

MINUTES of the meeting of the **PLANNING COMMITTEE** held in Room 11 at the Town Hall, at 7.30pm on Monday 2nd October 2023.

PRESENT: Councillor Beardwell (Chair)
Councillors Birch, Jani, Langdon, Lockett and Rees
In attendance: Town Clerk
2 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.

165/24 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

A member of the public spoke about item 4a) on the agenda, Land Between Hampshire Road and Baldock Road. He detailed his objections to the proposal. He informed the committee that justifications had only been provided for the removal of 5 trees in the application and that reasons for the removal of the other 25 trees had not been provided. He explained that the removal of the trees would not only have a visual impact on Therfield Heath, a Site of Special Scientific Interest, but it would also have an ecological impact as bats have been known to roost there. Artificial lighting from the installation of streetlights adjacent to the site would disrupt bat habitats and therefore bat numbers in the area. He highlighted that for this application to be given permission, more explanation must be provided about the mitigation measures that have been mentioned in the application as currently, there is no detail to these. He thanked members for the opportunity to speak.

166/24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies were received from Councillors Adams, Freeman and Squire-Smith.

167/24 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.

168/24 APPROVAL OF PLANNING COMMITTEE MINUTES:

Members **RESOLVED** to approve as a correct record the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on Monday 4th September (minutes 131/24 to 137/24). The minutes were signed by the Chairman.

169/24 PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

a) 23/02115/TPO – Land Between Hampshire Road and Baldock Road, Royston, Hertfordshire, SG8 9FT

Members raised a **STRONG OBJECTION** to this application on the following grounds:

- There is no valid reason for removing any of these trees. Felling the trees will not improve visibility. Some lower bushes and scrub might need clearing but the trees should not be touched.
- No reasons are given in the application for the removal of the majority of the trees, just 7 trees for installation of street lighting.

- The installation of tall street lighting along this stretch would have a detrimental effect on the Heath which is an SSSI. Any lighting should be sensitive to the area and low level if possible.
- Bats are known to roost in the area and a recent bat survey has not been carried out.
- The speed limit along Baldock Road is due to reduce from 60mph to 40mph. Has a road safety audit been carried out taking this into consideration? This should be carefully considered before suggesting that trees need to be felled for visibility.

- b) 23/01940/FP – Land at the South End of, Anglian Business Park, Orchard Road, Royston, Hertfordshire, SG8 5TW
Members raised an **OBJECTION** to this application due to the loss of potential dwellings, including affordable housing, as set out in the local plan and for which planning permission has already been granted.
- c) 23/02061/FPH – 27 Lime Grove, Royston, Hertfordshire, SG8 7DJ
Members raised **NO OBJECTION** to this application.
- d) 23/02073/FPH – 59 Sun Hill, Royston, Hertfordshire, SG8 9AX
Members raised **NO OBJECTION** to this application.
- e) 23/01837/FPH – 89 Mill Road, Royston, Hertfordshire, SG8 7AJ
Members raised **NO OBJECTION** to this application.
- f) 23/02058/FPH – 21 Rosecomb, Royston, Hertfordshire, SG8 9FL
Members raised **NO OBJECTION** to this application.

Councillor Birch declared an interest in item g) and took no part in the debate or vote.

- g) 23/01944/FP – Unti 9, Jarman Way, Royston, Hertfordshire, SG8 5HW
Members raised **NO OBJECTION** to this application.
- h) 23/02151/FPH – 72 Tennyson Close, Royston, Hertfordshire, SG8 5SZ
Members raised **NO OBJECTION** to this application.
- i) 23/02147/FPH – 47 Hampshire Road, Royston, Hertfordshire, SG8 9FT
Members raised **NO OBJECTION** to this application.

170/24 UPDATED LIST OF PLANNING DECISIONS:

Members noted the updated list of planning decisions.

Date of next meeting: 6th November 2023.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.10pm.

Signed: _____

Date _____

