

Amber Valley
Borough Council

Planning Board

Annual Report

1 January to 31
December 2014

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Foreword by the Chairman of the Planning Board, Cllr Bryan Lyttle



This is the sixth Annual Report of the Planning Board and sets out the work undertaken by the Planning Board over the period from 1 January to 31 December 2014.

Meetings of the Planning Board are normally held every month and focus on the consideration and determination of the most significant planning applications received by the Council.

The Planning Board is probably the most high profile of the meetings held by the Council. The public regularly attend in large numbers to hear debate on planning applications and it is crucial that we demonstrate our commitment to achieving and maintaining the highest possible standards in our decision-making.

We continue to look to ways to improve the format and content of Planning Board meetings, in order to provide members with the quality of information necessary to help them reach what are often difficult decisions, whilst at the same time enabling the public to fully understand and appreciate the Planning Board's decisions.

I hope you will take the opportunity to read this Annual Report and to feedback any suggestions as to how we can improve our performance.

I would like to thank all members of the Planning Board and officers for their excellent work over this year and for the support that they have provided for me in my role as Chairman.

Cllr Bryan Lyttle
Chairman of the Planning Board
January 2015

The role of the Planning Board

The primary role of the Planning Board is to determine planning applications and other functions relating to town and country planning and development control and management. However, the Board also has powers to approve and adopt Supplementary Planning Documents and other non-statutory planning guidance, where these supplement the policies of the adopted Local Plan and other Development Plan Documents.

Members of the Planning Board

The Planning Board is composed of 12 Borough Councillors:-

Cllr B J Lyttle (Chairman)
Cllr M Bennett MBE (Vice Chairman)
Cllr C N Bull
Cllr A G Cox
Cllr B Gration
Cllr E Johnsen
Cllr J Nelson
Cllr J Orton
Cllr D Taylor
Cllr J A Walker
Cllr R Walker
Cllr M Wilson

Officers supporting the Planning Board

Support to the Planning Board is provided by a range of officers.

Reports on planning applications and other matters are presented by the Assistant Director (Planning & Regeneration), the Development Manager and the Principal Planning Officer, with support from other Planning Officers as necessary.

Legal advice is currently provided by the interim Assistant Director (Legal & Democratic Services), whilst the Democratic Services Manager and the Democratic Services Officer (Regulatory & Scrutiny) service the meetings and make arrangements for the distribution of agendas, reports and minutes of the meetings.

The Technical Administration team within Development Management are responsible for compiling the agendas for the Planning Board meetings, notifying applicants and those who have made representations on applications of the date and time of the meetings and preparing electronic presentations to the Planning Board.

Meetings of the Planning Board

Between 1 January and 31 December 2014, there were 11 meetings of the Planning Board, with 4 site visits being undertaken by the Planning Board to view application sites, prior to the consideration of those applications at a subsequent Board meeting.

Applicants, any members of the public who have made representations on an application and local ward members (or their nominee) are all able to speak at the Planning Board meetings.

Determination of planning applications

Between 1 January and 31 December 2014, 911 planning applications were determined by the Council. The majority of these applications (871) (96%) were determined in accordance with the Council's delegated procedures, with the remaining 40 applications (4%) being determined by the Planning Board.

Of the 40 applications determined by the Planning Board, the majority (32) (75%) were approved with conditions, with 8 applications (25%) being refused.

Other decisions of the Planning Board

In addition to the determination of planning applications, the Planning Board also determined an application under the High Hedges Complaints Procedure in 2014.

Training

All Planning Board members have access to a programme of training activities. These training sessions are normally held prior to Planning Board and cover a variety of topics.

The training sessions held between 1 January and 31 December 2014 covered the following topics:-

16 June 2014	Induction for new Board members
15 September 2014	Overview of the Planning Enforcement service
17 November 2014	Update by English Heritage on national and local conservation and heritage issues

Contact

For further information about the work of the Planning Board, please contact:

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