

Chairman's Report - Community and Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee September 2016

The Committee met on 5 September and considered the following items:

Houses of Multiple Occupation

Clare Lawrence gave an update outlining the results of a process of monitoring and review of the planning and licensing position for HMOs in the Shinfield area. She reported that:

- There had been a reduction in HMO applications;
- Parking was a key issue for residents;
- Government Policy on HMOs was clear and only infractions in Health and Safety could be considered as a reason for suspending a licence;
- The extension of the CPE licensing system to Shinfield might be the best method to deal with the parking issues.

During questions and answers, members raised a number of issues seeking clarification of the points above, which Clare re-iterated, further explaining why the use of Article 4 was not viable. Members also asked about the possibility of using land in the area for parking. In addition, there were a small number of questions from the public in addition.

SuDs Strategy

Francesca Hobson provided an update on the current pressures on flooding and risk management in the Borough and the benefits that would accrue from the adoption of SuDS through the planning process. She informed the Committee that there were 800-900 houses being built in the catchment area and then went on to explain the impact of the SuDS strategy and the fact that it needed to take into account sustainability, risk, water quality and bio-diversity, and that Wokingham Borough Council was leading in this area in Berkshire.

Members raised a number of issues, particularly around the area of funding maintenance and repair. Francesca outlined a series of methods to ensure that developers would be aware of their responsibilities including the registration of assets and their inspection. Members also raised how the interface between other local authorities would be managed and the relationship with land users such as farmers and the approaches taken in these regards were shared.

Work Programme

Details of the Committee's Work Programme are set out elsewhere on the Agenda. The Committee has requested an update on the Travellers in the November meeting.

The November meeting will be held at Winnersh Community Hall.

Philip Mirfin

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