

SOUTH HAMS DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE



Minutes of a meeting of the **South Hams Development Management Committee**
held on
Wednesday, 18th October, 2023 at **10.00 am** at the **Council Chamber - Follaton
House**

Present: **Councillors:**

Chairman Cllr Long
Vice Chairman

Cllr Abbott
Cllr Hodgson
Cllr O'Callaghan

Cllr Allen
Cllr Nix
Cllr Rake

In attendance:

Councillors:

Cllr Brazil

Cllr Hopwood (via Teams)

Officers:

Head of Development Management
Monitoring Officer (Via Teams)
Senior Democratic Services Support Officer
Senior Planning Officer
DCC Highways Officer

25.

Minutes

DM.25/23

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 13 September 2023 were confirmed as a correct record by the Committee.

26.

Declarations of Interest

DM.26/23

Members and officers were invited to declare any interests in the items of business to be considered and none were declared.

27. **Public Participation**

DM.27/23

The Chairman noted the list of members of the public, Town and Parish Council representatives, and Ward Members who had registered their wish to speak at the meeting.

28. **Planning Applications**

DM.28/23

The Committee considered the details of the planning applications prepared by the relevant Case Officers as presented in the agenda papers, and considered the comments of Town and Parish Councils, together with other representations received, which were listed within the presented agenda reports, and **RESOLVED** that:

6a) **2412/22/OPA** **Land South of Dartmouth Road at SX 771 485,**
East Alington **Parish: East Allington**

Development: READVERTISEMENT (amended description & documents) Outline application with some matters reserved for residential development & associated access

Case Officer Update: The Case Officer summarised the key issues, namely that:

- Principle of residential development
- Highways access.

The Case Officer explained the Joint Local Plan policy framework and that East Allington was a sustainable village for the purposes of Policy TTV25 and the Plan provided for 30 dwellings as the indicative housing figure. New residential development within East Allington was therefore anticipated by the Joint Local Plan. She concluded that the site was well-related to the existing settlement and an acceptable development could be secured through the Reserved Matters consent process; the proposed access was acceptable to the Highway Authority; and planning obligations would be secured through a section 106 agreement.

A member raised a concern about how housing numbers were calculated and a concern that if a dwelling were not to be counted until completion, that could result in multiple planning permissions being granted, which if progressed to completion would result in the indicative number being exceeded.

Having heard from speakers on behalf of objectors, supporters and the Parish Council together with the Ward Councillor, Members debated the application. During the debate, one Member highlighted the District's housing emergency and more houses needing to be provided including affordable houses. In terms of the site, it was he said, an appropriate site, it was on the edge of the village, within walking distance of the village shop and school. He therefore agreed with the Officer's Recommendation. Another Member felt that planning obligations would be good for the village.

Committee decision: The Head of Development be authorised to grant approval subject to agreeing the wording of the conditions with the Chair and Vice-Chair: Condition 1 to include all reserved matters to be determined except access. Additional condition to address solar orientation for maximum solar gain and to support sustainable development.

Conditions:

1. Submission of Reserved Matters
2. Time Limit
3. Accord with plans
4. Highway details
5. Highways works required prior to construction of dwellings
6. Construction Management Plan (CMP) (pre-commencement, date agreed 05/10/23)
7. Details of pedestrian link to Lister Way (pre-commencement, date agreed 05/10/23)
8. Surface water drainage (pre-commencement, date agreed 05/10/23)
9. Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) (pre-commencement, date agreed TBC)
10. Unsuspected contamination
11. Trees details (Reserved Matters stage)
12. Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (Reserved Matters stage)
13. Development in accordance with submitted Ecological Appraisal, Bat Activity Report, Dormouse Presence/Absence Report, Breeding Bird Survey and Biodiversity impact assessment: losses and gains
14. Lighting Strategy (Reserved Matters stage)
15. Repeat Hazel Dormouse with Reserved Matters (unless otherwise agreed with the LPA)
16. No vegetation clearance during bird nesting season
17. Boundary Plan with biodiversity enhancements (Reserved Matters stage)
18. Repeat badger survey (pre-commencement, date agreed 05/10/23)
19. Repeat Cirl Bunting surveys with Reserved Matters (unless otherwise agreed with the LPA)
20. Biodiversity Net Gain of no less than 10%
21. Housing mix (Reserved Matters stage)
22. Low carbon development (Reserved Matters stage)
23. Electric vehicle charging (Reserved Matters stage)
24. Waste Management (pre-commencement, date agreed 05/10/23)
25. Employment and Skills Plan (pre-commencement, date agreed 05/10/23)

6b) 1639/23/FUL "Land At Sx 772 519, Three Corners Workshop", Halwell Parish: Halwell and Moreleigh

Development: Called to committee by Councillor Rake to allow members of the DMC to have the opportunity to consider the size of the proposed dwelling and whether this is acceptable.

