

**NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**BUSINESS, REGENERATION AND PLANNING  
OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY PANEL**

**7<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

A meeting of the Business, Regeneration and Planning Overview & Scrutiny Panel was held on Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> December 2023 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall Nuneaton. This meeting was recorded for later publication on the Council's website.

**Present**

Councillors J. Clarke (Chair)

Councillors: C. Cape, J. Coventry-Moreton, M. Green, J. Hartshorn, G. Moreton, and M. Wright.

Apologies: Councillors N. Phillips and M. Walsh.

**PART I – PUBLIC BUSINESS**

BRP 18 **Minutes**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Business, Regeneration and Planning Overview and Scrutiny Panel meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2023 be approved and duly signed by the Chairman.

BRP 19 **Declarations of Interest**

**RESOLVED** that the declarations of interest are as set out in the Schedule attached to these minutes.

BRP 20 **Questions to Cabinet**

The Portfolio Holder for Business and Regeneration (Councillor K. Wilson) and the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Regulation (Councillor R. Smith) were in attendance. No questions were asked.

BRP 21 **Review of Planning Practices and Procedures**

A report of the Assistant Director – Planning provided the Panel with an opportunity to scrutinise the effectiveness of the measures being put in place in the Planning Service, in relation to the approval of extensions to properties to ensure they meet legislative and Policy requirements.

The Panel discussed and asked questions on the following:

- Members will get an opportunity to preview the new software.
- Consultation with neighbours – the new system should assist and improve this process (which is currently manual).
- NBBC do more than is required by legislation in relation to consultation/notifying about applications.

**RESOLVED** that

- a) the report be noted;
- b) it be noted that the Council is committed to improving the planning service through an ongoing restructure and investment in the planning service; and
- c) the specific measures being put in place to avoid similar costs against the Council in the future be noted.

**BRP 22 Councillor Call for Action – The Kingsholme Site, Nuneaton**

The Assistant Director - Planning submitted a briefing note to provide the Panel with background information in respect of the Kingsholme Public House, and an update on the situation in the light of the Councillor Call for Action that had been received. Councillors were advised that a demolition notice had been received by the site owner to the Planning Department. The completed Call for Action Request form was available to Panel members at the meeting, along with the previous Councillor Call for Action form that had been submitted in 2010.

The Panel discussed and asked questions on the following:

- Powers under Planning Legislation were discussed.
- Landowner has submitted an application to demolish the building. Application was permitted on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2023.
- The Agent for the landowner has confirmed they are keen to demolish.
- No conditions, but building regulations need to be complied with under building control.

**RESOLVED** that

- a) the contents of the report be noted; and
- b) the Panel and the Members who submitted the Call for Action be kept up to date, particularly in relation to demolition information and dates.

**BRP 23 Update on Development in Nuneaton Town Centre**

The Head of Regeneration and Estates updated Members on the continued work to promote and bring forward development opportunities in Nuneaton Town Centre.

**Public Speaker: Councillor K. Kondakor**

The Panel discussed and asked questions on the following:

- Schedule for the Hotel, including funding.
- Grayson Place, including the design of the carpark, disabled access and lifts. Carparking would be a planning issue.
- Leisure operator for the Cinema.
- Debenhams building – flooding concerns and if there is a need for parking.
- Bridge to Living – flood alleviation needs consideration.
- Professional advice was sought in relation to flooding and flood alleviation.
- Vicarage Street development and the rationale behind family homes being built in this area. Professional Consultants provided advice. The priority was bringing derelict land into use.
- Local Authorities and Severn Trent are involved with re-drawing flood maps.

**RESOLVED** that the contents of the report be noted.

**BRP 24 Town Centres Update**

The Assistant Director – Economy provided a report which advised Members on the Q2 2023-24 town centre KPI's, including information relation to footfall, car parking revenues and market stalls.

