

# Minutes

OF A MEETING OF THE

## Planning Committee

HELD ON WEDNESDAY 5 APRIL 2017 AT 6.00 PM

DIDCOT CIVIC HALL, BRITWELL ROAD, DIDCOT, OX11 7JN

### Present:

Felix Bloomfield (Chairman)

Anthony Dearlove, Lorraine Hillier, Elaine Hornsby, Toby Newman, David Nimmo-Smith, Richard Pullen, David Turner and Ian White

### Apologies:

Joan Bland, Margaret Davies, Jeannette Matelot and Margaret Turner tendered apologies.

### Officers:

Paula Fox, Simon Kitson, Nicola Meurer, Phil Moule and Tom Wyatt

### Also present:

Nigel Champken-Woods and David Dodds

### 230 Declarations of interest

None.

### 231 Urgent business and chairman's announcements

None.

### 232 Applications deferred or withdrawn

Item 7 on the agenda – P16/S4062/O – land east of Chalgrove had been deferred to allow for a site visit.

### 233 Proposals for site visits

None.



Listening Learning Leading

## **234 Public participation**

The list showing seven members of the public who had registered to speak was tabled at the meeting.

## **235 P16/S4062/O - Land east of Chalgrove**

Outline planning application P16/S4062/O to erect up to 120 residential dwellings and space for a community facility with associated highways, landscaping and open space with all matters reserved except access on land east of Chalgrove, was deferred from consideration at committee to allow for a site visit.

## **236 P16/S3525/FUL - Thames Valley Police Station, Greyhound Lane, Thame**

Lorraine Hillier arrived part way through the officer's presentation and was therefore unable to debate or vote on this item.

The committee considered application P16/S3525/FUL to redevelop Thames Valley Police Station to form 41 sheltered apartments for the elderly, including communal facilities, access, car parking and landscaping on Greyhound Lane, Thame.

Consultations, representations, policy and guidance and the site's planning history were detailed in the officer's report which formed part of the agenda pack for this meeting.

Officer update: 30 further letters of support had been received regarding the health and welfare benefits of the development.

Graeme Markland and Bob Austin, representatives of Thame town council, spoke objecting to the application. Their concerns included the following:

- The focus of the officer's report puts too much emphasis on comparing this application with the appeal scheme;
- Highway safety concerns due to Greyhound Lane being narrow with a steep gradient and lack of pavement;
- The site access is insufficiently wide for delivery vehicles, ambulances or refuse lorries;
- Parking is inadequate and would cause displacement in the town;
- Air quality has not been sufficiently addressed;
- Shading concerns; and
- Querying the legality of land ownership.

Simon Cater, the applicant's agent, spoke in support of the application:

- The site is a safe, secure, self-contained development with communal facilities and landscaped gardens;
- According to the inspector's assessment of the appeal scheme, the parking was deemed sufficient – this proposal has fewer apartments and therefore a higher parking allocation;
- The conservation officer is satisfied with the scheme;
- The communal amenity spaces are sufficient;
- The developers can be on site quickly, potentially starting in May this year; and

- Contributions will be put towards public transport.

Bridget Trueman and Angela Wilson, two local residents, spoke objecting to the application. Their concerns included the following:

- Happy with the site being redeveloped into retirement flats, but have major concerns with parking and access;
- A second access would be desirable; and
- The Thame neighbourhood plan requests 40% affordable housing for all new developments, which this does not comply with.

Nigel Champken-Woods, one of the local ward councillors, spoke objecting to the application. His concerns included the following:

- This site is a gateway into Thame and the design should reflect this with frontages on the front of the premises;
- The design is poor with confusing elevations;
- Greyhound Lane is too steep and has no pavement, which will be dangerous for the elderly; and
- There is not enough parking.

David Dodds, one of the local ward councillors, spoke objecting to the application. His concerns included the following:

- This is a tight development with insufficient amenity space and parking;
- Access concerns;
- Traffic backs up on Greyhound Lane especially on weekends, market days and Christmas; and
- The scheme does not pay regard to the neighbourhood plan.

In response to objections and questions raised by committee members, the case officer reported that:

- The recent inspector's report deemed the refuse lorry stopping time would be sufficiently short to not cause issues;
- Ambulances will not require a dedicated parking space as the proposal is for retirement living as opposed to a care home;
- The layout meets BRE standards for light/shade;
- The onus of the declaration of ownership is on the applicant, who had served notice on the landowner upon application;
- The applicants have undertaken a viability assessment, which determined the amount that could be paid as a commuted sum in lieu of on-site provision of affordable housing;
- Oxfordshire County Council highways have recognised the limited parking provision but deemed it acceptable due to the sustainable location;
- The committee were advised to have regard to the inspector's report as the application has followed soon after the appeal;
- Policies have been carefully assessed and there are no technical objections.

