

MINUTES of the meeting of the **PLANNING COMMITTEE** held in Room 11 at the Town Hall, at 7.30pm on Monday 9th January 2023.

PRESENT: Councillor Beardwell (Chair)
Councillors Adams, Antony, Haugh, Rees and Squire-Smith

In attendance: Town Clerk
District Councillor Hunter
County Councillor Hill
4 Members of the Public

The Chair welcomed everybody to the meeting and reminded those present to be mindful of the Climate and Biodiversity Emergency declared by Royston Town Council when making decisions on behalf of the council. The Chair notified everyone that the meeting was being recorded.

272/23 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

A member of the public spoke about the application for a 15m high telecommunications pole and 3 ground-based cabinets on Land Adjacent to 1, The Copperfields. He urged the council to reject the application for several reasons including that the monopole would be inappropriately located opposite a Site of Specific Scientific Interest and the ground-based cabinets would have a visual impact on cars turning out of Copperfields which would be dangerous.

Another member of the public spoke about the same application. He highlighted that this application had only a minor change since the last application was rejected which was a narrowing to the top of the monopole. He reported that there would be very little shielding of the mast by trees as the trees nearby were significantly shorter than the proposed monopole and were deciduous. He also reported that the application described the monopole being 130m away from Heath when it is in fact just 5 metres away.

The Chairman thanked the members of the public for their reports.

273/23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies were received from Councillors Inwood, Jani, Langdon and Lockett.

274/23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS:

Members were advised to declare any interests at the commencement of the relevant item on the agenda. No requests for dispensations were received.

275/23 APPROVAL OF PLANNING COMMITTEE MINUTES:

Members **RESOLVED** to approve as a correct record the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on Monday 5th December (minutes 252/23 to 257/23). The minutes were signed by the Chairman.

276/23 PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

The Chair brought forward item g on the agenda to be discussed first as members of the public were present with an interest in the item.

- a) 22/03251/TD – Land Adjacent to 1 The Copperfields, Royston, Hertfordshire, SG8 5BH

It was noted that there has been no significant change since the last application and no attempt to ameliorate the negative impact on the environment.

Members raised a **STRONG OBJECTION** to this application as it would cause demonstrable harm to the character of the area. The proposed monopole is not in keeping with the area.

The proposed site is next to and overlooking Therfield Heath which is designated a Site of Specific Scientific Interest and an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. NPPF section 10 paragraph 115 states that “Where new sites are required (such as for new 5G networks, or for connected transport and smart city applications), equipment should be sympathetically designed and camouflaged where appropriate.” The proposed 15m monopole and cabinets on a grass verge overlooking Royston Heath will clearly not be camouflaged. Located in a residential area, this does not constitute a sympathetic visual amenity. The installation will result in a visually intrusive feature on the landscape. The installation will impair the vision of motorists and cyclists exiting Copperfields. This is an area that is well known for speeding traffic. The installation will increase the probability of more accidents happening at this location. Royston Town Council requests that this application is refused by North Herts Council.

- b) 22/03041/FPH – 19 Ascot Road, Royston, Hertfordshire, SG8 9JD
Members raised **NO OBJECTION** to this application.
Cllr Squire-Smith declared an interest in this item and took no part in the discussion or vote.
- c) 22/03056/FPH – 57 Melbourn Road, Royston, Hertfordshire, SG8 7DF
Members raised **NO OBJECTION** to this application.
- d) 22/03086/FPH – 11 Royse Grove, Royston, Hertfordshire, SG8 9EP
Members raised **NO OBJECTION** to this application.
- e) 22/03121/FPH – 8 Fieldfare Way, Royston, Hertfordshire, SG8 7XR
Members raised **NO OBJECTION** to this application.
- f) 22/03101/FPH – 8 Newmarket Road, Royston, Hertfordshire, SG8 7DY
Members raised **NO OBJECTION** to this application.
- g) 22/03031/FPH – Edgely, Grange Bottom, Royston, Hertfordshire, SG8 9UQ
Members raised **NO OBJECTION** to this application provided that the Highways regulations are met regarding the dropped kerb.

277/23 UPDATED LIST OF PLANNING DECISIONS:

Members noted the updated list of planning decisions.

Date of next meeting: 6th February 2023.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.05pm.

Signed: _____
Chairman

Date _____