**Public Speaker: Councillor K. Kondakor**

The Panel discussed and asked questions on the following:

- Footfall is still behind pre-covid figures, but the time spent by people in town is up.
- Parking revenue was discussed alongside the use of RingGo and looking at payment methods including contactless, new parking machines and ANPR. The flexibility of car park charges and times was also discussed.
- Encouraging the use of public transport and cycling into the Town Centres, including the use of shared zones and busses dropping people off at different parts of the town (subject to WCC approval).
- Toilets – signage needs improvement (especially in Bedworth) and discussions around Changing Places toilets and locations.
- Markets – including retaining and encouraging new traders and continuing to work on increasing footfall. It was recognised the way people shop is changing. The reconfiguration of Bedworth market is being looked into.

**RESOLVED** that the contents of the report be noted.

BRP 25 **Forward Plan**

The Forward Plan showing the key decisions that will be made in the four months commencing 1<sup>st</sup> December 2023, was provided to the Panel for information.

**RESOLVED** that the Forward Plan be noted.

BRP 26 **Work Programme 2023-2024**

The Panel were presented with the Work Programme for the municipal year 2023-2024. There is likely to be a joint Overview and Scrutiny Panel agenda item relating to S. 106 payments at the February Business, Regeneration and Planning OSP, where Members of the Housing, Environment and Health OSP will be invited to attend.

**RESOLVED** that the 2023-2024 work programme be noted.

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Chair

## Business, Regeneration and Planning Overview and Scrutiny Panel - Schedule of Declarations of Interests – 2023/2024

	Name of Councillor	Disclosable Pecuniary Interest	Other Personal Interest	Dispensation
	General dispensations granted to all members under s.33 of the Localism Act 2011			Granted to all members of the Council in the areas of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Housing matters</li> <li>- Statutory sick pay under Part XI of the Social Security Contributions and Benefits Act 1992</li> <li>- An allowance, payment given to members</li> <li>- An indemnity given to members</li> <li>- Any ceremonial honour given to members</li> <li>- Setting council tax or a precept under the Local Government Finance Act 1992</li> <li>- Planning and Licensing matters</li> <li>- Allotments</li> <li>- Local Enterprise Partnership</li> </ul>
	C. Cape	Director of Capability Coaching and Consultancy Ltd.	Member of the following Outside Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Armed Forces Covenant Meeting</li> </ul>	
	J. Clarke	Employed by Marcus Jones MP	County Councillor W.C.C. Nuneaton Conservative Association; Deputy Chairman Officer of the Abbey Preceptory No.541 - Nuneaton	
	J. Coventry-Moreton	School Receptionist – St Nicholas Chamberlain School, Bedworth	Share in rental dwelling at Sealand Drive, Bedworth and Tresilian Road, Bedworth.	
	M. Green	Employed by Horiba Mira – Engineering Technician	Chair of Education Standards Committee – St Thomas More School. School Appeals Panel Member Our Lady of the Angels Church. President – St Vincent De Paul Society Nuneaton. Director – Holy Spirit Catholic Multi Academy Company. Member of the George Eliot Fellowship Member of Other Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Friendship Project for Children.</li> <li>• Nuneaton Education Strategy Group</li> </ul>	
	J. Hartshorn	Employed by Asda	Member of Nuneaton	

	<b>Name of Councillor</b>	<b>Disclosable Pecuniary Interest</b>	<b>Other Personal Interest</b>	<b>Dispensation</b>
		Nuneaton	Conservatives	
	G. Moreton	Member of School Appeals Panels at Warwickshire County Council	Share in rental dwellings at Sealand Drive, Bedworth and Tresillian Road, Exhall.  Member on the following Outside Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bedworth Neighbourhood Watch Committee</li> </ul>	
	N. Phillips (Vice-Chair)	Employee of DWP	Member of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nuneaton Labour CLP</li> <li>• The Fabian Society</li> <li>• The George Eliot Society</li> <li>• The PCS Union</li> <li>• Central Credit Union</li> <li>• Stockingford Sports and Allotment Club</li> <li>• Haunchwood Sports and Social Club</li> </ul>	
	M. Walsh (Chair)	Employed by MacInnes Tooling Ltd. – UK Sales Manager		
	M. Wright			