



Battle Town Council



MINUTES of a PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING held on Wednesday, 2 December 2015 at The Almonry, High Street, Battle at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs R Jessop (Chairman), D Furness, J Gyngell, M Palmer and A Ratcliffe
In Attendance: Andy Beams (Town Clerk), 2 members of the public

- 1. Apologies for absence** – received from Cllr M Howell and M Kiloh.
- 2. Disclosure of interest** – none.
- 3. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 18 November 2015** – these were approved and signed by Cllr Jessop.
- 4. Matters arising from previous meetings**
None
- 5. Correspondence and communications**
 - Updated enforcement list as at 23 November 2015 was noted.
 - Decisions received were noted. Cllr Jessop expressed his disappointment at RDC's decision to approve the Beeches Brook application, as the occupier is not a close relative of the applicant, but a carer. He agreed to draft a letter to RDC expressing these concerns, to be sent via the Town Clerk.

GRANTED

- **RR/2015/1131/P Beeches Brook, Telham Lane, Battle**
Siting of mobile home & associated facility structures on existing gypsy site – occupier would be close relative of applicant, having gypsy status.
- **RR/2015/2089/P Barnes Oak, Hastings Road, Battle**
Proposed agricultural storage barn.
- **RR/2015/2243/P & RR/2015/2245/L 43 High Street, Battle**
Ground floor change of use to funeral directors together with associated repair and refurbishment works.
- **RR/2015/2537/P Old Barrack Inn, Whatlington Road, Battle**
Relocation of existing garage.

6. To consider planning applications received to date

RR/2015/2861/P Acorns, Oakhurst Road, Battle, TN33 0JL

Change of roof from hip to barn end to match opposite side.

Comments: No objection

RR/2015/2863/P Acorns, Oakhurst Road, Battle, TN33 0JL

Detached annex building.

Comments: Members object to the application as it is effectively a new dwelling as it has no clear relationship to Acorns. The proposed building would be out of character with adjoining properties. There would be inadequate amenity space or parking provision for a new dwelling. The proposed building would impact on the existing trees.

Battle Town Council

[RR/2015/2592/P](#) Greenacres, London Road, Battle, TN33 0LS

Erection of new dwelling and permission to retain previously constructed garage building (retrospective).

Comments: No objection to the application, although Members find it difficult to understand how the previous building was demolished 'in error' and urge officers to be mindful of any similar 'accidents' in future.

[RR/2015/2749/P](#) St Mary's Villas, Battle, TN33 0BY

Replacement front porch together with screen walls to rear parking area and front boundary wall.

Comments: No objection

[RR/2015/2758/P](#) Caldbeck House, Caldbeck Hill, Battle, TN33 0JR

Conversion of outbuilding to holiday let with disabled access.

Comments: Members object on the grounds of overdevelopment as there appears to be no sensible use of the bedroom given the height of the proposed room and the sloping ceiling's relationship to the bed as suggested. There appears to be less than 1.3m of height at either side of the bed for sleepers to access/egress it.

[RR/2015/2806/L](#) Little Park Farm, Battle, TN33 0LX

Variation of condition 2 of planning permission RR/2013/2029/L relating to approved details – updated/revised design to five holiday homes.

Comments: No objection

[RR/2015/2814/P](#) Glengorse Court, Glengorse, Battle, TN33 0TX

Change of use of part ground floor from offices (B1a) to laboratories (B1g) and change of use of external barn from general storage (B8) to light industrial (B1a) and including new concrete apron.

Comments: No objection – Members welcome the application.

[RR/2015/2856/P](#) Bannatynes Spa Hotel, Hastings Road, Battle, TN38 8EA

New external emergency staircase.

Comments: No objection

7. ESCC Local Transport Plan

Members noted the report. Comments relevant to Battle were made regarding:

- Junction improvements on The Ridge – Members agreed these were needed on the A21 prior to The Ridge, i.e. with the main link junction at Baldslow onto the A21 rather than onto The Ridge. Problems with traffic turning onto The Ridge would cause London bound vehicles to be strongly tempted to come through Battle due to the difficulty of accessing the A21, adding to the existing congestion rather than easing it.
- Members strongly encouraged the planned improvements to walking and cycle routes. These issues had also been identified as priorities by the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.
- Members also welcomed the planned improvements to bus infrastructure as many rural areas suffered from very poor provision – if any.
- Members noted the lack of any proposals for dealing with the congestion in Battle. The town centre is often gridlocked due to the poor traffic management on the A2100, and this will only get worse with the planned alterations at The Ridge and the traffic coming into the road from the Bexhill – Hastings Link. Members would welcome proposals to ease traffic congestion within the town centre.

Battle Town Council

The Town Clerk was asked to make these representations to ESCC on behalf of the committee.

8. Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Jessop updated members on the progress of the Neighbourhood Plan. A SWOT analysis had been completed, and this will be published via the Town Council website once confirmed at the next Steering Group meeting on 9 December. Although three people had left the group, Cllr Russell had joined along with another Battle resident. The call for sites had led to a number of proposals being received. Although the deadline had passed, this would not preclude others from being considered if put forward at a later date. The Steering Group will consider the sites against their policies. These were in draft format at present, as evidence is needed to be gathered from local people via a survey to finalise the policies which will be published for consultation shortly. This process would begin in January. A grant for £6,000 had been applied for, which along with the budgeted funds from the Town Council, was anticipated to be enough to complete the plan.

9. Matters for information / future agenda items

Cllr Furness raised a concern regarding parking on the grassed area on Caldbec Hill. The Town Clerk was asked to contact Brian Banks (ESCC) and request barriers to be placed to prevent parking and whether a properly constructed hardstanding area could be provided, although Members acknowledged this could lead to additional parking on the road.

Cllr Ratcliffe raised the idea of purchasing a 'smiley face' static speed indicator device, which were used in some towns and parishes. These devices recorded all speeds, and the data could be used as evidence for future traffic control plans. The Town Clerk was asked to obtain costs for consideration, as it was noted ESCC could potentially match fund such schemes.

10. Date of next meeting: 16 December 2015

Meeting closed at 8.25pm.

Cllr R Jessop
Chairman

