

Minutes of the meeting of the Service & Amenities Committee held in the Council Chamber, Civic Hall Square, Shildon, Co Durham on Monday, 14th September 2015.

Present: Councillor M Burdess in the Chair
Councillors A Walker, H Nicholson, M Stott
P A Pemberton, J G Huntington, D Hancock,
B Bates, L Iddon, J Miller and B Stoker

SA 25/15 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors L Cockfield, P Quinn, S Quinn, D Gordon and S Bird.

SA 26/15 Declarations of Interest

Councillor H Nicholson declared an interest as a Member of Durham County Council Planning Committee in item 5b – Change of use from retail (A1) to hot food takeaway (A5) at Unit 3, Jubilee Road, Shildon and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.

SA 27/15 Civic Hall Performance

The Town Clerk advised Members of the trading position for the month of July and August 2015.

Recommended that the report be noted.

SA 28/15 Civic Hall

In the absence of the Civic Hall Manager, the Town Clerk updated members on the following which was discussed at a meeting of the Civic Hall Working Party in July.

1. Staffing structures and payscales – Due to a vacancy arising for an Assistant Cook, the post was advertised for a 24 hour per week contract at an hourly rate of £7.43. This revised hourly rate to be extended to the second Assistant Cook in order to align the hourly rate for all of the Assistant Cooks.
2. Theatre group bookings – Discussions had taken place with the Theatre Groups to redress the balance between bookings currently being afforded to theatre groups and the requirement for core business activities.
3. Internal doors – Discussions on the need to replace/repair internal doors.
4. Wedding bookings – Positive uptake on weddings and information to be brought back to Committee on a new package and pricing structure.

The Committee were updated on the following:

5. Shildonbury – attracted in the region of 1,000 people to the event held in Hackworth Park on Sunday, 30th August, 2015.
6. Mayoral Function – to be held at the Shildon Civic Hall on Saturday, 19th September.

Recommended that:

- a) the report be noted
- b) the recommendation of the Civic Hall Working Party to offer a 24 hour per week contract for an Assistant Cook at an hourly rate of £7.43 and for this revised payscale to be extended to a second Assistant Cook be agreed.
- c) theatre shows would not be programmed in the peak function periods of May, June, July, August, November and December at the Civic Hall but that the Town Council continues to support and offer the venue, free of charge, for future theatre events outside of the above time periods.
- d) the repair/replacement of internal doors be programmed into the 2016/17 budget unless alternative funding can be identified.

SA 29/15 Durham County Council: Planning Applications

Recommended that no comment be made on the following applications:-

- a. Erection of detached garage/store to front at 6 Richmond Close, Shildon, submitted by Mr G Palin
- b. Erection of two storey side extension and single storey rear extension at 7 West Park, Shildon, submitted by Mr B Vasey

The Committee agreed to **object** to the following planning application and to request the Planning Committee to determine the planning application.

- c. Change of use from retail (A1) to hot food takeaway (A5) at Unit 3, Jubilee Road, Shildon.

The objection to be made on the following grounds:-

The hot food takeaway falls within 400m of a Community Centre that holds child and youth related activities and within 400m of a sport recreation area. A Secondary and Primary School are also within close proximity.

Adverse noise disturbance to residents which would often peak at times when surrounding background noise levels are considered low in a residential area.

Odours, noise and vibration generated from cooking activities and extraction equipment used in the premises.

Litter and the attraction of large numbers of people at particular times of the day which can produce a higher degree of noise and disturbance to residents.

Exacerbation of young people congregating in the area which could possibly lead to crime and anti-social behaviour.

With additional litter the area will become unsightly and cause annoyance to residents and raises concern about the potential attraction of pests and vermin.

Impact on traffic flow and road safety as hot food takeaways attract a high proportion of car borne and short stay customers

As a Town Council we want to minimise the negative impact takeaways on childhood health. Obesity and the long term consequences of obesity is a growing problem with fast food takeaways linked to low quality diet and weight gain.

Within the draft County Durham Plan, indications show that Shildon has 8.2% of A5 uses. It is considered that a threshold of 5% is appropriate. Another takeaway will only add to the high proportion of takeaways already in Shildon.

The planning application does not specify the opening times for the proposed takeaway or an end user.

Councillor J G Huntington left the meeting.

SA 30/15 Change of Use of Land to Private Amenity Space Including the Erection of Kennels Building, Stables and 2 no. Storage Buildings at land East of Green Lane, Shildon

The Town Clerk updated Members on the planning application and advised that comments received by Members had been forwarded to the Planning Department, Durham County Council.

Recommended that the report be noted.

SA 31/15 Durham County Council: Planning Decisions

Recommended that the decisions taken since the last meeting of the Committee be noted.

SA 32/15 Neighbourhood Warden Performance Report for the month of June and July 2015

The Town Clerk updated Members on the powers of Neighbourhood Wardens under S46 of the Environmental Protection Act and Section 79 of the Statutory Nuisance Act.

Recommended that the Newton Aycliffe Monthly Performance Report for the month of June and July be noted.