

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Planning Committee

12 May 2010

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PUBLIC SPEAKING AT PLANNING COMMITTEE

Purpose

1. To review public speaking at meetings of the Planning Committee and the protocol introduced at the meeting in August 2007.

Recommendations and Reasons

2. That the Planning Committee endorses the current public speaking protocol attached as Appendix 1 to the electronic version of this report on the Council's website (follow the links from www.scambs.gov.uk/meetings). The protocol has worked well during the past year.

Background

3. At its meeting on 24 May 2007, Council resolved that public speaking at Planning Committee be introduced, and that the Planning Committee be authorised to review and amend the scheme at its discretion.

Considerations

4. Public speaking at Planning Committee meetings, which includes contributions from local Members not on the Committee, the Planning Portfolio Holder and members of parish councils, has been well received generally, and has allowed applicants, their agents, and objectors to take a greater part in the planning application process. In the interests of clarity, it should be noted that questions of clarification of public speaker contributions can be asked only by committee members, not by local members. Questions of clarification must not be used as an opportunity to "cross examine" public speakers about issues not raised by them.

Options

5. The Committee has the option to endorse the current protocol, either in whole or in part or to suggest amendments.

Implications

6.

Financial	None specific
Legal	None specific
Staffing	None specific
Risk Management	None specific
Equal Opportunities	None specific
Climate Change	None specific

Consultations

7. While no specific consultations have been carried out, the Planning Committee Chairman and Vice-Chairman, Planning Portfolio Holder, Corporate Manager (Corporate Manager (Planning and New Communities)), Senior Lawyer and Head of Planning have seen advance copies of this report. The Senior Lawyer states that he is satisfied with the public speaking protocol currently in operation.

Effect on Strategic Aims

8. Public Speaking at Planning Committee meetings helps to demonstrate that South Cambridgeshire District Council is a listening council, providing a voice for local people and communities.

Background Papers: the following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:

- None

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