

Offton and Willisham Parish Council Planning Meeting

6th August 2020

Present

Cllr S Warnes (Chair), Cllr A Cox, Cllr A Bye, Cllr N Bunton, SCC Cllr K Oakes, 1 member of the public.

1.

a, Meeting opened by the Chair, who advised that the Clerk was on her annual leave and she would be taking the minutes.

b, Apologies accepted from Cllr Cattermole, Cllr Pinson-Roxburgh, MSDC Cllr D Pratt & Cllr A Chaplin

c, There were no declarations of interest.

2. To consider planning application request DC/20/0246.

The Chair read an email received from a resident in regards to the application.

A detailed discussion to place on the matters included in the application, including concerns raised in the email from a resident. Council agreed with some of the concerns raised and these were included in Council's response to MSDC. All Councillor's present contributed to the submission put forward to the planning authority.

Which is as follows:

The applicant has consulted with the parish council in the lead-up to this planning application, and the parish council supports the application in principle. There are several reasons for this decision. In 2008 we published a Parish Plan following extensive consultation with all parishioners in the 2 villages. Over 300 questionnaires were delivered to residents and 73% were completed and returned. This plan identified 15 projects for the parish council to consider and some we have been unable to meet. These include the following

- A footpath connecting the residential housing in Willisham to the village church
- An open space play area, playing field and wild flower garden in Willisham
- The possibility for a village shop if sufficient support is proven.

Some of these requests are being met by this application.

We have some observations regarding these facilities:

At pre application discussions the Parish Council made it clear it would not take responsibility for the running of the shop/café.

We would like parking to be included for those using the play area if possible.

Our only other concern is the light pollution that may occur as a result of this development. We would ask that this could be considered in the lighting design.

We have had concerns raised by a resident of Willisham in regards to the timing of deliveries to the application site. It was felt that 11pm is too late and may cause disruption to existing residents on the Main Road.

We look favourably on the amount of Affordable Housing on the site. It is in excess of the required amount. It is important for smaller more affordable houses to be built in villages. There was feeling amongst Council that in future Willisham could lack diversity in housing.

We understand the current buildings are no longer usable in their present form. In the same way that we supported a planning application to convert a derelict former poultry barn at Maltings House on Ipswich Road in Offton, so we support this application to convert these unused farm buildings on this Brown Field site.

To conclude the Parish Council supports the planning application on this site. The site is disused and would benefit from re-generation. It comes with a lot of community benefits that at the present time could not be provided elsewhere in the village.

A proposal to support the application was put forward by Cllr Bunton and seconded by Cllr Cox. Council voted unanimously to support the application.

The Chairman expressed her thanks to all those attending the meeting.

Meeting closed at 7.40 pm.