

REPORT ON THE OPERATION OF THE COMMITTEE'S GUILLOTINE ON LATE REPRESENTATIONS ON PLANNING COMMITTEE ITEMS

Purpose of the Report

To advise members of the receipt, after the guillotine, of "late" representations from some Parish Councils and to give the Committee the opportunity to consider whether they wish to change the Committee's procedure

Recommendations

1. That the Committee resolve that late representations from Parish Councils be considered to be subject to the guillotine procedure, with immediate effect

2. That the Parish Councils be informed of this decision and reminded as to the operation of the Committee's policy on late representations

As members will be aware the Committee's policy, established in 2007, is to operate a guillotine after which late representations, whether from applicants or third parties, will not be reported to or taken into account by the Committee. The policy does not prevent the reporting of late submissions where the submission refers to a material consideration that would otherwise not be considered.

The policy allows as an exception the reporting of late representations from statutory consultees.

In recent years representations have upon occasion been received from a Parish Council after the guillotine and your Officers have reported it. Such representations have generally been in the form of comments on the published officer's report, normally published some 6 days in advance of the guillotine.

On one recent occasion because of the lateness of the receipt of the submission officers had to provide members with a supplementary report of some length on the day of the actual meeting. As members will be aware the practice has been to issue supplementary reports some 5 days before the meeting itself

Not only does this significantly assist the Committee in undertaking its business but it assists in preventing all parties producing arguments and submissions at the last minute and supports the Committee and the Council as Local Planning Authority in maintaining the principles of transparency and considered decision making in the exercise of its planning functions

Your Officer's view is that there is no logical basis for allowing Parish Councils to make last minute representations, that this does not assist the Committee in its role, and that the policy should be amended so that Parish Councils are subject to the same guillotine procedure as applies to third parties and agents. The Parish Councils will still have an opportunity to submit to the Committee comments upon officers' recommendations

Date Report prepared

13th April 2017