

APPENDIX 2

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK PANEL MINUTES

5 MARCH 2015

Chair: * Councillor Keith Ferry

Councillors: * Sue Anderson * Graham Henson
* Marilyn Ashton * Pritesh Patel
* Stephen Greek * Anne Whitehead

* Denotes Member present

RECOMMENDED ITEMS

14. Harrow School Supplementary Planning Document Consultation

The committee received the report of the Corporate Director, Environment and Enterprise, which set out a proposed supplementary planning document for Harrow School.

The Chair outlined the purpose of the SPD and provided brief background detail, in that Harrow School was over 400 years old, and had developed in piecemeal fashion over the years without being subject to Planning control.

The Divisional Director of Planning stated that the school had major works planned to improve its facilities for science, music and sport, and this would provide a valuable framework for development. It encompassed conservation areas and metropolitan open space which brought their own sensitive planning issues.

Members agreed that the SPD was necessary and useful, and noted that any development would have a far-reaching impact on surrounding areas, given its highly elevated position.

In response to their queries, Members were informed that Harrow School was happy with the SPD, and would be funding all its own development, although it was unclear as yet how continued maintenance of shared surface areas would be funded.

A Member queried the length of consultation, and the committee agreed the period should be extended to five weeks from four, as the period concerned included the Easter holiday. An officer stated that previous consultations had provided a database of over 1000 known interested parties and organisations who would be contacted. There would also be three public events, two at the school, and one in Harrow town centre.

Members considered whether traffic problems would be exacerbated by development work, and how these might be addressed.

A member queried the extent of the geographical area covered by the SPD, and expressed her extreme disappointment that she had not been consulted or informed during the production of the SPD, as it now transpired that the area covered extended across part of her ward. She was particularly concerned as the report claimed that ward councillors had been notified, when in fact this was not the case. Officers advised that this had been an omission, and that all ward councillors would be notified of consultation on the SPD and invited to comment. Those councillors representing Harrow on the Hill and Greenhill wards would be advised of the consultation responses and any proposed changes to the SPD prior to its recommendation for adoption.

Members noted that many proposed improvements would benefit the local community in addition to the school, and the Chair informed the committee of an anomaly which he hoped could be removed. The Ryan Theatre was subject to a restriction imposed by the Council itself, which stipulated that the theatre could not be used by the public, although it appeared that observance of this regulation had not been consistent.

Resolved to RECOMMEND: (to Cabinet)

That

- (1) the Harrow School Supplementary Planning Document be approved for public consultation;
- (2) the public consultation period be extended to five weeks;
- (3) the failure to consult all ward councillors be noted.

Reason for Recommendation: To progress the preparation of a Supplementary Planning Document as the most effective way of securing the principle of development for Harrow School's future needs, whilst preserving the special character, heritage and amenity of Harrow Hill in line with the Local Plan's Site Allocation for the school.