

DEPUTATIONS AT THE PLANNING COMMITTEE¹

A. General Notes

1. The Council gives the following an opportunity to address members of the Development Management Committee (“the Committee”) at the meeting before members make their decision:-
 - (a) Objectors
 - (b) Supporters
 - (c) County Councillors
 - (d) Ward Councillors who are not members of the Committee (“Non Members”).
2. A deputation can only appear in connection with an item on the Agenda for a particular meeting.
3. The purpose of the deputations procedure is to allow deputees to address the Committee orally and to answer questions from the members of the Committee. Deputees will not therefore be able to put any documents or written material to the Committee at the meeting as there is no practical opportunity for members or officers to study this without delaying and disrupting the conduct of the meeting.
4. If there has been a deputation within six months of any previous appearance on the same or similar topic (irrespective of whether or not the member(s) of the deputation might be different) then no such new deputation will be received until that time limit has expired. However, "same or similar topic" does not apply to applications for planning permission considered by the Committee.

B. Registering Your Intention to Speak

1. Notice of the wish to be received as a deputation must be given in writing or by email to the Democratic Services Team not later than 48 hours before the start of the meeting (other than when the meeting is on a Monday, when notice has to be in by the previous Thursday).
2. In all cases, the notice must briefly specify the subject on which the deputation wishes to speak and whether the deputation is in support or against the matter to be discussed.

¹ These notes do not apply to cases where the Development Management Committee considers objections to the making of a Tree Preservation Order.

3. Acknowledgement of the request for a deputation will be made whenever practicable, but given the timescale at B1 above, this may not always be possible. You will be advised as soon as practicable whether or not the request to be received as a deputation has been agreed.
4. The address and telephone number of a depute will not be given to other deputees unless the Council has been given written permission to pass on these details.

C. About Deputations Generally

1. A deputation can consist of one but not more than two persons.
2. It is for the members of a deputation to decide who will address the meeting. Where it is two persons, both may speak if they wish.

D Time limits

1. Subject to D4 below a total of five minutes per matter/application will be allocated to hear the views of all objectors, five minutes for County Councillors and five minutes for supporters.
2. If there is more than one deputation wishing to appear on a specific matter, the total amount of time allowed for speaking remains five minutes. This means (*for example only*) that if there is one deputation in favour of a matter, this one may speak for five minutes, but if there are two wishing to speak against, those two would have to agree between themselves as to how they will divide up the five minutes in total that is available.
3. Clearly a point could be reached where there are a number of people wishing to make a deputation for or against a particular matter. Given that only five minutes is available to either side, the various deputations would wish to consider appointing no more than two spokespersons in order to make maximum use of the overall time available. As notification of a request to appear as a deputation can be left until 48 hours before a meeting (see A4 above), in all probability, the "pooling of resources" will have to be discussed and agreed on the day of the Committee.
4. In exceptional cases, where all the following criteria are met the time allocated for deputations will be extended:
 - (a) the application will involve more than 50 dwellings; 5,000 m² or more of employment floorspace; 2,500 sq m or more of retail floorspace; or 1,000 m² or more of leisure floorspace.
 - (b) at least three requests have been received to make a deputation against the recommendation set out in the officer's report;

- (c) the Chairman agrees to an extension of time; and
- (d) the Head of Planning, or in their absence a Team Leader agrees to an extension of time.

The additional time to be allocated to be agreed between Chairman and the Democratic Services Team prior to the meeting.

- 5. Non-Members who wish to address the Committee will be limited to 10 minutes each. In exceptional circumstances, the Nominated Chairman of the Committee may extend this time limit provided that the request:
 - (a) is received by the Nominated Chairman of the Committee and the Democratic Services Team 24 hours before the meeting commences;
 - (b) gives reasons for an extension of time; and
 - (c) specifies the amount of extra time required.

E. Procedure

- 1. Ordinarily, all meetings commence at 5 pm. Meetings normally take place in the Hurstwood Room or the Conference Rooms (“the Meeting Room”) at the Public Service Plaza, Civic Centre Road, Havant.
- 2. The Committee may, if it wishes, vary the order of business as published in the Agenda.
- 3. Accordingly, whilst every effort is made to be as helpful as possible, it is very difficult to give a precise indication to the members of a deputation as to the time when the matter in which they have an interest will be reached. The Democratic Services Officer concerned (contact details are set out below) may be contacted on the day of the meeting in an effort to clarify the situation, but otherwise the members of a deputation are asked to be in attendance in the Meeting Room at the Public Service Plaza, Civic Centre Road, Havant at least fifteen minutes before the normal starting time (normally 4.45 pm).

A warning note - if the subject matter of a deputation has been debated and decided upon by the time a deputation arrives, it will not then be possible for the deputation to appear before the Committee.

- 4. If time permits prior to commencement of the meeting the depute will be shown from where speeches will be made in the Meeting Room at the Public Service Plaza, Civic Centre Road, Havant and where to sit prior to and after delivery of the deputation.

5. Deputations are heard with the subject matter to which they relate. After all deputations for a subject matter have been heard, the Committee will make and announce their decision.

6. In cases where it is known beforehand that the views of the deputation accord with what the officers might be recommending and there are no deputations wishing to appear to put the contrary view, the Chairman will normally ask the members of the Committee if they oppose the officers' recommendation. If the members indicate that they will not speak against the officers' recommendation, the Chairman will ask the deputee if he or she still wishes to address the Committee. Please note that it is open to the Chairman concerned to decide to deal with the matter in any other way.

7. When the particular item is reached on which there may be a deputation or deputations, the order of business will normally be as follows: -
 - (a) There will be a presentation by the Officer(s) concerned (if required), including questions by the Committee Members of the Officers No Time Limit

 - (b) The deputation(s) opposing the matter discussed will be heard. A total of 5 minutes is to be allocated for those objecting

 - (c) Members to ask questions of the Deputee(s) opposing the matter No Time Limit

 - (d) The deputation supporting the matter discussed will be heard A total of 5 minutes is to be allocated for those supporting

 - (e) Members to ask questions of the Deputee(s) supporting the matter No Time Limit

 - (f) County Councillors A total of 5 minutes is allocated for County Councillors

 - (g) Members to ask questions of the County Councillors No Time Limit

 - (h) Members of the Committee, who have formed a conclusive view on any matter included in the agenda A total of 5 minutes is allocated for those Members, who have formed a conclusive view

 - (i) Members to ask questions of the No Time Limit

members who have made a deputation under (h) above

- (j) Elected members of the Council who are not members of the Committee who have indicated in advance of the meeting that they wish to address the Committee. 10 minutes each
 - (k) Members to ask questions of the of the members who have made a deputation under (j) above No Time Limit
 - (l) The matter will be debated, including questions by the members of the Committee of the Officer, and a decision made. No Time Limit
8. The exception to 7 above would be where the matter is one where a resolution excluding the public during the debate has been passed. In such instances, only 7(b) to 7(k) would take place in public, with officer's presentation and any debate taking place later in the meeting without the public being present.
9. The members of a deputation may, if they wish, remain in the public gallery until that matter is dealt with (provided it is not a confidential matter when both the press and the public are excluded).

STAFF TO CONTACT ON DEPUTATIONS

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