

Borough Councillors Report – November 2024

Since your last PC meeting, we have had a Full Council Meeting at TBC.

The main item on the agenda was the Review of Planning Scheme of Delegation. Since the cyber attack, recovery has been slow and the planning dept has 390 outstanding applications. They have a Duty of Care to respond within a timeframe. This item caused considerable debate. The main changes are, that if a PC objected to a planning application, with a written objection, it would go to the planning committee. This is now not the case. It is at the discretion of the Associate Director of Planning and the Chair of the planning committee to make this decision. Ward Councillors will be made aware and can call applications to the planning committee, with reasons.

Reserved Matters applications will not go to the Planning Committee.

The other main change is that full or outline applications will only go to the Committee for 50 or more residential properties with a recommendation to Permit. This used to be 10.

The rest stays the same. The full document can be found on the TBC planning portal. The minutes of the Council meeting can also be viewed if you want to see the debate.

The reason for these changes is to reduce the workload in the planning dept. If an application goes to Council this requires 10 times the amount of work.

Review of the Gambling Act – Statement of Principles 2022-2025, was updated and agreed upon.

Feedback from the Reg18 Consultation on the initial stages of the Strategic Local Plan has been collated and will soon be on the Strategy and Local Plan website on the TBC Site. Further consultation will take place next year. Officers will shortly be recommending to the Cheltenham, Gloucester and Tewkesbury Joint Advisory Group, on a programme, in the format of an engagement, on the most important planning issues, rather than a single preferred option document/event.

This approach is recommended as significant reforms to the planning system have been proposed since the outset of the initial SLP in July.

A Draft National Planning Policy Framework was published in August 2024 with new guidelines for consultation.

TBC have employed an external consultant to reconfigure the Digital Strategy. He is at the stage of looking at people's online experience, data, and IT. He will look to redesign the IT and Digital teams at TBC.

TBC run the Bishops Cleeve and Tewkesbury Cemeteries. This needs digital mapping. In order to do this they are getting a drone. This can also be used for enforcement purposes, flooding, and planning site visits to name but a few uses.

JKS 8/11/24

