

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
AGENTS FORUM – WEDNESDAY, 25th July, 2007

Chair:- Les Crump

Officers Present:- Hayley Regan, Colin Edgecombe, Matthew Hunt, Tracy Brooks, Cllr Thomas, Cllr Lewis, Jamie Staples, Sarah Squire

Attendees:- Kirsty Baynham, Mike Mills, Chris Curtis, Brian Farmer, Darren Simner, Christopher Stacey, Elena Sidorina, Kirsty Maynham, Emily Elliot, Richard Chilcott, Christine Khojasteh, Richard Barnes

Action

1. **APOLOGIES** Mike Smith, Ivan Woodcock, Chris Pancheri, Wayne Belle, Eric Shepherd

2. **MINUTES OF LAST MEETING & MATTERS ARISING**

None

3. **INTRODUCTIONS**

Introduction to Cllrs Lewis and Thomas. Introduction of Jamie Staples, and Paul Steen to the Department.

Departure of Mike Fox and Les Crump taken on his Strategic roles as well as maintaining his DC commitment. A replacement for Les being considered.

Cllr Thomas emphasised the DC committee are 100% committed and will be embracing an enhanced training scheme.

Cllr Lewis spoke about his role as a cabinet member and his commitment to quality development.

4. **PEER REVIEW & RESTRUCTURE**

Final report not returned to us as yet- can issue copies to those that would like them.

Highlighted:

Resources

Customer Care

Working together

HR

5. **UPDATE ON LDF**

As per presentation- Contact Tracy Brooks for further details Tel 01803 208813

Confirmed that the Chambers of Trade are involved with Devon Link Road chats.

6. **FUTURE OF BC**

As per presentation

Q- Will planning restraints be more relaxed re BC regulations on sustainable homes?

A- A parallel review of planning controls for the installation of solar panels and wind turbines is being carried out in support of the sustainable homes code.

Q- Whats the advantage to the builder with these regulations?

A- Consumers are increasingly environmentally conscious and developers should benefit in terms of competitive differentiation by marketing performance against the code.

Matthew Hunt- Local Authority Built in Quality Awards 2008

Entries in, complete a form and send in photos. Judged independently and Torbay's high standards of development are able to compete well with other entries nationally.

Q- Asbestos regulations- how does it affect BC regs/procedure?

A- The Asbestos Regulations do not fall within the Building Regulations and are administered by the Environmental Protection Team.

Q-Are fees for BC ever going to be standardised?

A- The Building Regulation Fees are subject to review but, they are set on a 'not for profit' bases, by each authority, and should reflect the true cost of providing the service in a district. Rural Authorities would tend to incur more travel costs than urban areas and their charges would be higher

7 **WHITE PAPER**

General discussion – ‘Placemaking’ How do you get there:- Partnership, Compulsory Purchase, Climate Change Agenda, Economy/affordable/housing.
Q- Issue of derelict hotels, is the approach to planning to change?

8 **E-PLANNING & 1 APP**

Good feedback regarding the acknowledgements and decision notices. WB
1-App hard copy of forms made available to view- WB to confirm when we will be using it.
Issue raised as to stamped copies and 1 being returned- can we revert back to this system, Les WB/LC
confirmed that it should be ok but wanted to clarify with WB as to why we took this decision.

9 AOB

Eric Shepherd request for 7 copies of OS plans. No decision taken.
Return of stamped approve plans- why was this stopped and can we continue to do this? LC

Mike Smith to confirm through benchmarking group the situation on Minor Amendments. We no longer take them. MRS

NEXT MEETING

Jan 08