

**NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**LETCHWORTH COMMITTEE**

**Meeting held at Council Offices, Gernon Road, Letchworth Garden City  
on 19 April 2006 at 7.30 p.m.**

**PRESENT:** *Councillors M. Paterson (Chairman), J.M. Cunningham (Vice-Chairman), J.F. Barry, Simon Bloxham, Gary Grindal, Tony Hartley, David Kearns, Lorna Kercher, Alison Kingman, Ian Mantle, Peter Mardell, Lawrence McNamara and Mrs L.A. Needham*

**IN ATTENDANCE:** *Community Development Manager, Principal Planning Officer, Community Development Officer for Letchworth Garden City, Planning Officer and Committee & Member Services Officer.*

**ALSO PRESENT:** *Four members of the public.*

**CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman welcomed all present to the meeting.

The Chairman informed the Committee that the public consultation meeting on the future of the Jackmans Library had been scheduled for 3 May 2006, and stated that further details would be circulated to Members as soon as they were available.

**120. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor T.W. Hone.

Apologies were also received from Councillor Gary Grindal as he would be arriving at the meeting late. Councillor Grindal arrived at 7.54 p.m.

**121. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the meeting held on 8 March 2006 be approved as a true record of the proceedings and signed by the Chairman.

**122. NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS**

No other business was submitted for consideration by the Committee.

**123. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

Councillor Ian Mantle declared a prejudicial interest in Agenda Item 9 – Planning Applications: 7 Wilbury Road, Letchworth Garden City – as he was the applicant. Councillor Mantle withdrew from the meeting for the duration of this item.

Councillor Tony Hartley declared a prejudicial interest in Agenda Item 9 – Planning Applications: Car Park Rear of Skill Centre Site, Fronting Dunhams Lane, Letchworth Garden City – as he was an approved contractor to the applicant. Councillor Hartley withdrew from the meeting for the duration of this item.

**124. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Mr Paul Phillips had given due notice that he wished to speak at the meeting regarding planning application reference 06/00283/1 – Car Park Rear of Skills Centre Site, Fronting Dunhams Lane, Letchworth Garden City. Mr Phillips was a Director of Autoglym, the applicant.

Mr Phillips informed the Committee that Autoglym required the warehouse as more manufacturing space was required on the company's existing premises in Works Road, Letchworth Garden City. He stated that Autoglym had designed the new site to ensure that noise nuisance to any future residential neighbours was minimised, through the inclusion of a 10 metre buffer zone and orientation of the site to ensure that the delivery area was as far

away as possible from the rest of the Skills Centre site, with the warehouse and landscaping acting as a further shield between. Mr Phillips stated that, whilst Autoglym were happy to adhere to the noise limitation measures set out in condition 6 of the officer's recommendation, they had concern over condition 7, which restricted the hours when deliveries could be made to the warehouse, as this could mean the site was not viable. He explained that this was because, with increasing congestion problems on the roads, many haulage companies were changing working practices to increasingly driving and delivering at night and outside peak hours. Mr Phillips therefore asked the Committee to consider granting the application without the restriction of condition 7.

The Chairman thanked Mr Phillips for his presentation to the Committee and informed him that the points he had raised would be considered by the Committee when they determined the application.

**125. LETCHWORTH GARDEN CITY FESTIVAL**

The Community Development Manager presented a report of the Head of Community Development & Cultural Services to the Committee, which informed the Committee of plans for a major event to be held in Letchworth Garden City on Saturday July 22 and Sunday July 23 2006, and sought their financial support.

**RESOLVED:** That the sum of £12,500 be allocated from the Committee's budgets for the purposes of promoting and delivering the "Letchworth Garden City Festival" on July 22 and July 23 2006, such monies to be allocated as follows:

- £7,500 from the General Town Centre Budget
- £2,500 from the Discretionary Budget
- £2,500 from the Small Area Grants Budget.

**REASON FOR DECISION:** To enable a major event to take place during the summer, predominantly on Broadway Gardens.

**126. CHAMPION NEWS**

The Community Development Officer for Letchworth Garden City presented a report of the Head of Community Development & Cultural Services to the Committee, which advised them of the activities undertaken by the Community Development Officer for Letchworth Garden City since the meeting of the Committee held on 8 March 2006, and brought to their attention some important community based activities that would be taking place during the next few months.

The Community Development Officer for Letchworth Garden City informed the Committee that the SK8 School project (paragraph 3.1) was scheduled to begin on 7 June 2006 and would run for 10-11 weeks. He stated that a good response had already been received following the publication of an article in The Comet about the project, and that the enrolment evening would be held on 24 April 2006.

With regard to paragraph 3.7 – Grange Regeneration - the Committee expressed their thanks to officers for their work with Groundwork UK in securing the additional funding for the project. They also asked that a formal letter of thanks on behalf of the Committee be sent to Groundwork UK, signed by the Chairman.

**RESOLVED:**

- (1) That the report of the Head of Community Development be noted;
- (2) That the actions taken by the Community Development Officer for Letchworth Garden City to promote greater community capacity and well-being for Letchworth Garden City communities be endorsed;
- (3) That a letter of thanks on behalf of the Committee be signed by the Chairman and sent to Groundwork UK in thanks for their work in securing funding for the Grange Regeneration project.

**REASON FOR DECISION:** To keep members of the Committee apprised of the latest developments in community activities in Letchworth Garden City.

