

Planning committee summary for year to April 2021

The main focus of the planning committee has been in two areas: the use of the Referendum Version of the Eye Neighbourhood Plan (ENP) to shape local developments and the formation of a Traffic Management Group to seek to reduce unauthorised HGV traffic journeys through the town centre.

The status of the ENP was strengthened by the substantial weight given to it by the Inspector in dismissing the appeal for 126 homes on land adjacent to Tuffs Rd/Maple Way. This fell outside the ENP's nominated sites and was successfully opposed by the council on that basis.

The council supported a potentially contentious but long-awaited development at Paddock House. This was a nominated site within the ENP and the council felt it to be a high quality application, offering much needed affordable housing included shared ownership. The council will be able to have a say in who gets allocated 10 of the 16 homes to be built in the site. A leisure green space has been saved as a result of community action and a citizens group co-ordinated by Councillor MaryAnne Henderson will develop the detailed landscaping solution for this area. Thanks go to Paul Abbot for his design input into this space.

The first phase of the major development of Eye Airfield was submitted by Persimmon Ltd in March. The council felt that this was a poor application in terms of its design quality and likely final total of numbers way in excess of those shown in the ENP. Thus the council opposed this application in its consultee response and this is now to be considered by BMSDC as the decision makers. The council supports development on the airfield both to deliver the new market and affordable homes which are required. Numbers and dwelling mix should however be contained as close as possible to ENP levels and the design and specification be of good quality.

HGV traffic has proved a major issue before and after lockdown. The council is working with a resident's group, Trucks Out Of Our Town (TOOOT), and both the district and county council to reduce the number of HGVs using Eye town centre as a through route. This has grown significantly in the past two years or so and each planning application is assessed for its contribution to traffic management. The council lead on this matter is Councillor Tunie Brandon.

Looking forward the most immediate event is the referendum to test whether citizens of Eye will vote to adopt the ENP on May 6th. This will be an important decision and the council hopes that as many residents as possible will consider this sufficiently important to take part in the referendum process.

Councillor Richard Berry

Chair Planning

April 2021