

Report of the meeting of the **FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES** Committee held in Pannett Art Gallery, Pannett Park, Whitby on Tuesday, 11th March 2008 at 6.45pm.

Present: Councillors M D Murphy (Chair), Mrs S Boyce, T W Brown, T N Carson, Mrs H R Coughlan, T Jennison, R G Sigsworth and S R Smith (ex-officio).

Mr E N Birch, Town Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer.

Apologies: Councillors R W Broadley, Dr S M Daniels and J McEachen.

90. MINUTES

MOVED by Councillor Smith, seconded by Councillor Mrs Boyce and

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on the 12th February 2008, having been circulated, be taken as read and confirmed as a correct record.

91. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Councillor Mrs Coughlan – Agenda Item 4 – Consultation on Housing Allocations DPD`s – Land West of Stakesby Road and Land at Sneaton Castle Farm. (Personal, Non-Prejudicial).

GENERAL PURPOSES

92. CONSULTATION ON HOUSING ALLOCATIONS DPD`S (SECOND ROUND OF SUBMITTED SITES)

MOVED by Councillor Mrs Boyce, seconded by Councillor Carson and

RECOMMEND that the following comments be submitted to Scarborough Borough Council:

- a. **Map 2.1 Site 35/21, Land at Larpool Lane, Whitby.** **Object.** This is a wholly inappropriate site for any development as it opens onto a locally notorious section of Larpool Lane, with a low bridge, and a blind / narrow bend with adjacent building (Crowdy Hall) and a steep and narrow hairpin bend known as 'Danger Bank' (well named) leading to yet another winding narrow section of road. This whole length of road is totally unsuitable for any additional vehicle traffic. Further, the boundary of the proposed site adjoins part of the National Cycle Way, with the low bridge mentioned above providing one of the few road access points in the area. Housing development would detract significantly from this scenic, rural cycle path and footpath along the former rail line to Hawsker and Robin Hoods Bay. The development would be widely visible over a wide area of the National Park to the south and west and would be an isolated development well outside the traditional Whitby town limits. It would also detract significantly from two nearby Grade 2 Listed Buildings, namely Larpool Hall (one field away from the front elevation of this impressive mansion, now used as an upmarket hotel) and also the dramatic 120 feet high Larpool Viaduct (just across Larpool Lane, this disused railway viaduct now carries the National Cycle Way high across the River Esk

- b. **Map 2.2 Site 35/22 Land off Love Lane, Whitby. Object.** Whitby Town Council sees this as a creeping development which would detract from the first dramatic view of the coast when leaving Whitby. Being on the edge of Whitby Golf Course, a very high (20 feet?) safety fence of chain link would be required to protect these houses from flying golfballs. This development would also be across the track bed of the now disused Whitby to Saltburn railway line, which would limit the potential for future improvements to foot paths / cycle ways along the coastline, leading into Whitby. The National Park does not permit development across former rail lines and has protected this route from Sandsend northwards.
- c. **Map 2.5 Site 35/25 Land West of Stakesby Road and Map 2.6 Site 35/26 Land at Sneaton Castle Farm, Castle Road running through to Guisborough Road, Whitby. Support.** Whitby Town Council would prefer to see well- planned housing developed in one large area like this, rather than small infill developments on the few remaining areas of urban green space within Whitby. This is an excellent area for a large housing development, largely sheltered from view when approached from the National Park. It is a natural extension to the existing housing in the area, close to schools and shops, well-served by public transport and within walking distance of the town centre. It would also include a significant number of affordable housing units (100+?) which would make a very useful contribution to local housing needs.
- d. **Map 2.7 Site 35/27 Land adjacent No 2 Larpool Drive, Whitby. Object.** This site runs alongside Larpool Hall Drive, the main drive leading to the front elevation of Larpool Hall, a Grade 2 Listed building now used as an upmarket hotel. Any additional development here would detract significantly from the setting of this Listed Building, still mainly surrounded by open parkland. This site should be left undeveloped as a green buffer between the open green space around Larpool Hall and the very large housing development already planned for the adjacent field immediately East of this site. Again, this site leads into the Larpool Lane/Danger Bank Road which is unsuitable for any additional vehicle traffic.
- e. **Map 2.8 Site 35/28 Land at Green Lane Nursery, Green Lane, Whitby. Object.** Whitby Town Council is totally opposed to any development on this site, and believes it would contravene SBC's bio-diversity policies. It is a significant part of Whitby's only remaining Green Wedge and wildlife corridor, connecting the protected rural coastal zone to the river and town centre. The adjoining Spital Beck area is reserved for public recreation and nature conservation. This proposed development site is also immediately adjacent to (and uphill of) a designated Site of Importance for Nature Conservation, which includes the only remaining example of estuarine salt marsh in 100 miles of coastline from the Tees to the Humber estuary. Any development would create additional disturbance to habitat-specific wildlife, and the runoff from the site would also pollute and/or alter the pH (acidity/alkalinity level) of this designated SINC.

Note: Map 2.3 Site 35/23 Land known as “Upper Baulbyes” off Shackleton Close, Whitby and Map 2.4 Site 35/24 Land at Prospect Farm, Mayfield Road, Whitby were omitted from the document. They will be discussed at the Full Council meeting on Tuesday 1st April 2008.

93. CONSULTATION REGARDING PROPOSED “NO WAITING AT ANY TIME” PARKING RESTRICTIONS (DOUBLE YELLOW LINES) – WALKER STREET & NEWTON STREET, WHITBY

MOVED by Councillor Sigsworth, seconded by Councillor Brown and

RECOMMEND that Whitby Town Council does not support any of the proposals to implement a “No Waiting At Any Time” Restrictions at any of the locations outlines in the document. However, it would support an extension of the “No Waiting At Any Time” (double yellow lines) along Walker Street from the existing yellow lines 2.2 metres past the Community Centre building. The Council would also support “Restricted Parking – Residents Only” signage being erected in both streets.

FINANCE

94. EMPLOYMENT OF CLERKS

MOVED by Councillor Mrs Boyce, seconded by Councillor Carson and

RECOMMEND that it is confirmed that the Clerks are employed by Whitby Town Council (required for External Audit purposes).

95. ALLOCATION OF RESERVE FUNDS FOR FY 2007/8

MOVED by Councillor Mrs Boyce, seconded by Councillor Smith and

RECOMMEND that the Allocation of Reserve Funds for FY 2007/8 is as follows:

CCTV Camera Fund	£ 3,000
Allotments (Drainage) Fund	£ 9,000
Ruswarp Toilets	£ 6,000
PAG Roof Replacement Fund	£10,000

96. FINANCIAL REPORT

MOVED by Councillor Jennison, seconded by Councillor Sigsworth and

RECOMMEND that the Financial Report be received.

97. The Town Clerk informed the members present of the following communications:

- a. Letter from North York Moors National Parks Authority (NYMNP) advising that the application for the creation of a 400 space park and ride facility would be discussed at a NYMNP Planning Committee meeting on Thursday 13th March 2008 at 10am at The Old Vicarage, Bondgate, Helmsley, York.

- b. A request had been received from St John Harris, Overview & Scrutiny Manager, Legal & Democratic Services, Scarborough Borough Council for a Task Group from the Projects & Partnerships Overview & Scrutiny Committee (Chaired by Cllr Mike Cockerill) to address the Town Council and seek members views regarding a review of the governance arrangements of the Borough`s harbours in response to the Government`s Municipal Ports Review report. The Town Clerk would arrange a meeting in due course.

98. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Finance and General Purpose Committee will take place on Tuesday 8th April 2008 at 6.45pm in the Pannett Art Gallery, Pannett Park.