

Agenda item: LD 07/21

WOUGHTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Planning, Licencing & Development Committee

Tuesday 11th May 2021

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

To agree submissions for the licencing applications as listed in the main body of this report.

RECOMMENDATION:

- 1. That the committee notes this report.**
- 2. That the committee notes and views with regard to the applications noted.**
- 3. That the Council Manager passes any feedback to MKC Licencing.**

MAIN ISSUES AND CONSIDERATIONS:

There are two applications that have come through since the last meeting of this committee, both in the same name but for two different vans:

Mister Softee (N191 ORP) on 22/04/21 for 1 ice cream van to trade Boroughwide for the following times: Monday to Sunday 15:00 to 18:00

Mister Softee (T406 POA) on 20/04/21 for 1 ice cream van to trade Boroughwide for the following times: Monday – Sunday 16:00 – 22:00

The usual rules with regard to street trading apply, with limitations on timings and placements, especially with regard to schools.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

None.

STAFFING IMPLICATIONS:

None.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

None.

BACKGROUND PAPERS:

None.

AUTHOR

Steve McNay – Council Manager

Agenda item: LD 08/21

WOUGHTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Planning, Licencing & Development Committee

Tuesday 11th May 2021

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

To inform committee of a consultation relating to communications infrastructure.

RECOMMENDATION:

- 1. That committee notes this report and attached papers.**
- 2. That committee considers any response.**
- 3. That the Council Manager responds to the consultation in line with committee feedback, if considered appropriate.**

MAIN ISSUES AND CONSIDERATIONS:

NALC have sent through a document (attached) requesting feedback on the policies relating to electronic communications infrastructure – cabinets, masts, receivers, and transmitters, etc.

The consultation is a technical one, looking to make changes to the General Permitted Development orders, specifically around 5G and mobile communications.

The consultation and proposed changes are highly technical in nature and beyond the competence of the Council Manager or other WCC Officers, however the proposals in brief appear to look to enable development at relatively small scale without the need for additional permissions, such as:

- Allowing small comms cabinets to be placed in land that is considered under Article 2(3) (this is areas of natural beauty, national parks, conservation areas, etc.)
- Limited increases to the width of the base and to the height of existing masts, to strengthen and increase usage.
- Reduce the need for prior approval for masts and equipment in certain areas (e.g. alongside highways and for smaller masts)
- Increase the number and increase the height of monopoles outside Article 2(3) areas that do not require prior approval.

This is an overview of the proposal, based upon a position paper provided by NALC. NALC have also explained the position that they will take in responding to this consultation, whilst also asking councils to respond to them. The recommendations from NALC include:

- A change of policy to require masts of all heights to be subject to planning permission and consultation with local councils (i.e. town, parish and community councils).

- Use of existing sites and other existing infrastructure (such as motorway gantries) to provide equipment, rather than simply unfettered provision of masts.
- Monitoring of health impacts as the network is expanded.
- Concern regarding balancing the rural access needed to protection of the green environment – don't chop down trees to put masts up.
- Ensuring new build houses are equipped to take fibre broadband.

Please note that the full recommendations are in the attached NALC paper – the notes above are a reduced version of those that may lose something in translation.

Due to the complexities of this proposal, the Council Manager suggests that members of this committee, if so inclined, read the documentation, the online papers and the submission form and feedback any views within the next week (submissions are requested by NALC before 5pm on 21st May). However, it is also acknowledged that due to the specialist nature of this consultation, it may not be appropriate for WCC to provide a submission at all.

Alternatively, councillors may choose to submit *individual* responses directly through the government portal (please note that these should not be submitted on behalf of WCC without agreement of this committee).

It should be noted that the consultation closes on 14th June, so any responses will NOT be able to return to this committee, but could, if necessary, be agreed at Full Council on 8th June or via delegated decision to the Council Manager to collate and submit.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

None that are noted at this time.

STAFFING IMPLICATIONS:

None that are noted at this time.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

This is an area which has previously caused some consternation locally, specifically relating to the installation of equipment on Peartree Bridge. It is not thought that the proposals that are contained within this paper will impact specifically upon the parish (more around rural areas) but the concerns relevant to us are covered in the recommendations that NALC have already determined.

BACKGROUND PAPERS:

PC4-21 Electronic communications infrastructure.

Full documentation and consultation documentation is available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/changes-to-permitted-development-rights-for-electronic-communications-infrastructure-technical-consultation>

AUTHOR

Steve McNay – Council Manager

Agenda item; LD 09/21

WOUGHTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Planning, Licencing & Development Committee

Tuesday 11th May 2021

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

To consider the membership, focus and leadership of this committee for the council year 2021/22.

RECOMMENDATION:

- 1. That committee notes this report.**
- 2. That committee notes the changes to the committee membership, as agreed at the Annual Meeting on 4th May 2021.**
- 3. That committee considers priority areas for this committee for the council year, for agreement at the meeting currently planned for 15th June 2021.**

MAIN ISSUES AND CONSIDERATIONS:

The Planning, Licensing and Development Committee was created during the last council year, operating from May 2020. The committee has only ever met virtually (due to the pandemic and ongoing restrictions on gatherings) and over the past year has led on almost 60 different applications, policy discussions, position papers and more.

The committee was agreed due to several factors:

- There was no oversight within the council for planning issues, which was considered something that needed to be managed more effectively.
- That with renewal (or regeneration) on the table, it was likely that there were going to be significant issues around how this impacted locally and having a committee to oversee this work would be essential.
- That there were a number of other areas where policy, focus and additional work was suggested, which included housing (council housing and repairs, private sector housing including HMO's, etc.) which would fall within the wider purview of this committee.

The committee has achieved these aims, providing oversight of planning applications (up to and including representation at Development Control Committee), licensing applications (including feedback to applicants), contributions to consultations on policy documents (such as the expansion areas) and provision of papers relating to HMO provision and its impact.

One concern that has arisen was that if a member was unable to attend a meeting, the estate they represent would be absent. In response to this, changes were submitted to the Terms of Reference, stating that there would be 'deputies' from the

estates who would stand in if members were not in attendance. There remains a 'one vote per estate' rule (so for example, Cllr A is the member for Beanhill, with Cllr B the deputy for Beanhill. If Cllr A is in attendance, they would vote. However, if Cllr A were unable to attend, their vote would pass to Cllr B).

The question of priorities for this committee is also one to be considered. The WCC Service Plan has only two elements that relate directly to the committee, which are:

- Ensuring that planning issues are communicated and recorded effectively within the WCC website (currently, there is nothing other than the committee papers which cover the legalities, but are not as transparent or inclusive as they could be), and,
- Ensuring a strong resident voice within any renewal discussions. This specifically links to 'Estate Panels' which are part of the renewal strategy and ensuring that if only limited seats within these panels (likely) that we ensure the wider community is still able to be heard.

It may be that these two issues are sufficient as priority areas – it is extremely unclear as to what is going to happen with renewal, whether the situation with tower blocks will further delay this and whether any change of leadership within the council will impact on decisions made to this point (at time of writing, the outcome of the local elections is unknown).

If there are other areas that committee would like to offer focus on, these can be submitted to the Chair / Council Manager for inclusion in any papers for the June meeting, where any 'work plan' or similar for this committee can be agreed.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

None noted at this time.

STAFFING IMPLICATIONS:

There are some staff time implications relating to the priorities within the service plan, but nothing further noted at this time.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

None noted at this time.

BACKGROUND PAPERS:

Planning, Licensing and Development Committee Terms of Reference.

AUTHOR

Steve McNay – Council Manager