



TEWKESBURY TOWN COUNCIL PLANNING COMMITTEE

Tuesday 4th April 2023

Present: Cllrs. J Raywood, S Raywood, H Bowman, A Hayes, P Jones, Mr R Maggs

The meeting commenced at 7.34pm

MINUTES

- P.22/23.367 Welcome.**
The chairman opened the meeting at by welcoming all present and ensuring that any necessary introductions were made.
- P.22/23.368 To receive apologies for absence**
None
- P.22/23.369 To receive declarations of interest**
None
- P.22/23.370 To receive and consider requests for dispensations**
None
- P.22/23.371 Public participation** *(to provide members of the public/press with the opportunity to comment on items on the agenda or raise items for future consideration. In accordance with Standing Orders this will not exceed 12 minutes in total and 3 minutes per person)*
None
- P.22/23.372 To approve the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 22nd March 2023**
Proposed by Cllr. Bowman and seconded by Cllr. S Raywood
It was resolved to **approve** the minutes.
- P.22/23.373 To receive updates on matters arising from the minutes – for information only**
None
- P.22/23.374 To note correspondence**
None

P.22/23.375 Removal/demolition of the current lean-to and for the installation of a single-storey extension to the rear elevation.

Planning Application

2 Fletchers Alley Tewkesbury Gloucestershire GL20 5QD

Ref. No: 23/00052/FUL

Observations:

No objection

P.22/23.376 To agree the wording of a letter to Hitchins regarding the absence of Tewkesbury from the publicity literature for the proposed designer outlet

Agreed. Final text is appended to these minutes.

Cllr. Hayes left the meeting at 7.50pm.

P.22/23.378 To note any additional applications on the Planning Portal which will expire before Wednesday 19th April 2023 and agree further actions

None

P.22/23.379 To note any additional information on the Planning Portal regarding applications to which this committee has already responded, and agree further actions

None

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.00pm

Chairman's signature

19th April 2023

Appendix 1 – content of letter to be sent to Ribert Hitchins Ltd, with a copy to be sent to the resident who raised this issue with the Town Clerk.

Proposed designer outlet development just off the A46 and to the east of M5 Junction 9

Members of Tewkesbury Town Council’s Planning Committee have recently received a letter of concern from a resident regarding the content of publicity material for the above-named development. We have therefore looked at it ourselves and find that we agree with our correspondent.

While your online publicity material looks very beguiling, we are very disappointed to note that Tewkesbury is conspicuous in its absence from your web pages, particularly as we believe we have raised this matter before, as a statutory consultee in a planning application.

We believe that both Tewkesbury and your designer outlet have much to gain from their proximity to each other, but only if potential customers are aware. For shoppers who wish to take in some culture as well on their day out, we have Tewkesbury Abbey, two museums, a visitor centre, the Old Baptist Chapel and a wealth of fascinating old buildings. We are non-plussed that you would direct visitors to both Gloucester Cathedral and Worcester Cathedral in your publicity, but not to Tewkesbury Abbey. For those who wish to walk off the calories after a substantial lunch at your outlet, we have our network of picturesque alleys, acres of parkland, the Severn Ham and two nature reserves. For those who want to make a weekend of their outing, we have two entertainment venues, at the Watson Hall and the Roses Theatre, as well as classical concerts at the Abbey and the Old Baptist Chapel, plus a range of hotels and holiday accommodation to suit a wide range of budgets, all within the context of our pretty little town. People need to know that having travelled perhaps quite a distance to your outlet, there are plenty of other things for them to do without having to travel further.

We wonder whether or not your expectation is that visitors to your outlet will travel exclusively by car. If that is so, we think you may be missing out on the opportunity to engage with customers who prefer to use public transport. There is a network of public bus services in the area and there is also a railway station close by. We would like to know if you anticipate the re-routing of bus services to stop at your outlet and whether you will be considering a shuttle bus to and from the railway station. We also wonder what provision you intend to make for visitors who make the journey using active travel methods, ie. cycling and walking.

While Tewkesbury and your outlet have the potential to gain from their proximity to each other, that very proximity could also be to the detriment of Tewkesbury. Visitors to your site will be relying on our infrastructure – our roads, our drainage systems, our waste-water management system and possibly our local Minor Injuries and Illnesses Unit, which are already working at close to capacity. These facilities are available for your development to tap-into, precisely because the town of Tewkesbury exists. We are sure you did not intend to snub the town, however, we feel that it would be beneficial to your businesses and visitors to let them know about the gem that lies just a little further down the road which could make their visit complete. We would like to extend an invitation to your management to visit the main attractions Tewkesbury has to offer and we would be pleased to give you a tour.