**127. ANNUAL GRANTS AND DEVELOPMENT DISCRETIONARY BUDGET 2006/2007**

The Community Development Officer for Letchworth Garden City presented a report of the Head of Community Development & Cultural Services to the Committee, which set out the budgetary situation for the Committee, together with 3 additional grant applications that had been received.

**RESOLVED:**

- (1) That the current expenditure and balance of the Development Budget be noted;
- (2) That the unallocated sum from the Committee's Visioning Budget for the 2005/2006 financial year of £10,330 be allocated to Letchworth community projects;
- (3) That a report detailing the Committee's Service Level Agreements for the financial years 2006/2007 to 2008/2009 be brought to the meeting of the Committee to be held on 24 May 2006 for approval.

**REASONS FOR DECISION:**

- (1) The report was intended to apprise Members of the financial resources available to this Committee. It drew attention to the current budgetary situation, assisted in the effective financial management of the Committee's budget and ensured actions were performed within the Authority's Financial Regulations and the guidance contained in the Grants procedure;
- (2) The awarding of financial assistance to voluntary organisations and the use of discretionary spending allows the Committee to further the aims and strategic priorities of the Council.

**128. GRANT APPLICATION – ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION**

**RESOLVED:** That the sum of £750 be awarded to the Royal Naval Association as a financial contribution toward towards a community event at Plinston Hall involving a concert by the Neath Male Voice Choir to raise funds.

**REASON FOR DECISION:** The awarding of financial assistance to voluntary organisations and the use of discretionary spending allows the Committee to further the aims and strategic priorities of the Council.

**129. GRANT APPLICATION – LETCHWORTH TENNIS CLUB**

**RESOLVED:** That the sum of £300 be awarded to the Letchworth Tennis Club as a financial contribution toward a weekly coaching programme for children with disabilities.

**REASON FOR DECISION:** The awarding of financial assistance to voluntary organisations and the use of discretionary spending allows the Committee to further the aims and strategic priorities of the Council.

**130. GRANT APPLICATION – LETCHWORTH LIONS CLUB**

**RESOLVED:** That the sum of £200 be awarded to the Letchworth Lions Club as a financial contribution toward a day outing for disabled people.

**REASON FOR DECISION:** The awarding of financial assistance to voluntary organisations and the use of discretionary spending allows the Committee to further the aims and strategic priorities of the Council.

**131. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

The Committee heard an oral representation from Mr Paul Phillips with regard to planning application reference 06/00283/1 – Car Park Rear of Skill Centre Site, Fronting Dunhams Lane, Letchworth Garden City. Details of this representation can be found at Minute 124 above.

**RESOLVED:** To determine the applications as set out in the report of the Head of Planning & Building Control as submitted to the Committee in the following schedule:

#### SCHEDULE

Reference Number	Description of Development and location	Decision
06/00194/1HH	<b>7 Wilbury Road, Letchworth Garden City</b> Replacement detached garage and outbuilding and side porch	<b>GRANTED</b> (as per report)
06/00283/1	<b>Car Park Rear of Skill Centre Site, Fronting Dunhams Lane, Letchworth Garden City</b> Erection of Class B8 Distribution Warehouse and ancillary offices; 46 car parking spaces, service yard and loading bays with access of Dunhams Lane and 10m wide soft landscaping buffer strip to western boundary of site	<b>GRANTED</b> (see (a) below)
06/00419/1TD	<b>Land at Longabout, Letchworth Gate, Letchworth Garden City</b> Telecommunications Determination: Installation of 12m high streetworks monopole filled with 3 No. antennas and 1 equipment cabinet and ancillary works	<b>See (b) below</b>

(a) **RESOLVED:** That, with regard to planning application reference 06/00283/1, planning permission be **GRANTED** subject to the conditions set out in the report of the Head of Planning & Building Control, with the removal of recommended condition 7 and subject to the applicant entering a Section 106 Obligation with the Council to secure the payment of a commuted sum of £10,000 towards the improvement of transport infrastructure in the vicinity of the site.

(b) **RESOLVED:** That, with regard to telecommunication determination reference 06/00419/1TD, approval of details of the siting and appearance of the proposed mast and equipment cabinet be **REFUSED** on grounds of inappropriate siting and appearance of the mast in relation to the character of the area and the safety implications of such siting for maintenance.

#### 132. PLANNING APPEALS

The Principal Planning Officer informed the Committee that the following planning appeals had been lodged since the meeting of the Committee held on 8 March 2006:

Appellant	Mr D. Cornish
Reference number	05/01855/1
Address	Land at 157 & 159 Glebe Road, Letchworth Garden City
Proposal	Two storey detached 3-bedroom dwelling and provision of two garages to serve new dwelling and 159 Glebe Road.
Method	Written representations.

The Principal Planning Officer informed the Committee that the no planning appeals had been determined since the meeting of the Committee held on 8 March 2006.

#### 133. ELECTIONS 2006

The Chairman informed the Committee that Councillor J.F. Barry was standing down at the elections to be held on 4 May 2006. He expressed the thanks of the Committee to Councillor

Barry for the work he had done during his 4 year term as a Councillor and wished him well for the future.

The Chairman also wished all those standing for re-election on 4 May 2006 good luck.

The meeting closed at 9.32 p.m.

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Chairman