

Cllr Elizabeth Lloyd**Cabinet Lead: Planning, Environment inc Water Quality & Environmental Health****Local Plan and Planning Policy**

The Building a Better Future Plan – the new Local Plan for Havant Borough – continues to progress. On 30 May a report was taken to Planning Policy Committee which outlined the results of the consultation which took place towards the end of 2022. This set out factually the results of both the main consultation as well as those sites which were submitted as part of the call for sites. This was simply publishing the results of the consultation in an open and transparent manner. Following the committee's endorsement, the reports have been published at www.havant.gov.uk/localplan.

The consultation results demonstrated that on most of the themes which were explored through the consultation, there was endorsement of the proposed approach in the Building a Better Future Plan. This shows the positive direction in which the Plan is moving and an endorsement of a large number of proposed policy approaches. However, key areas, particularly addressing the need for housing, were highlighted as ones where substantial concern remains amongst respondents. Moving forwards at this point, the focus is on commissioning the necessary evidence to support the new Local Plan, which is well underway.

There is also a great deal of work underway through the Partnership for South Hampshire where the Joint Committee will be considering a refreshed Statement of Common Ground on 11 July. It is intended that a new sub-regional planning strategy for the sub-region, which extends from Havant in the east to the New Forest National Park in the west, will be considered by the Joint Committee by the end of the calendar year. The purpose of the Statement of Common is to ensure the sub-region's Local Planning Authorities continue to work together to discuss cross boundary planning matters.

Environmental Health inc Water Quality

The Council continues to work with Langstone Harbour to start water quality testing in the harbour as soon as possible. We hope this will commence this month and run for a 20 week period.

Havant Borough Council is participating in a regional Southern Water Local Authority Stakeholder Group which I attend alongside councillors from other authorities. The Group has formed this year and is being led by Wealden District Council. I am keen that this Group lobbies the Environment Agency (EA), or the government department responsible for the EA (Department for Food, Agriculture and Rural Affairs (DeFRA)), to ensure that the EA is carrying its enforcement role effectively with respect to Southern Water's pollution of watercourses. The Group is establishing its priorities

and Havant has requested that the workstream on enforcement is given a high priority and the Environment Agency is requested to attend the next meeting to explore the nature of its role and how it is undertaking its duties.

The Council has assisted in securing a fine of £1,875.00 relating to private tenanted property, where dangerous electrics were present along with the Landlord being unable to produce an electrical certificate.

Licensing

Licensing committee will be receiving a number of amended policies throughout June. On the 12th we will be taking two reports. The first is a review of Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy and the second is the results of Hackney Carriage Unmet Demand Survey. The former will be subject of consultation in the coming weeks.

Licensing training for members of the committee, took place on 7th June between 17:00 and 19:00hrs, in the Hollybank room. The training outlined the procedure to be followed for hearings, and the fundamentals of making proportionate and fair decisions all members are welcome to attend all training sessions.

Later in June (26th) Licensing Committee will receive the following revised policies:

- Review of Statement of Licensing Policy, Licensing Act 2003
- Review of Statement of Principles, Gambling Act 2005 (7 June)
- Street Trading Policy inc. Consent Streets (7 June)

Development Management

Performance

The Planner publication has reported that nationally, planning application submissions have continued to fall below the levels of 2022 – with an 8 per cent reduction in submissions in the South East in April 2023 compared with April 2022.

The team continues to maintain a high level of performance, with over 91% of applications determined within agreed timescales during 2022-23.

Casework

A large number of significant planning applications remain under active consideration by the team, including a number of cases where technical issues and/or S106 negotiations are prolonging the time being taken to reach a decision.

[These include Cabbagefield Row, Leigh Park (150 dwellings); Land north of Long Copse Lane, Emsworth (210 dwellings); Land east of St George's Avenue, Havant (184 dwellings); Southleigh Park House, Havant (reserved matters application for 70 dwellings); Southmere Field, Havant (65 dwellings); Rook Farm, Hayling Island (300 dwellings); Land rear of Fathoms Reach, Hayling Island (51 dwellings); South Downs College, Purbrook (102 dwellings); Land north of The Oysters, Hayling Island (29 dwellings); Land south of Saltmarsh Lane, Hayling Island (60 dwellings); Land at Kingscroft Farm, Havant (140 dwellings); Former Dairy Crest Depot, Leigh Park (74 dwellings); Land at Palk Road, Havant (90 dwellings); and Victoria Road/London Road, Waterlooville (29 dwellings)].

The planning appeal submitted by Bargate Homes in respect of the outline application for up to 43 dwellings on Land at Lower Road, Bedhampton was allowed by the Planning Inspectorate.

Planning Committee

The planning application for the construction of 44 dwellings on Land West of Coldharbour Farm Road, Emsworth was considered by the Committee on 6th April 2023. A resolution was secured to grant permission subject to a S106 Agreement being completed.

The planning application for the construction of a discount foodstore, drive through coffee shop and drive-through restaurant on Land at Waterloo Park, Waterlooville was considered by the Committee on 16th March 2023. A resolution was secured to grant permission subject to a S106 Agreement being completed.

Building Control

The service continues to prepare for the implementation of new requirements that will be imposed by the Building Safety Act next year. These requirements apply to all staff that are carrying out what are defined as 'restricted activities' on all projects from small scale domestic to large commercial. Restricted activities include the checking of plans and the carrying out of site inspections.

- New operational standards that all Councils must comply with.
- New data reporting requirements that all Councils must comply with
- A requirement for those practicing Building Control to register with the newly formed Building Safety Regulator by April 2024. Details of the exact registration process and requirements are still not known, but there will be a requirement for individual staff to demonstrate competence to the Regulator. Failure to register and practice restricted activities will be illegal.

All of the above is reducing the capacity of the service by approximately 20 to 25%. In addition the service continues to carry a vacancy.

Planning Enforcement

The council continues its work to investigate potential breaches of planning control across the Borough. In one ongoing case at Sinah Lane, Hayling Island officers have met with Barratts, residents and local Members to discuss a range of live incidents and is working to ensure improvements are made as soon as possible. As stated, the Council takes breaches of planning control very seriously and has a range of powers available to ensure compliance, including formal enforcement action and prosecution.

As this is an ongoing investigation the Council is unable to comment more on the details.