**HEREFORD CITY COUNCIL**

**PLANNING & HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES**

**OF THE MEETING OF THE PLANNING & HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE**

**HELD AT THE TOWN HALL, HEREFORD**

**on Thursday 18th July 2019**

**Present:** Cllrs Paul Stevens, Cat Hornsey, Polly Andrews, Clive Butler, Bernard Hunt, Jeremy Milln, Dan Powell, Aubrey Oliver

**OFFICERS ATTENDING:** Connor Powell, Administration and Information Officer; Steve Kerry, Town Clerk

**P028 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**

Sue Boulter, Ange Tyler

**P029 APPOINTMENT OF SUBSTITUTES:**

None at this time.

**P030 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:**

None at this time.

**P031 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE:**

The minutes of the meeting of 27th June 2019 were agreed as an accurate record.

**P032 DISTRICT COUNCIL MEMBERS:**

**It was Resolved that the participation of those City Councillors who are also members of the County of Herefordshire District Council in both the debate and any subsequent vote on matters contained in this agenda is on the basis that the views expressed are preliminary views taking account of the information currently available to the City Council and that District Councillors reserve their final views on all applications until they are in full possession of all relevant information both for and against.**

**P033 POLICY ISSUES**

033.1 Councillors received a presentation from the Taylor Wimpey team, who are responsible for the proposed development of Grafton Lane into 250-300 homes. After the presentation, Councillors expressed their concerns or approval, which including the following:

* Cllrs Powell and Andrews raised the issue of the lack of bungalows in the build. Both Councillors stated that bungalows form an integral part of our community structure, and the City is unfortunately featuring a loss of bungalows due to property developers not wanting to include them in their plans.
* Cllr Powell also mentioned whether the plans include a community centre. The developers have looked into this and are keen/tentative about its inclusion in the final plans.
* Cllr Andrews asked whether electric charging points will be added to the plans. Unfortunately, these are not likely to be included, as Taylor Wimpey believe the technology will move on too quickly, leaving any installed charging points obsolete in future.
* Cllr Hornsey expressed concerns over road traffic. All Councillors agreed with this, and while Taylor Wimpey rebutted that their estimates show that capacity for extra cars exist on the roads involved, Councillors were not in approval. This issue was likely, most Councillors agreed, to be the most contentious point of the proposed development.
* Cllr Stevens expressed concerns over the level of affordable housing for the build – which Taylor Wimpey stated was ‘up to 35%’. He would like to ensure that the affordable housing is dispersed throughout the build and not residing in one particular area, which would cause a separation in the community atmosphere. Cllr Stevens also showed disproval for the lack of one-bedroom housing, which although is not in the developers best interest, can help those looking for more affordable options.
* Cllr Hunt suggested that some of the designs of the plans be changed, as it is not entirely clear where certain boundaries lie.
* Cllr Milln discouraged the plan’s emphasis on car use, and instead suggested that the infrastructure for cycle use be more overt. He also mentioned that the City could, in future, support a tram/light-rail system, which would possibly disrupt the public transport systems to this build.
* Cllr Hunt stated that there is no indication in the plans of how bus services will be affected, and how buses might service the new development. Taylor Wimpey answered that the two current bus stops along the main road would be maintained, and that no buses are planned to enter the development, though this may change in future.

**P034 APPLICATIONS FOR PLANNING PERMISSION**

It was **Resolved.**

**P035 CORRESPONDENCE**

Councillors received an update on the HAP from the Town Clerk. The document can be found on the server or provided by the Administration and Information Officer.

**P036 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Thursday 15th August 2019 at 6.00 pm.

There being no other business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 7.40 pm.

Signed ……………………………………………………………………

Date ……………………………………………………………………....