Case Officer Update: The Case Officer summarised the key issues, namely that:

- Granting of the Outline Planning Permission(4219/20/OPA) established the principle of a rural workers dwelling at this location, with a maximum floor area of 140sqm. Later confirmed that the condition stated 140sqm was a guideline and not a maximum.
- whether there was an essential need for a dwelling of the size proposed.

As to the size of any dwelling, the Case Officer explained that whilst there were no floorspace thresholds in the NPPF and JLP regarding the scale that would be appropriate for a rural workers dwelling, it is clear that dwellings should only be permitted in the countryside in exceptional circumstances, such as where there was an essential need for a rural worker to live permanently at or near their place of work in the countryside, and where the development responds to a proven agricultural, forestry, or other occupational need. A rural workers dwelling should be of a size commensurate with the established functional requirements of the enterprise rather than those of the owner or occupier. The Council's Agricultural Consultant considered there to be no special circumstances or specific requirements of the enterprise that would mean the dwelling should be as large as that proposed in this application. Their comments referred to two appeal decisions for agricultural workers dwellings on sites in North Dorset District Council Area. In both appeals it was considered 140sqm floor space was sufficient for 3-bedroom agricultural workers dwelling.

The Case Officer said that officers accepted that a modest sized, 3-bedroom dwelling would meet an essential need for the rural business. However, the size of the plot and dwelling proposed in this application was not considered to be commensurate with the functional requirements of the enterprise and therefore the principle of development was not considered to comply with Policy SPT1, SPT1 and TTV26 of the JLP.

In terms of the impact on the landscape, the Case Officer said that the submitted LVIA concluded that, whilst the receiving landscape was of Medium Value, the magnitude of development was low with a smaller number of localised receptor viewpoints. It is stated that with a sensitively designed residential property and the landscape mitigation measures proposed that there would be Neutral or Minor Beneficial landscape and visual effect. It was explained that Officers accepted that once the landscaping became established it may screen the development to an extent. However, even with the landscaping in place, due to the prominence of the site, the design and size of the dwelling, the changes to residential curtilage, it is considered that this proposal would erode the open and rural characteristics of the site, failing to conserve or enhance the site and its surroundings and would result in an incongruous design more appropriate in a suburban context rather than this countryside location. The proposal was therefore considered to be contrary to TTV26(2v), DEV20, and DEV23 of the JLP and Paragraph 174(b) of the NPPF.

Finally, the Case Officer said that whilst a number of sustainability measures had been incorporated into the design of the proposed dwelling, including the provision of solar panels, insufficient information has been provided to demonstrate that the proposed development will secure an equivalent 20% carbon saving through onsite renewable energy generation, as required by M1 of the Local Authorities Climate Emergency Planning Statement. As such, the Council cannot be satisfied that the development will adequately support the plan area target to halve 2005 levels of carbon emissions by 2034 and to increase the use and production of decentralised energy, contrary to DEV32 of the JLP.

When put to the vote, the proposal was lost.

The vote was then taken to approve the application.

Recommendation: Refusal

Committee decision: Delegated approval to the Head of Development Management with conditions to be determined in consultation with the Chair, Vice-Chair, Proposer (Cllr Abbott) and Seconder (Cllr Rake).

**6d) 2304/23/VAR "Barn Adjacent Robins Nest", Diptford
Parish: Diptford**

Development: Application for variation of condition 2 (approved plans) of planning consent 4240/18/FUL

Case Officer Update: The Case Officer summarised the key issues, namely that:

- Existing planning approval in place which current application seeks to vary.
- Impact of proposed changes.

The Case Officer explained that the distance between the side window to the neighbouring property was 27 metres. The bathroom window would have obscure glazing.

Having heard from the speakers on behalf of objectors, supporters and the Parish Council together with the Ward Councillor, Members debated the application. During the debate, Members felt the site had the potential for a new build and the increased footprint was no larger than what was previously there.

Recommendation: Conditional Approval

Committee Decision: Conditional Approval with the inclusion an Ecology Report.

Conditions:

1. Accord with Plans
2. Drainage
3. Unexpected Contamination
4. Access & Parking
5. Highway Debris
6. Landscaping Scheme
7. Glazing
8. Ecology
9. Roof Materials
10. Elevation Materials
11. No External Lighting

29.

Planning Appeals Update

DM.29/23

Refer deferred to the next meeting.

30. **Update on Undetermined Major Applications**

DM30/23

Report deferred to the next meeting.

31. **Enforcement - Legal proceedings**

DM.31/23

Members noted the contents and agreed the recommendations as outlined in the report.

The Meeting concluded at 2.51 pm

Signed by:

Chairman
