

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OBJECTIONS & APPEALS PANEL HELD IN
COMMITTEE ROOM 2/3, CIVIC OFFICES, ANGEL STREET, BRIDGEND, ON FRIDAY
24 FEBRUARY 2006 AT 10:00AM.

Present:-

Councillor S B Smith – Chairperson

Councillors

C Westwood
C Rees

Officers:

J Duddridge- Head of Transportation
N Moore- Senior Engineer
R Hughes- Legal Officer
R Harries - Trainee Cabinet/Committee Officer

Observers:

Councillor G Davies (Ward Member)
Local Residents

5 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

6 HIGHWAYS ACT 1980 SECTION 90A
PROPOSED TRAFFIC CALMING ARRANGEMENT
THE WHIMBRELS/ SANDERLING CLOSE, PORTHCAWL

The Head of Transportation submitted a report on behalf of the Executive Director- Environment, outlining the nature of the proposed traffic calming feature at the above location and the objections subsequently received. He noted that the construction of a new housing estate at the site had caused the junction to become a four-way junction, giving rise to concerns for highway safety. He noted that a mini roundabout would not achieve the required speed reduction and had proved ineffective at other sites. He elaborated on the preferred option of a raised plateau (as distinct from a speed hump) and noted that this was not being considered in isolation, as similar plateaus were planned or already in situ for the new housing estate.

The Head of Transportation addressed each of the concerns of the statutory objections he had received, as outlined in the report, noting that because the layout of the junction had now changed, references to the road layout in the past were not relevant. He further noted that the Emergency Services had made no objections to the proposed plateau, but agreed to consider making documents related to future proposals available more locally rather than just at the civic offices, to assist the consultation process. He advised the Panel that the proposed plateau would not be similar to the traffic calming measures currently in place in New Road, Porthcawl.

The Legal Officer advised the Panel that a letter had been received from Councillor G Davies (Ward Member) on behalf of local residents. He further advised that these were non-statutory objections; therefore, it was at the discretion of the Chairperson whether or not to consider them. The Chairperson indicated that the Panel would consider the letter.

The Head of Transportation advised that he was aware of the letter and its contents. He stated that it was his belief that the resident's concerns stemmed from lack of information as to the nature of the proposed feature. Accordingly, he distributed photographs showing an example of this type of feature. He further advised that a decision to defer the matter, as requested in the letter, would result in prolonged confusion and highway safety concerns at the junction.

In view of the number of local residents who had attended the meeting, the Legal Officer advised the Panel that as the statutory objectors had already been advised that they would not be able to speak at the meeting, the Panel would have to consider whether it would be equitable to then allow the non-statutory objectors to speak. It was agreed that Councillor Davies, as the Ward Member, would speak on behalf of both statutory and non-statutory objectors.

Councillor Davies outlined the concerns of local residents. Of particular concern was the fact that some objectors had only become aware of the proposals two days previously, as at the time of the original consultation, the housing estate was not completed and they had not been living there. Through Councillor Davies, the residents requested a deferment in order for them to fully understand the proposals and engage in discussion with Council Officers on the issue. He noted that it was unlikely that Redrow would begin work on the proposed plateau within the next month, and a deferment would therefore not necessarily delay its construction.

The Head of Transportation advised that he had received a letter from Redrow expressing their anxiety for a decision on this matter.

Following questions from the Panel, it was established that the proposed plateau had been part of the original planning application and should therefore have been on any plans the residents saw prior to purchasing their properties.

The Head of Transportation advised that he felt he had addressed the concerns of local residents as expressed by Councillor Davies. He noted that he would be happy to provide residents with further information regarding the specification of the proposed plateau, but this need not preclude a decision being made on the matter at today's meeting. He stated that it was his opinion that the issues raised regarding the consultation process were separate from the process that was being taking place at the meeting.

Members then retired to consider the matter further. On their return it was

RESOLVED: That the objections to Redrow Homes' proposal to construct a ramped junction plateau at The Whimbrels/ Sanderling Close/ Tern Road cross roads junction, Porthcawl, be rejected and that Redrow Homes be advised accordingly that approval had been granted in order that the plateau can be constructed on site.

The meeting closed 11.15am

