

Report on the Forest Town Community Council (FTCC) Planning Sub-Committee from Shlomo Downen, FTCC Planning Sub-Committee Chair

19th March 2013

The Forest Town Community Council's Planning Sub-Committee was established at the 2011 Annual General Meeting (AGM), with Jim Pugh and Shlomo Downen endorsed as Co-Chairs. The Sub-Committee was empowered to make submissions on behalf of the Community Council in relation to relevant planning applications and strategies, providing the Executive Committee with copies of any consultation submission made or to be made on behalf of the Forest Town Community Council and to respond to suggestions made or issues raised by any member of the Forest Town Community Council. The Planning Sub-Committee provides anyone who is interested with an opportunity to explore planning issues in greater depth than is possible during the monthly Community Council meetings.

Since the Sub-Committee was formed, Shlomo has monitored more than a thousand planning applications each year, with details of more than 30 planning applications a week sent to him by Mansfield District and Newark & Sherwood District Councils. Most of these proposals do not directly impact on Forest Town, although it was considered that several applications merited a response.

Since last year's AGM, the Planning sub-Committee:

- Voiced local residents' concerns regarding the unauthorised use of 167 Clipstone Road West as a car sales and storage area, securing the formal agreement of the Planning Inspectorate that the owners should "stop using the premises in connection with car sales and car storage and remove all vehicles from the premises other than vehicles used by occupiers of the dwelling house in connection with their private residential use";
- Submitted ten substantive comments arising from discussion at the FTCC meeting of 17th July 2012 to Mansfield District Council regarding a planning application for 14 dwellings on land to the rear of 183 Clipstone Road West;
- Made a formal submission as part of MDC's 2012 Update of Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) regarding Entry 100 - New Mill Lane, Forest Town - Estimated Dwellings 395 and Entry 101 - Land at Old Mill Lane, Forest Town - Estimated Dwellings 505;
- Celebrated Veolia's decision to give up on building a waste incinerator in the vicinity of Forest Town;
- Raised concerns (but did not formally object) regarding Veolia's application to vary condition 18 of their sorting facility planning permission to extend operating hours to 20 hours in every 24, and Veolia's failure to introduce a complaints procedure; and
- Provided advice and guidance regarding planning objections to Vets4Pets' application to erect illuminated signage.

The Sub-Committee, in conjunction with the Forest Town Nature Conservation Group, notified Mansfield District Council regarding damage to the hedge along Stinting Lane, and we continue to work together to survey and protect this valued local asset.

As a matter of interest, Shlomo and Josh have deepened their involvement in Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire's Waste Core Strategy, and are in the process of submitting further evidence as part of the Examination in Public inquiry process. If anyone would like to accompany Shlomo and Josh to the hearings in Nottingham in Mid-May, please contact Shlomo for details.

Indeed, Shlomo would be happy to respond to any questions and to any interest from those wishing to join the Planning Sub-Committee.

Forest Town Community Council members will be aware of Jim Pugh's passing, and of the vacancy for the role of Co-Chair that this has left.