

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL'S PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD IN THE METHODIST OLD CHURCH HALL ON MONDAY 20 OCTOBER 2008 AT 19.30 HOURS

PRESENT: Cllrs. Bearman, Crawford, Crowley, Gardner (Chairman), Gress, Ireland, Shead & Street

ALSO PRESENT: Mrs. K Bell (Clerk), County Councillor Long, Borough Councillor Mrs Holland, PC Mott and PC Sergeant (Kent Police), approximately 100 residents and 1 courier Reporter

APOLOGIES: Cllrs: Mrs. Macdonald, Poole, & Mrs. Relf. Borough Councillor Rogers

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, the PCs Chairman, Peter Crawford, suspended Standing Orders and made an address to those present. Cllr. Crawford stated that the PC was not a Statutory Consultee with regard to licensing applications and that as all the Cllrs. would be affected by the licence application, which had been submitted by The Hop Farm, the PC would not commenting for or against the licence application. The PC would however be sending a copy of the minutes from the meeting to TMBC. Cllr. Crawford then handed over the meeting to the Chairman of the Planning Committee.

Cllr. Alan Gardner opened the meeting and welcomed those present

1. **Declarations of Interests:** All members declared an interest in item 3.

2. **Planning Applications**

RESOLVED: To comment as follows to TMBC

TM/08/02802/FL Retrospective application for the erection of two toilet cabins for a temporary period of ten years at The Hop Farm Country Park, Maidstone Road, Paddock Wood **NO OBJECTION**

TM/08/02259/LB Retrospective application for the erection of a pergola to south elevation of Bell 1 at Bell 1, The Hop Farm County Park, Maidstone Road, Paddock Wood
OBJECTION the proposal was considered to be unacceptable and would be out of keeping with the nearby listed buildings

TM/08/01701/FL Rebuilding staff block and construction of staff cottage at Roydon Hall, Roydon Hall Road, East Peckham **Note:**
Tree survey received NOTED

3. **Licensing Application submitted by The Hop Farm County Park to TMBC**

Cllr. Gardner introduced Mr Glynn the General Manager of the Hop Farm and his colleagues together with PCs Andy Sergeant and Vince Mott and proceeded to provide an overview of the licensing application which had been submitted by The Hop Farm to TMBC which included the variation of the existing licence to enable The Hop Farm to hold a music festival over a four day period between 02.07.09 - 06.07.09 with a maximum capacity audience of 53,000.

Cllr Gardner suspended Standing Orders and invited the Hop Farm to address members and other persons present. Cllr. Gardner then invited persons present to put questions to the Hop Farm representatives and to the representatives from Kent Police, A lively and interactive debate took place. During which residents raised the following concerns:

Primary Concerns

Public Safety

TMBC would be advised that roads in and around the Hop Farm became clogged up with traffic leading to and from The Hop Farm and any increase in the numbers of persons attending events could create additional risk to public safety.

The Prevention of Public Nuisance

TMBC would be advised that the large events, which already took place, caused an unacceptable level of disturbance, noise, nuisance, inconvenience and annoyance to the residents of East Peckham and if the licence application was approved adequate measures should be implemented to mitigate any inconvenience.

Other Concerns

- Public footpaths were blocked before, during and after events. There was a need for the direction of the footpaths to be reviewed to prevent pedestrians from having to cross busy sections of the bypass.
- The tow path and wooded areas become fouled with human waste, bottles, cans and other litter
- Noise from music, sound systems and fireworks was often at unacceptable volumes and on some occasions has gone on until the early hours of the morning.
- It was unlikely that the local infrastructure would be able to support any increase in traffic movements to and from The Hop Farm.
- Health & Safety.
- Evacuation procedures in the event of an emergency.

At the conclusion of the debate residents requested that a show of hands be taken to indicate the views of the residents who had attended the meeting, the overwhelming response was that residents present were opposed to the licence application. Cllr Gardner advised that any representation were to be submitted to TMBC by 27 October. It was noted that whilst approximately 100 residents had attended the meeting, the population of East Peckham was 3,500 and there was the opposing views that other residents were either satisfied with The Hop Farms licence application or had no opinion either for or against it.

Date and Time of next meeting: 03 November 08 @ 19.30 hours

There being no additional business, the meeting concluded at 21.30 hours