

**BARNARD CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL
SPECIAL PLANNING COMMITTEE**

11 NOVEMBER 2013

PRESENT:- Councillor Harrison (Town Mayor)(in the Chair); Councillors Blissett, Kinch and Watson; Councillor Deacon.

Officers:- Mr King (Clerk) and Mrs Plant (Assistant Clerk)(Minutes 57 to 59 inclusive).

57. ACCEPTANCE, OR OTHERWISE, OF APOLOGIES – None.

58. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In accordance with this Council's adopted Code of Conduct (Minute 72(a)/Sep/12 refers), Members were asked whether they had 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 were reminded that a declaration could be given later in the meeting if a need arose during discussion.

59. DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL'S REVIEW OF THE STATEMENT OF LICENSING ACT 2003 POLICY – CONSULTATION

Submitted – A report summarising Durham County Council's consultation in respect of proposed changes to its Statement of Licensing Act 2003 Policy which aimed to achieve four licensing objectives, including the facts that, as part of the updated policy, DCC would introduce a new section about the approach the authority would take in relation to authorised licensing hours to apply to all applications for a new Premises Licence, a new Club Premises Certificate, reviews of Premises Licences or Club Premises Certificates and Provisional Statements. It was noted that the types of premises affected by the proposed change in policy included nightclubs, pubs (both food and non-food), restaurants, late night takeaways, club premises such as working men's clubs and off-licences and that the deadline for comments was 2 January 2014. It was also noted that when considering appropriate times for licensing hours, DCC would take regards to concerns expressed by residents, the licensed trade and Durham Constabulary.

Resolved – That it be recommended to the Council meeting on 2 December 2013 that the proposed changes to Durham County Council's Statement of Licensing Act 2003 Policy be approved but that concerns be expressed that it is considered that there is an insufficient staffing level available to carry out an effective licensing enforcement service.

60. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN BUDGETARY BID

Submitted – A report proposing a new item for consideration as part of the 2014/15 budget, to fund the development of a Neighbourhood Plan for Barnard Castle.

Resolved – That a new budget item to be recommended for 2014/15 of £7,500, to provide match funding for a Neighbourhood Plan, to be developed following consultation with neighbouring parishes and the County Council to determine an appropriate scope.

61. CONSULTATION ON THE PRE-SUBMISSION DRAFT LOCAL PLAN

Submitted – A report seeking recommendations from the Planning Committee to the full Council on a response to the current consultation on the Pre-Submission Draft Local Plan to be made before the deadline of 6 December 2013. It was noted that 4% of new housing and 4% of new employment allocation are envisaged for 'West Durham'. Consideration was made of whether this should be explicitly matched by provision for retail and other infrastructure services, including health and social care, which are absent from the plan. It was acknowledged that Barnard Castle is identified as one of 12 major towns in County Durham, and the only one in the south west of the county. Discussion ensued as to whether it is duly acknowledged when compared to the other eleven, in terms of infrastructure, destination and services. There was also discussion in general as to the extent to which the plan is 'sound', and whether it complies in legal terms and against national policy requirements.

Resolved – That the Clerk prepare a draft submission, based upon the points raised in debate, to recommend to the meeting of the Town Council on 2 December 2013.