

# Sonning Common Parish Council

Minutes of the PLANNING COMMITTEE meeting held at the Village Hall, Wood Lane, Sonning Common on Monday 13 June 2011 at 19.30 hrs.

Chairman: Mr Greenwood. Present: Mr Reynolds, Ms Noble, Mr Kedge, Miss Hunt and Mr Rooke

12/24 Apologies for absence: Mrs Lewis.

12/25 Declarations of Interest: None

12/26 **Public Question Time:** 75 members of the public were present. The Chairman welcomed the members of the public and gave an exposition of Parish Council's role in Planning matters and on the material considerations that affect planning decisions.

He asked those wishing to speak to try to stick to such objective matters and to restrict their contributions to no more than three minutes each.

During the hour and a quarter allowed for statements and questions there were nineteen individual contributions that covered the following areas:

Traffic and access concerns	8 speakers
Pressure on facilities and infrastructure	7 speakers
Loss of amenity/ threats to AONB	6 speakers
Pressure on school and health centre	3 speakers
Water/waste water/sewerage	2 speakers

Many speakers expressed concern about the type of development being proposed and the continuing lack of social housing in the village.

At several points Mr Greenwood took pains to explain specific planning matters. He also called on Mr Rooke as District Councillor and member of the SODC Planning Committee to comment on the planning strategy. Mr Rooke confirmed the SODC view that the strategy should be agreed and confirmed before allowing new developments. He stated that there is no chance of Sonning Common avoiding there being somewhere between 50 and 200 new homes in the period covered by the core strategy but that he believed it essential that the sites should be designated by the Parish Council not by developers.

12/27 **The Application - P11/0667/O – Land at Kennylands Road.** Application for outline planning permission (access for determination) for the erection of up to 50 new dwellings, associated landscaping, parking and open space, together with a new access from Kennylands Road. Demolition of an existing building and removal of trees where necessary.

In opening the discussion Mr Greenwood observed that there had been 106 responses listed on the SODC website. He pointed out the paucity of response from public bodies due to the lack of information in the application itself. He outlined the main features proposed as being 30 homes for commercial sale and 20 set aside for social housing. He summarised the proposal as being very lightweight and short of useful information for it to be evaluated properly.

The committee discussed the points raised by the public and then proceeded to evaluate the proposal against planning criteria. The committee voted unanimously to recommend refusal of the application and decided to reconvene the following evening to put together a letter to the planning officer to set out all the reasons for this recommendation. The letter will be published in the News section of the Parish Council website.

Date of next Meeting: Monday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2011

Chairman:.....Dated:.....