



AGENDA

Chairman's Note: *From the start of the pre-election period ('purdah'), the council must comply with restrictions outlined in Section 2 of the Local Government Act 1986. In addition a Code of Recommended Practice on Local Authority Publicity published in 2011 makes clear that particular care should be taken in periods of heightened sensitivity, such as in the run up to an election. The Act defines publicity as "any communication, in whatever form, addressed to the public at large or to a section of the public."*

Generally, the Act says that we should "not publish any material which, in whole, or in part, appears to be designed to affect public support for a political party." The Code of Practice recommends that councils should generally not issue any publicity which seeks to influence voters and that publicity relating to individuals involved directly in the election should not be published unless expressly authorised by statute.

In relation to decision making within the council, the position remains that it is 'business as usual' unless there are very good reasons why this should not be the case. In the vast majority of cases, the pre-election period will have no impact on normal council business.

6. ACCEPTANCE, OR OTHERWISE, OF APOLOGIES

None to date. There is a vacancy on Planning Committee which will be filled following co-option at Council on 19 June.

Recommendation – That the information be noted.

7. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In accordance with this Council's adopted Constitution (Members' Code of Conduct) (Minute 12/May/17 refers), Members will be asked whether they have any personal or prejudicial interests in any matter on the agenda and, if so, to declare those interests at this point of the meeting. Members are reminded that a declaration can be given later in the meeting if a need arises during discussion.

8. PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING – 22 MAY 2017 – MINUTES (enclosed)

Recommendation – That the Minutes be approved as a correct record.

9. PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- (i) DM/17/01600/FPA – **38 Cleveland Road** – Two storey rear/ side extension and detached double garage (existing and proposed plans enclosed).

Extension to form extra bedroom and garden room plus garage in garden to replace existing wooden structure.

- (ii) DM/17/01630/FPA – **Barnard Castle Preparatory School, Newgate** – Alterations to drop off area including provision of new internal road, pathways and parking areas (design & access statement; existing and proposed plans enclosed).

The proposal is to extend the drop-off zone for the Prep School. The existing road will be extended to create a longer drop off route through the site promoting a safer environment for pedestrians. New woodland pathways will be formed to provide a separation from vehicles passing through the site. Crossings and traffic calming measures will be put in place to slow down traffic and designated crossing areas for pedestrians. An additional 14 parking spaces will be created, bringing the total to 43.

- (iii) DM/17/01631/LB – **Barnard Castle School** – Listed building application for internal alterations (design & access statement; existing and proposed plans enclosed).

The proposal is to make some internal amendments to the main body of Barnard Castle School which is Grade II listed. Works are proposed to the entrance to the school to provide a waiting room and public/private security door added to improve school safeguarding. There are other amendments to staff and administration areas which will involve removal of walls to create larger rooms. It is also proposed to removed some non-original timber screens at first floor.

- (iv) DM/17/01572/LB – **Unit 4 Castle Chambers 21-23 Market Place** – Listed building application for the Erection of Hanging Wall Mounted Sign (planned location and detail enclosed).

- (v) DM/17/01658/TCA – **2 Horsemarket** – T1 Sycamore – fell tree in conservation area.

The above tree works do not need permission from Durham County Council. The Council will not be approving or refusing the proposal so comments are not invited.

10. APPLICATION FOR NOTING

- (iv) DM/17/01246/FPA & DM/17/01247/LB – **Demesnes Mill Barn Cottage** – Listed building application for conversion of garage into habitable room, internal and external alterations and formation of conservatory to rear.

At the meeting on 24 April, this Planning Committee supported the application, subject to satisfactory comments from Conservation and Design regarding conservatory design and materials. Design and Conservation has no objection to the proposal (advice enclosed).

Recommendation – that the information be noted.

11. REQUEST FOR A TREE PRESERVATION ORDER (TPO) – FORMER POLICE STATION, BEDE KIRK

Pursuant to Minute 68/Nov/16 and Resources Minute 54/Jan/17, the town council applied for a TPO to protect trees on the green area fronting Harmire Road, following proposed sale of the former Police Station and adjacent green area. Email correspondence was received from DCC's South West Planning Development team that a provisional TPO had been served and objections were awaited before it could be confirmed. The provisional TPO would last for 6 months, so confirmation was expected in September.

Recommendation – that the information be noted.

All applications can be viewed on line via Durham County Council's Planning Application System: <http://publicaccess.durham.gov.uk/online-applications/>