolia - Reduce canopy from 4 metres in height

to 3 metres in height. For: Ms C Lane. **CONSENT WITH CONDITIONS**

7. Update on response to Alcester Housing Needs Survey Report 2023

It was agreed that this project would initially be taken forward by a small group of councillors from the Planning Committee with the help of the Town Clerk, Vanessa Lowe. Terms of Reference to be drafted and returned to Planning Committee for the January/February 2024 meeting. Identifying potential land in the parish will be considered afresh and ATC will approach landowners formally.

8. Alcester Neighbourhood Development Plan review

Terms of reference to be drafted in November by a working group comprising the Chair, Cllr W Mills, Committee Clerk (Sarah Duran) and the Town Clerk (Vanessa Lowe) and brought back to January 2024 Planning Committee meeting.

A good response to the advert in the newsletter and social media campaign has been received from residents volunteering to participate in the review. Closing date to register interest is 31 October 2023.

A Summary booklet of the policies from the ANDP has been drafted for ease of reference and will be printed for councillors and volunteers. An electronic copy will be uploaded to the website.

9. Stratford-on-Avon District Council - Peer Challenge Review of the planning process.

The Chair and Vanessa Lowe attended an online workshop on Thursday 12 October 2023. The session was managed by three councillors from different areas nationally. The question posed was what do you think about the Planning Department at SDC? Common themes emerged which included the requirement for the provision of better training, difficulty in communicating with Case Officers by email or phone, lack of consideration for parish/town councils, perception that they 'get in the way' of the Case Officers work- that Case Officers are under time pressures.

In 2022 ATC responded to 86 applications with 5 queries referred to Case Officers (6%). In 2023, to date, ATC has responded to 83 applications with 19 queries referred (23%).

Responses from the workshop will form the basis of a report which will go to SDC but will not be seen by participants.

10. Stratford-on-Avon District Council- Consultation on Draft Revised Statement of Community Involvement.

Open from 21 September- 5pm on 3 November 2023. The District Council is updating its Statement of Community Involvement (SCI). Revision is needed to remove adjustments made for Covid restrictions.

Planning decisions affect land and buildings, so it is important that local communities, businesses and other interested parties have the opportunity to engage in the processes for plan-making and development management decision-making. An SCI identifies how and when they can be involved.

It was agreed that the revisions were acceptable. The Committee Clerk recommended that all hyperlinks should open in a new window and suggested the SCI could also reference the review process for NDPs. Committee Clerk to send response.

11. Next update meeting with Bloor Homes-

Monday 20 November at 6.30pm on Zoom.

12. Proposition to Full Council

None.

13. Correspondence

a) SDC, Ruth Rose, Forestry and Landscape Officer- Acknowledgement of Town Council's intention to send a standard response to TREE application consultations of 'No Representation subject to the Case Officer's recommendation'. *It was agreed to put a statement about the standard response on the website.*

b) SDC, Planning Enforcement- Explanation of current policy regarding action.

c) South Worcestershire Councils- SWDP Review Update. The South Worcestershire Development Plan Review has been submitted to The Planning Inspectorate for independent examination. *Noted.*

14. Urgent Business at the discretion of the Chair

None.

15. Date and time of next meeting

Monday 20 November at 7pm via Zoom.