The committee considered the application, with advice from officers where appropriate. Whilst some members were minded to approve the scheme due to the lack of material planning reasons and technical objections to warrant refusing it, other members did not agree that the access was sufficient to allow emergency vehicles into the site; that parking was sufficient for the proposed number of apartments; that the design is in keeping with the conservation area of Thame; and that there is sufficient amenity space.

The development manager advised the committee on the following:

- As the application followed on from an appeal members were advised to concentrate on issues raised by the inspector as to go outside these issues would put the council at risk;
- The level of car parking had been endorsed by the county council and inspector;
- In response to questions raised by committee, the development manager asked if increasing the lower age limit of prospective residents might aid support of the scheme; and
- It is in the applicant's interests to make the scheme work for future residents – Churchill Living are very experienced in making similar sites with limited parking provision work.

A motion, moved and seconded, to approve the application was declared lost on being put to the vote.

A motion, moved and seconded, to refuse the application was declared carried on being put to the vote.

**RESOLVED:** to refuse planning permission for application P16/S3525/FUL for the following reasons:

#### **Insufficient Car parking provision**

The proposal fails to provide an adequate level of off-street parking for the proposed use, which would lead to the displacement of parking associated with the proposed development onto nearby roads and public car parking facilities. This would have a detrimental impact on the vibrancy of Thame town centre. This is contrary to Policy T2 of the South Oxfordshire Local Plan 2011, Policy GA6 of the Thame Neighbourhood Plan and paragraphs 39 and 40 of the National Planning Policy Framework.

#### **Overdevelopment of the site – lack of amenity space**

The proposal would result in an overdevelopment of the site which is demonstrated by the inadequacy of car parking provision and the lack of high quality and usable amenity space being provided for future occupiers. This is contrary to Policy CSQ3 of the South Oxfordshire Core Strategy, Policies D3 and T2 of the South Oxfordshire Local Plan and Policies GA6 and EDSQ28 of the Thame Neighbourhood Plan and paragraph 17 of the National Planning Policy Framework.

#### **Harm to the character of the Conservation Area**

Having regard to the bulk, height, massing and design of the proposal in this prominent location, the scheme would fail to preserve or enhance the character and appearance of the Thame Conservation Area. Furthermore, the loss of the existing building itself would constitute an unattractive gap in the Conservation Area and without an approved replacement building, demolition would not preserve or enhance the character or appearance of the Conservation Area. This is contrary to Policies CON6 and CON7 of the South Oxfordshire Local Plan 2011, Policies CSTHA1 and CSQ3 of the South Oxfordshire Core Strategy and Policies ESDQ16, ESDQ17, ESDQ18 and ESDQ20 of the Thame Neighbourhood Plan and Paragraphs 17 and 137 of the National Planning Policy Framework.

#### **Affordable Housing**

In the absence of a completed S106 planning obligation, the proposal fails to provide affordable housing on-site or an appropriate commuted sum in accordance with Policy CSH3 of the adopted Core Strategy 2012. The proposal also fails to provide adequate on and off site infrastructure and services in accordance with Policy CSI1 South Oxfordshire Core Strategy 2012 and paragraph 17 of the National Planning Policy Framework.

### **237 P17/S0080/O - 69 Park Street, Thame**

The committee considered application P17/S0080/O to demolish the existing buildings and erect three three-bedroom two-storey dwellings with parking and amenity space at 69 Park Street, Thame.

Consultations, representations, policy and guidance and the site's planning history were detailed in the officer's report which formed part of the agenda pack for this meeting.

Graeme Markland and Bob Austin, representatives of Thame town council, spoke objecting to the application. Their concerns included the following:

- Contrary to policy regarding suitable infill developments;
- There are currently no vacant commercial units in Thame, which is a different situation to when there were seven available at the time of the previous application;
- Developments recently granted permission in close proximity to the site will need access to shops;
- Concern for parking and highway safety as cars will need to reverse 90 degrees over the pavement to exit the site; and
- Request for a vehicle turning point.

Jake Collinge, the applicant's agent, spoke in support of the application:

- There is an extant permission for an identical application, for which the same policies applied;
- The premises could be converted to residential within permitted development rights;
- It is a highly sustainable location and respects the pattern of the street and conservation area; and
- There are no highways objections.

David Dodds, one of the local ward councillors, spoke objecting to the application. His concerns included the following:

- The loss of commercial units; and
- Concerns for parking and access safety.

The committee considered the application, with advice from officers where appropriate.

A motion, moved and seconded, to approve the application was declared carried on being put to the vote.

