

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

QUARTERLY STATISTICS

In the fourth quarter of 2003 the number of applications received by South Cambridgeshire increased by 1% over the corresponding period in 2002. In England there was a 4% increase.

The percentage of all decisions taken within the eight week period in the District was 69% compared with 73% in England. The equivalent figure for householder development was 83% compared with the national figure of 83%.

The percentage of decisions delegated to officers in this quarter was 86%. There is no equivalent national figure but in Cambridgeshire the average figure was 88%. The Government has set a target of 90%.

The new Government targets are included in the Statistical Release. On the “excluding major and minor applications” where the Government target is 80% in eight weeks the Council achieved 77% whilst on the “minor” category where we are urged to decide 65% in eight weeks the Council achieved 54%. The more difficult target is the Government’s 60% in thirteen weeks for major applications i.e. things like the Wellcome Trust or the Northern Fringe! Here the Council achieved 29%. These last two figures represent improvements on the third quarter.

The graphs, which accompany this report, illustrate the picture in Cambridgeshire for each of these development types during the year ending 31st December 2003 and the quarter October to December 2003.

RETROSPECTIVE APPLICATIONS

In response to a recommendation from Scrutiny Committee (17th April 2003), the number of retrospective applications are to be recorded.

Thus in the fourth quarter of 2003, the number of retrospective applications submitted was 18. This represented 3.2% of all applications submitted during that quarter, a very similar proportion to the number submitted during the third quarter. Of the 16 retrospective applications which have been determined, 75% have been approved and 25% refused. During the quarter 84% of all applications were approved.

Informal officers

Since October 2003, the Council has employed two officers out of the first years Planning Delivery Grant to answer written and verbal enquiries from the public and potential applicants.

In the period 13th October 2003 to 21st April 2004 the two officers have responded to some 581 of 642 (90%) written enquiries. More than 60% have been responded to within 2 weeks and 80% within 3 weeks.

This has represented an improvement to the service to the public by affording some priority to these enquiries and by the introduction of a computer system to monitor progress on each such enquiry.

ENFORCEMENT STATISTICS (Quarter ending December 2003)

Statistics for the previous quarter are in brackets.

Enforcement Notices	5	(1)
Stop Notices	2	(1)
Planning Contravention Notices	6	(0)
Breach of Condition Notices	0	(0)
Amenity Notices	0	(0)
Number of Complaints	75	(111)
Prosecutions	3	(2)
Injunctions	1	(0)

LANDSCAPING STATISTICS (Quarter ending December 2003)

Statistics for the previous quarter are in brackets.

Applications for work on Statutorily Protected Trees

(Tree Preservation Orders and Conservation Areas)

Number of applications – Received	137	(170)
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Landscaping

Number of landscaping conditions received from D.C.	66	(81)
Number of weekly actions	333	(669)
Number of schemes submitted	64	(68)
Number of schemes finalised and approved	21	(28)
Number of landscaping conditions currently active (excluding Cambourne work)	872	(958)
Number of breach of condition notices served	3	(0)

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1986

Background papers in respect of this report for the purposes of the above Act are available for inspections in accordance with the provision of that Act:

- a) Any planning application, including plans and any accompanying letter or document from the applicant.
- b) Any letter or representation received in connection with a matter reported.
- c) Any Structure Plan, Local Plan or Policy Document referred to in a report.
- d) Any agenda, report or minutes of a meeting of the Council referred to in a report.
- e) Any other publication, document or report referred to in the report.

Files on individual items on the agenda are available as required from the following individuals:

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Mr A Moffat	(01223) 443169
Mr K Miles	(01223) 443181
Mr R Morgan	(01223) 443165
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