

**Deputation re the proposed Scheme for Submitting Views at Planning
Committee Meetings.
For Planning Committee 22nd June 2023
on behalf of Havant Climate Alliance and Friends of the Earth.**

We are concerned about some of the changes proposed which we think will reduce democratic processes in local planning.

C 1 + 2 + F 1b + Ha. It is noted that members of the public may only submit a written representation or to speak to committee, if they have already made a written representation about that planning application during the statutory consultation process.

This requirement should be removed.

Many members of the public, probably the majority, are unaware of how statutory consultation takes place, or that there is a Council website that they can look at. They may have been away from home for a while or busy with work or other commitments. For many reasons people may only find out about a planning application shortly before a decision is to be made at Planning Committee. These people should still have the right to submit their views to the committee even though they have not previously raised issues during the consultation process.

C 4. Written submissions will not be considered on a deferred application and will have to be resubmitted.

Unless there have been changes to the planning application, it would be reasonable if instead, those who submitted deputations previously, were contacted and asked whether they still wanted their deputations submitted, when a new committee date is known.

F 3. Deadline for Submission of a Written Submission.

It is proposed that a written submission must be received by the Democratic Services Team no later than 12 noon, 2 clear working days before the meeting e.g. 12 noon Monday for a Meeting on Thursday.

The previous deadline of 48 hours before the Committee meeting should remain unless it is intended to publish details of the Committee Agenda much further in advance e.g. 2 weeks beforehand. Often it seems that the Agenda of Planning Applications to be discussed, only appears on the website less than a week in advance giving little time for Deputations to be prepared.

G2c. Registering to Speak

As at F3. The deadline for this should remain at 48 hours before the Committee meeting.

G5. Time limits for Speakers

A time limit of 10 minutes for Supporters and 10 minutes for Objectors would allow a wider range of views to be aired and therefore better representation.

G4. Limit on number of speakers.

Limiting deputations to the first 2 objectors and first 2 supporters to register will not adequately represent what may be a wide range of valid views. With a time limit of 10 minutes for “each side” one would like to see up to 5 objectors or 5 supporters able to speak. In practice, if people are in agreement, it can be the case that 1 or 2 more able speakers, speak for the others.

G5d(i) Flexibility on number of speakers and time allocated, where an application is for more than 50 dwellings, is to be welcomed.

Pat Brooks