

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

SOUTHERN RURAL COMMITTEE
(Cadwell, Codicote, Graveley & Wymondley, Hitchwood, Hoo, Kimpton,
Knebworth and Offa Wards)

Meeting held at Council Offices, Letchworth Garden City on 14 July 2005 at 7.30 p.m.

PRESENT: *Councillors; Mrs C.P.A Strong (Chairman), Alan Bardett, Tricia Gibbs, D.J. Horrell, Sal Jarvis, Karry Omer and F.R.B. Wordsworth.*

IN ATTENDANCE: *Area Planning Officer, Community Development Officer and Committee Administrator*

11. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councillor Mrs C.P.A. Strong (Vice Chairman) confirmed that the Chairman, Councillor D.J. Barnard had tendered his apologies and that she would be Chairman for this meeting.

12. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors D.J. Barnard and David Miller.

13. MINUTES – 2 June 2005

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 2 June 2005 be approved as a true record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chairman.

14. NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was tabled.

15. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

No declarations of Interest were made.

16. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

RESOLVED to determine the planning applications as set out in the report of the Planning Control and Conservation Manager and as indicated in the following schedule:

SCHEDULE		
Reference Number	Description of Development and Location	Decision
05/00719/ 1	Stopsley Holes Farm, Kings Walden, Hitchin, SG4 8LS Variation of condition 3 of planning application 98/01100/1 granted 17 December 1998 to allow materials to be stored in the open.	Refused and Breach of Condition Notice authorised (as per report)
04/01912/ 1	Bury Farm, High Street, Kimpton, Hitchin, SG4 Conversion of agricultural barn to two dwellings and provision of garaging and store to serve each dwelling in existing frontage agricultural building. Erection of four bedroom dwelling. Conversion of outbuilding to double garage (as amended by drawing nos. 0967/1.02C, 1.03B and 1.04B and 0942.SK3A received 20/04/05, drawing nos. 0967/1.05C and 1.06D received 27/04/05 and drawing no. 0967/1.01E received 20/06/05).	Conditional Permission (see (a) below)

05/00712/ 1HH **184 Park Lane, Old Knebworth, Knebworth, SG3 6PR** **Conditional Permission**
Two storey side and rear extensions. Single storey rear extension. (as per report)

(a) That with regard to Planning Application 04/01912/1, it was **RESOLVED** that permission be **GRANTED** subject to Condition 3 reading as follows:

3. Details and/or samples of materials to be used on all external elevations (to include the colour of the stain of the weatherboarding and the proposed mortar) and the roof of the new dwelling, together with details at 1:50 scale of external windows and doors shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority before the development is commenced.

17. **PLANNING APPEALS**

The Area Planning Officer confirmed that no appeals had been lodged since the meeting of this Committee held on 2 June 2005.

The Area Planning Officer confirmed that two appeals had been determined since the meeting of this Committee held on 2 June 2005.

Appellant: Mr and Mrs K. Webb
Address: 'Woodlands' Preston Road, Gosmore.
Description: Lawful development certificate – continued use of annexe as a self-contained independent dwelling.
Ref. 03/02038/1EUD
Decision: Appeal DISMISSED 21 June 2004 and award of costs refused.

Appellant: Mrs C. Webb
Address: 'Woodlands' Preston Road, Gosmore.
Description: Enforcement notice – change of use of self-contained residential annexe from a use ancillary to the residential use of the main dwelling to an independent residential dwelling.
Ref. 03/00225/1ENF
Decision: Appeal DISMISSED 21 June 2004 and award of costs refused.

18. **CHAMPION NEWS**

The Community Development Officer (CDO) presented his report to the Committee and provided the following updates:

Wymondley Youth Issues: Two detached workers had commenced on a three month programme in Wymondley and that a request had been received for these workers to transfer to Ickleford;

Whitwell Youth Club: The purchase of a pool table had been agreed through grant aid from the Youth Development Fund, and from the Ward Discretionary fund held by Councillor D. Miller;

Annual Parish Council Conference: The CDO confirmed that the meeting held on 11 July had been very successful with 94 per cent attendance. Members thought that consideration should be given to a workshop at the next conference to allow more opportunity for discussion and observation.

Young Peoples' Council: The CDO confirmed that the first meeting on 21 June had seen the formation of the Young Peoples' Council for Hitchin and neighbouring villages. In response to an enquiry the CDO confirmed that the current limit of 10 YC members could be increased and that he would keep the Committee informed of developments. It was agreed that the rural areas of North Herts should be represented on the YC and the CDO would make enquiries for young people in the Southern Rural villages to join the Youth Council.

Summer Free Play Programme: The CDO confirmed that Hexton village would now be included in the free play programme organised by the Southern Rural Project Playworker;

The Member for Wymondley and Graveley advised the Committee that the residents of Wymondley were very concerned about the proposed cancellation of Arriva bus service 8 and there were more than 600 signatures to a petition. This petition would be sent to the Passenger Transport Unit at Hertfordshire County Council by Wymondley Parish Council. The Committee noted that Arriva had proposed that services 81,82 and 83 would replace service no. 8.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the activities and schemes which the Community Development Officer had been involved with during the past month be noted and that important community based activities that were due to take place during the next few months be noted;
- (2) That the actions taken by the Community Development Officer to promote greater community capacity and well being for rural communities be endorsed.

REASON FOR DECISIONS:

To ensure that the Committee are aware of the work of the Community Development Officer in the Southern Rural Area.

19. GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT BUDGET 2005/2006

The CDO presented his report to the Committee and confirmed that the budget for 2005/2006 would be £30,510 which reflected an increase of three per cent for inflation.

The CDO advised the Committee of the request from the Southern Rural Playworker for the grant aid of £1000 as a contribution towards the costs of the Rural Playday in Knebworth on 10 August 2005. The CDO proposed that this funding should be taken from the underspend budget of 2004/2005. The Committee noted that all activities e.g. entertainers, circus workshops, bouncy castles, freeplay activities, fruit workshops and face painting would be free and that children would be invited from neighbouring villages. The Committee expressed concern that the event had been organised and advertised before the Committee had received a request for funding, but agreed that the grant should be made so that the event could take place.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the current expenditure and balance of the Development and visioning Budget as outlined at Appendix A to the report be noted;
- (2) That a grant of £1,000 from the 2004/2005 underspend as requested by the Southern Rural Playworker at Paragraph 3.1 as a contribution to the costs of the Southern Rural Playday to be held in Knebworth on 10 August 2005 be agreed.

The meeting closed at 8.26 p.m.

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Chairman