



## HEREFORD CITY COUNCIL

### PLANNING & HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE - 7 MARCH 2024

#### MINUTES OF MEETING

**PRESENT:** Cllrs Polly Andrews, Debbie Hobbs, Jeremy Milln and Dan Powell

**ATTENDING:** Becci O'Reilly, Administration & Events Manager, Derek Mumford and Val Simms from HALG

#### **P2023/24.73 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllrs Sue Boulter, Elizabeth Foxton and Sam Potts

#### **P2023/24.74 APPOINTMENT OF SUBSTITUTES**

None

#### **P2023/24.75 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

#### **P2023/24.76 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

It was proposed by Councillor Powell, seconded by Councillor Hobbs and unanimously

**RESOLVED That the Minutes and Draft Responses of the Meeting of 11 January 2024 were an accurate record.**

#### **P2023/24.77 HALG DISCUSSION**

Derek Mumford and Val Simms from Hereford Allotments and Leisure Gardeners attended to discuss measures they have taken to overcome objections to their withdrawn change of use application 231150 land to the rear of Boycott Road, which was objected to by this Committee, in the hope to apply again.

They explained that they felt most objections had now been overcome, and had surveyed 16 local houses, of which 4 had been out, 1 had been against and 11 had been for the change of use. The requirement for allotments is high, with over 30 people on a waiting list for a plot, so the possibility of a site being available is of benefit as the Acts of 1907 and 1925 impose a duty on councils to seek to provide allotments if there is a demand for them, however, this is without prejudice to the separate function of the district council as a planning authority or of the parish council as a consultee in the planning process. The plan is for approximately 17-20 plots, including smaller than standard for those that would not manage a full sized plot.

If this site can be achieved, it would also be leased through a different organisation (Connexus), not City Council, meaning they would then be leaseholders and could apply for charity funding (currently the leases on their other sites have not been achieved due to the disagreement between City Council and Herefordshire Council on who owns the land).

They had attempted to engage with some of the current users of the space including staff at the health centre, Our Ladies School and Aconbury Centre. Our Ladies were keen to have a plot, Aconbury could be offered one and the staff were welcome to use the allotment still, however this wasn't accepted.

The issues surrounding traffic and vehicular access as the only valid planning grounds were discussed at length, including it being a no-parking site except odd deliveries, the fact that deliveries would be more frequent initially when plot holders are purchasing sheds but that this would then drop off, that as a no-parking site it could cause displacement of vehicles into surrounding roads, and that a clause would be included in all plot holders' tenancy agreements to address the above issues.

Councillors welcomed another application and would assess it thoroughly again.

**P2023/24.78 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.**

**P2023/24.79 POLICY ISSUES**

None

**P2023/24.80 APPLICATIONS FOR PLANNING PERMISSION**

For further information on the outcome of planning application decisions, please see the 'Draft Responses' item corresponding to this meeting. It was

**RESOLVED to submit planning application decisions to Herefordshire Council.**

**P2023/24.81 CORRESPONDENCE**

Feedback from the Tree Officer on application 233277 was reported and gladly accepted.

**P2023/24.82 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Thursday 4 April 2024 at 6pm.

**There being no other business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 7.25pm**

Signed .....

Date .....