

Planning Report 2008/9

As everyone is now able to access the planning applications through the SDC website reviewing applications and getting comments together is a much quicker process for the council. Several councillors have again taken advantage of the training in planning offered by SDC especially with regard to new regulations that came into force in October 2008. These allow for permitted development that does not require planning permission and means that officers from Stratford can decide without a full planning application coming to the Council. The Clerk has all planning applications and these can be viewed at the Parish Office for members of the public who wish to see the hard copies. Anyone can make a comment on a proposed plan but the comments that will be taken into consideration by the officers at Stratford will be to do with design, effect on the street scene and its appropriateness in development given the site it occupies, this applies especially in the Conservation Area. The County Council are concerned with any highways effects that a building or extension might have on traffic movement.

Some main plans this year have been for the Village Hall and the BMX track, more floodlights for the courts and offices at Bull Ring Garage. Cranford on Chesterton Road had many people making comments; this council took these objections to the area committee which then voted to allow the plans as they stood. We were asked to comment on the Tesco Store plans at Southam and while we were not keen for a large store we commented that it would provide job opportunities and cut down transport for people who would go to Leamington for their weekly shop. Another application at the cement works brought our severest criticism as we felt it did not take into account the plan set down by the authority for the area. This has still to be decided and may eventually in the current economic climate not now take place. This is an area that demands our careful vigilance. Currently a mast has appeared but this may be within permitted development and does not have anything to do with the owners we understand.

We would ask the public to always inform the clerk if they have concerns regarding any development and if they consider that planning permission has not been sought and is required. This is the only way we are able to protect our village and environment from unwelcome and unsympathetic development, you are our eyes and ears, we cannot know everything. Even removal of hedges and trees also require planning permission!

Thank you to all the team who help to monitor any planning applications that we receive.

Jenny Patrick. May 2009.