

Swilland and Witnesham grouped Parish Council

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MINUTES

Planning Committee Meeting
Monday 17th August 2015 at 7.15pm
in the School Room at Witnesham Baptist Church

1. Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies from Mrs Shaw, Mr Lightfoot and Mr Laughlin.

Parishioners Mr and Mrs Adams in attendance.
2. No Councillors' declarations of interest.
3. Minutes of the meeting of 10th August 2015 confirmed as true record.
4. No decisions received since last meeting though there do appear to be some issues with the SCDC website.
5. **DC/15/3067/FUL** Witnesham Nursing Home; Single storey green flat roofed extension to rear of existing property with lift and staircase via a neoyer. To house six residents single bedrooms with lounge and ancillary accommodation. To include earth works in respect of re-levelling the rear lawn. Screen on flat roof for privacy of adjoining Wear Lodge.

Previous application in 2012. Clerk to check previous Parish Council comments in regards to that application. Chairman went through plans in more detail. In addition to new living accommodation the application looks at amendments to 2012 application such as modesty screening, changes to the flat roof at the back etc. Mrs Adams (local resident) felt that the nursing home as already big enough. Chairman confirmed that from the plans there is a proposed increase from 32 to 34 FTE staff and increase of 1 additional

parking space. Mr Hindle is concerned on principle about the amount of 'hotch potch' development at this site. Application states that they are trying to modernise facilities in line with national standards by offering single bedrooms with washing facilities. Mrs Adams wants to know whether this application is a cover to add more rooms. Chairman confirmed that Parish Council are unaware if this is the case. Principle concern for Mr and Mrs Adams is the noise impact if member of staff were to take a radio out on to the new terrace, can this be prohibited? Mr Rush wanted confirmation of what exactly this application is concerning. Chairman confirmed this is re-submission concerning the new living units. Mr Hindle feels it's an over development. Mr Everett had a look at the site today and also feels it is a 'hotch potch'; he feels that it is not going to look very good. Mr Rush would like to link to our original objections and thinks that the lift shaft in particular is a poor design, Mr Hindle agrees. Mr Rush continued to say that they are adding 6 bedrooms but nothing additional to the recreation or food preparation areas. The changes of longer ramp and modern balustrade and would question if better materials could be used. Mrs Adams agrees strongly with Mr Rush's points.

Chairman's summary: We do not support this application as it is over development. However, if supported at County level we would ask that design is looked at and that control measures are put in place to look at the noise levels.

6. AOB:

Newton Hall is currently up for sale.

Mr Wilks mentioned complaints we have received about piling at Elm Cottage development. Planning committee to be conscious of possible need for piling on future applications such as this.

Response from Hilary Hanslip re: neighbourhood planning. Do we have a clear idea as to what issues we would want to explore in a plan? She suggests that we talk to others who have done it. Some discussion around need of neighbourhood plan. Mr Rush suggests that we get a copy of other plans to look at at next Planning meeting.

Meeting closed at 8:10pm

