

Planning Committee Chairman's Report 5/5/06

Whilst most of this year has been taken up with the new development most of this was done outside of the planning committee. This was far too important a matter to be dealt with by the planning committee alone. As Frank has said this development involves much more than just houses.

But council business must still go on and we have again had lots of applications for extensions, conservatories and houses. The longest running of these has been the development of the land at Willowdene. This is an empty bungalow on Denchworth Road next to the Maples.

Over the years we have had various applications for this site from 4 houses to 12 dwelling. When dwelling are mentioned this usually means flats. This is still ongoing with the latest application having 8 houses on the site.

The most unusual was for a wind turbine which was to be sited on the side of the house. We had the most letters of objection for this application as I'm sure you could guess. As yet we have not received the decision notice for this application so we don't know what the outcome will be.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone that copies of all the planning applications relating to Grove can be viewed in the Parish Council Offices upstairs, in the One Stop Shop in Wantage or on the vales web site. I tried this out myself last night and it can be done.

When an application comes before the Vale's planning committee (they call it The Development Control Committee) anyone can put their views forward. You only get 3 minutes and if there is more than 1 speaker the time may have to be shared. Even the local parish or town council where the application is situated only get 3 minutes. The Vale meeting's usually take place at the Abbey Building on Monday nights starting at about 6.30 and is open to all, so go along if you want to put forward your view. (They don't always have to be objections but can be agreeing with the application).

If you want to make a planning application you can speak to the planning deptment at the vale for advice and don't forget that not all extension or alterations need planning permission but may need building regulations so it's well worth checking before you start.

To return to the new development. We are expecting the first lot of planning applications to start arriving at the end of the year. Initially this will be outline plans which will deal mainly with the layout of the site and where the houses, shops, schools, and the community centre will be situated without any details of the buildings or what they will look like.

We will try our hardest to get things in the right places but we will need your help. There are to be further workshops and exhibitions that are open to everyone so please try to come along and help us plan the future for Grove

Thank You

June Stock

Chairman of Planning