**RESOLVED:** to grant planning permission for application P17/S0080/O, subject to the following conditions:

1. That the development to which this permission relates shall be begun not later than whichever is the later of the following dates (a) the expiration of three years from the date of this permission; or (b) the expiration of two years from the final approval of the reserved matters, or in the case of approval on different dates, the final approval of the last such matter to be approved.
2. In the case of any reserved matter, application for approval must be made not later than the expiration of three years beginning with the date of the grant of outline planning permission.
3. Prior to the first occupation of the development, car parking spaces shall be provided within the curtilage of the site so that motor vehicles may enter and park off of the highway. The parking areas shall be constructed, laid out, surfaced, drained and completed in strict accordance with specification details to be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority prior to the commencement of development. The car parking areas shall be retained unobstructed except for the parking and manoeuvring of motor vehicles at all times.
4. Cycle parking facilities shall be provided prior to the occupation of the development hereby approved, in accordance with details to be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority, prior to the commencement of development.
5. Unless otherwise agreed by the Local Planning Authority 'LPA', development other than that required to be carried out as part of an approved remediation scheme must not commence until a phased contaminated land investigation has been undertaken in accordance with details agreed in writing with the LPA. Document(s) detailing the works undertaken in each phase must be submitted to and approved by the LPA in writing before any other phase commences, and before occupation of any building. If contamination is found during the course of development that was not previously identified, the development must be halted on that part of the site to the extent specified by the LPA and until the LPA are satisfied that all necessary phases above have been undertaken.
6. The development hereby permitted shall not be occupied until surface water drainage works have been carried out in accordance with details that have been first submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.
7. The development hereby permitted shall not be occupied until foul drainage works have been carried out in accordance with details that have been first submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.
8. Prior to the commencement of any site works (including demolition or site clearance) an arboricultural method statement shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority to show that any mature trees close to the boundary of the site shall not be harmed by the development hereby approved and that a protected area shall be designated for these trees which shall be protected in accordance with a scheme which complies with the current edition of BS 5837: "Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction" that shall first have been submitted to, and approved in writing by, the Local Planning Authority. The agreed measures shall be kept in place during the entire course of development.

### **238 P17/S0129/FUL - 67 Park Street, Thame**

The committee considered application P17/S0129/FUL to convert one residential property into two apartments at 67 Park Street, Thame.

Consultations, representations, policy and guidance and the site's planning history were detailed in the officer's report which formed part of the agenda pack for this meeting.

Graeme Markland and Bob Austin, representatives of Thame council, spoke objecting to the application.

Giles Brockbank, the applicant's agent, spoke in support of the application.

The committee considered the application, with advice from officers where appropriate.

A motion, moved and seconded, to approve the application was declared carried on being put to the vote.

**RESOLVED:** to grant planning permission for application P17/S0129/FUL, subject to the following conditions:

1. The development to which this permission relates must be begun not later than the expiration of three years beginning with the date of this permission.
2. That the development hereby approved shall be carried out in accordance with the details shown on the approved plans
3. Prior to first occupation of the first floor flat, privacy screening to the roof terrace shall be provided in accordance with the approved plan. The screening shall be glazed in obscure glass with a minimum of level 3 obscurity and it shall be retained at a minimum height of 1.5m from floor level.
4. That the development hereby approved shall not commence until a detailed specification of the type, design and external finish of all windows and external doors has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. Thereafter the development shall be carried out in accordance with the approved details.
5. Prior to the first occupation of the development hereby approved, the parking and turning areas shall be provided in accordance with drawing no. MDL-1251-PL120 and shall be constructed, laid out, surfaced, drained and completed to be compliant with sustainable drainage (SuDS) principles, and shall be retained unobstructed except for the parking of vehicles associated with the development at all times.

### **239 P17/S0168/FUL - 24 Panters Road, Cholsey**

The committee considered application P17/S0168/FUL to erect an attached two-storey two-bedroom dwelling including new vehicular access at 24 Panters Road, Cholsey.

Consultations, representations, policy and guidance and the site's planning history were detailed in the officer's report which formed part of the agenda pack for this meeting.

The committee considered the application, with advice from officers where appropriate.

A motion, moved and seconded, to approve the application was declared carried on being put to the vote.

**RESOLVED:** to grant planning permission for application P17/S0168/FUL, subject to the following conditions:

1. Commencement three years - full planning permission.
2. Approved plans.
3. New vehicular access.
4. Parking and manoeuvring areas retained.

## **240 P17/S0171/HH - 7 Croft Terrace, Wallingford**

The committee considered application P17/S0171/HH to replace windows on the rear of the property and to replace the front door at 7 Croft Terrace, Wallingford.

Consultations, representations, policy and guidance and the site's planning history were detailed in the officer's report which formed part of the agenda pack for this meeting.

The committee considered the application, with advice from officers where appropriate.

A motion, moved and seconded, to approve the application was declared carried on being put to the vote.

**RESOLVED:** to grant planning permission for application, subject to the following conditions:

1. Commencement three - full planning permission.
2. Approved plans.
3. Materials as on plan.

The meeting closed at 7.50 pm

Chairman

Date