

Planning & Regulation Committee

Monday, 5 March 2012

ADDENDA

1. Apologies for Absence and Temporary Appointments

<i>Apology</i>	<i>Temporary Appointment</i>
Councillor Peter Jones Councillor Neil Owen Councillor John Sanders	- Councillor Lawrie Stratford -

4. Petitions and Public Address

<i>Speaker</i>	<i>Item</i>
William Clark Oxford City Council Legal Representative (attending to answer questions if required))) 9. Blackbird Leys Park Village) Green Application)

5. Retention and continued use of a single temporary classroom unit (ref T2 E198) for a further period of 5 years at Longfields Primary School, Longfields, Bicester - Application R3.0010/12

Further Consultation Responses

Councillor Michael Waine comments:

- Primary pupil numbers in Bicester are growing very fast;
- This temporary classroom represents the only space left available to the school to house extra pupils this September;
- The classroom is not big enough for a class of children, but it seems that the school has no choice;

- The building has no toilet facilities, so the children will need to access the main building via the playground in all weathers; and
- The school needs clear indications of how it will cater for growth in Bicester given proposed changes in catchments area.

Comments of the Deputy Director for Environment & Economy (Growth & Infrastructure)

Paragraphs 18 – 20 of the main report discusses whether the renewal of planning permission is appropriate in this instance. Renewal of planning permission for a further 5 year period would enable the school to consider how best to meet its accommodation needs.

Recommendation

As main report.

6. Installation of a 93 square metre modular building extension to existing children's centre (incorporating an enclosed linkway) to provide additional accommodation for 40 children for a temporary period of 5 years at Eynsham Primary School, Beech Road, Eynsham - Application R3.0018/12

Additional Representation

The applicant has expressed "alarm" to see a condition requiring removal of the building after 5 years.

Having had further discussions with the case officer the applicant accepts that the application was for a five year permission. Nevertheless the applicant is concerned about being required to remove the building after 5 years particularly as the lease for the siting of the unit is for 15 years and Earlyworld have made a substantial investment in the building.

Comments by the Deputy Director for Environment & Economy (Growth & Infrastructure)

The application is for a period of five years and the applicant has accepted that if planning permission is granted they will re-evaluate their position and reapply as necessary.

Recommendation

As main report.

9. Commons Act 2006: In the matter of an application to register the blackbird Leys Park, Blackbird Leys, Oxford as a Town or Village Green

Additional Representations

Councillor Richard Stevens (Leys & Lye)

I strongly support the recommendation of the County Solicitor to reject the application for town green status, for the reasons given by counsel.

Councillor Val Smith (Leys & Lye)

I very support the recommendation to reject Town Green status for what is the Blackbird Leys Park. The legal advice is with you and I hope the members follow the advice.

I would just like to add for clarification. The applicants say that there has been talk of also adding an Ice Rink to the site. This absolutely not the case and is incorrect - we have not discussed having an ice rink - money has been invested in the ice rink at the Oxpens and that is where it will stay.

However, what this application has done is delay the refurbishment of a very old playground that is well used. Consultation took place on the playground and therefore people's hopes have been dashed.

They also say that we will loose football pitches - again this is not case - we have had discussion with the local football teams - adult and boys and girls. Our commitment to football in the park is absolutely solid. In this years budget we have agreed a sum to refurbish the old changing rooms - this is also at risk if there is Town Green status.

I would emphasise this is a park and as such as been used for many years for all the activities listed - but so have all our parks - if we do not refuse we risk many other parks being subject to an application of this kind. This land is not open green space it is a City Council park and has been since the estate was built.

I spoke with the Chair and I hope these points can be taken into consideration.

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