



Midhurst Town Council

A Meeting of the Planning and Infrastructure Committee took place on Monday 26th September 2022 at 6.45pm at The Old Library, Knockhundred Row, Midhurst.

MINUTES

Present: Cllr D. Coote (Chairman), Cllr R. Watts, Cllr G. McAra, Cllr D. Merritt, Cllr C. Lintott, Cllr G Upjohn and Cllr D Fraser

Officer: Julian Quail, Assistant Town Clerk

Also: Sharon Hurr, Town Clerk and RFO and 18 members of the public

P/191/22 – Chairman’s Announcements

The Chairman welcomed all those present and provided the process for members of the public who chose to speak.

P/192/22 - Apologies for Absence: Cllr J. Hensey

P/193/22 - Declarations of Interest: None

P/194/22 - To approve Minutes of Meeting Held on 12th September 2022

These were agreed as a true record of the meeting.

P/195/22 - Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Meeting Held on 12th September 2022

None

Meeting halted for Public Participation Session

P/196/22 - Public Participation Session

Eight members of the public spoke about their concerns regarding the proposed change of use from Sui Generis to C2 for St Margaret’s Convent of Mercy in Little Ashfield, Midhurst. These comments covered:

- Concerns about the proposed change of use from a convent to a facility for young people with eating disorders.
- The suitability of such a facility in both a residential area and within the South Downs National Park.
- Ingress and egress of an increase in vehicles for patients, staff and deliveries. The parking area within Little Ashfield is small and will not lend itself to increased traffic. In addition, it has been noted that a number of vehicles are parking on the corner of the entrance to Little Ashfield.
- The planning application stated that staff will park at the Grange Centre and walk to work. This is unrealistic, especially during times of inclement weather. There will be twenty-six members of staff arriving early in the morning for the 07:30 change over. In addition, no feasibility study has been conducted regarding the environmental impact of this increased traffic.
- Impact on local health services. It was suggested that the potential special needs of the patients will require additional assistance from the local health centre.
- The private nature of the company and its interest in its shareholders priorities.

The chairman thanked those who chose to speak.

Meeting reconvened.

P/197/22 - Planning Applications

197.1 SDNP/22/03768/FUL

Proposed change of use Sui Generis to C2, including external alterations.

St Margaret's Convent of Mercy Little Ashfield Midhurst West Sussex GU29 9JP

Decision: MTC object to this application on the following grounds:

1. Unsuitable unit for the immediate and wider area. MTC do not feel that the environment and situation alongside a busy A road is suitable for the type and nature of the facility nor conducive to the recovery of patients.
2. Inadequate parking and delivery slots for the size of the immediate area and the change from Sui Generis to C2. The area is already very congested with parking by residents of the local area, MTC do not feel that adequate parking and space for emergency vehicles, delivery vehicles etc for the change of use from the current (very light) Sui Generis use to a C2 facility have been considered. Little Ashfield to June Lane has a PROW running through it and this should be taken into account in any plans for parking and provision made for larger vehicles servicing the site.
3. Stress on local medical facilities. While MTC understand specialist staff will be provided, there will undoubtedly be a stress on local infrastructure, especially the already stretched medical facilities in the Midhurst area. Should this, and the proposed care home facility, go ahead the pressure on these services will be untenable.
4. The issue of water neutrality. MTC do not think that the developer has adequately considered the issue of water neutrality with regard to the additional use, which would be significant in comparison to the current use.

197.2 SDNP/22/03552/HOUS

Single storey side/rear ground floor extension and associated works.

Saxonbury, 55 Petersfield Road Midhurst West Sussex GU29 9JH

Decision: MTC has no objection to this application.

P/198/22 - Tree Applications – Midhurst

198.1 SDNP/22/03942/TCA

Notification of intention to fell 1 no. Hawthorn tree.

Grafton House Wool Lane Midhurst West Sussex GU29 9BX 8.1 SDNP/22/03942/TCA

Decision: MTC has no objection to this application, providing a suitable species is found to replace it.

P/200/22 – Decisions

These were circulated prior to the meeting and were noted.

P/201/22 – Other Planning Matters for discussion

- a) **Arundel House – Rumbold's Hill:** Building work is progressing at Arundel House on Rumbold's Hill. MTC wrote to CDC informing them that a planning application had not been received. CDC responded with the following statement: *Planning permission is not required for the work being carried out as it is not defined as 'development' under Section 55 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. As such it is not controlled by planning enforcement and*

no action can be taken. The meeting did not feel this was correct and asked the office to follow up with a letter to Mr John Saunders, Development Manager for SDNP.

Action: Cllr McAra to draft a letter for onward submission to John Saunders regarding the situation at Arundel House.

- b) **South Down's Property – West Street/Red Lion Street**: An air conditioning unit has been attached to the outside of South Down's Property on Red Lion Street. It is believed that this has not received planning permission. Following an on-line submission to CDC, they have agreed to look into this apparent breach of planning requirements.

P/202/22 – Actions: Committee to review outstanding actions

All actions are now complete.

P/203/22 – Matters of Report

None

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.37pm.

Signed: Date:.....
Chairman