

**BARNARD CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL
PLANNING COMMITTEE
15 JUNE 2015**

PRESENT: Councillor Harrison (in the Chair); Councillors Blissett, Kinch and Marshall.

Also in attendance: Councillor Deacon and one member of the press.

Officers: Mr King (Clerk) and Mrs Woodward (Deputy Clerk)

14. ACCEPTANCE OR OTHERWISE OF APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Yarker.

Resolved – That Councillor Yarker's apologies be accepted.

15. 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.

16. PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING – 1 JUNE 2015 – MINUTES

Resolved - That the Minutes be approved as a correct record.

17. PLANNING APPLICATION UPDATE

DM/15/00352/FPA & DM/15/00353/LB – County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service, Fire Station, Wilson Street.

Pursuant to Council (Minute 21 (4)/May/15 refers) and Committee Minute 8/May/15, it was reported that a formal letter of response was sent to Durham County Council Legal Services, expressing the Town Council's concerns at the planning process and determination of the application. A reply from County Council was received and circulated, finding no deficiencies in the application process.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

18. TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT ISSUE – VICTORIA ROAD/QUEEN STREET/KING STREET/BIRCH ROAD

It was reported that the Town Council had been emailed by the Office of Helen Goodman MP, regarding a resident's concerns over traffic management in Barnard Castle. The resident stated that Queen Street, King Street and Victoria Road had issues with parking and congestion and suggested Durham County Council considered a one-way system to improve traffic management. The written response from Durham County Council's Traffic Asset Manager was circulated, explaining why no action would be taken.

It was further reported that another resident had contacted the Town Council regarding the same traffic concerns and parking for residents and had requested the Committee's views on pursuing a residents' permit scheme with Durham County Council. Members discussed the complexities of residents only parking schemes in the town and that there would need to be evidence of insufficient off-street parking. Members concluded that, in their view, this was not the case.

Resolved – That the information be noted.

19. STREET FURNITURE

Pursuant to Minute 9/May/15, further clarification was given at the meeting regarding advertising (A-boards). It was reported that Durham County Council's Street Trading Policy did not cover the use of A-boards. Although the Highways Act 1980 could be used to tackle obstructions, the County Council's Highways took a proportionate, risk based approach to the placement of A-boards. Highways responded to individual complaints and addressed concerns where appropriate.

Resolved – That the information be noted.