

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

18th March 2014

The Forest Town Community Council's Planning Sub-Committee was established at the 2011 Annual General Meeting (AGM), and 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 is open to new volunteers. This is an opportunity for anyone who is interested to explore planning issues in greater depth than is possible during the monthly Community Council meetings.

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

- Vetted hundreds of planning applications submitted to Mansfield District Council, Newark and Sherwood District Council and Nottinghamshire County Council. Most of these proposals had no direct impact on Forest Town, although there were several local applications that were worth drawing to the attention of those attending Forest Town Community Council meetings;
- Submitted a planning objection to an application that would have made the illegal off-road biking situation worse. This undesirable scheme was withdrawn and will not now go ahead. It should be noted that, now that Spa ponds is moving to community ownership, we are part of the Landowners Group working with Jim Bray and others to positively address the illegal biking issue. Shlomo has attended one meeting of the Landowners Group so far, and has had several further discussions with the Group's Chair, Janice Bradley of the Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust.
- Saw what we hope is an end to the unauthorised use of 167 Clipstone Road West as a car sales and storage area; and
- Contacted the Forestry Commission, who visited the Cavendish Gun Club in response to the serious concerns we raised regarding the tyre wall (which has yet to be removed).

In the coming year we can expect the Planning Sub-Committee to continue to vet planning applications, and to provide input where relevant, possibly in relation to Mansfield District Council's Flint Avenue proposals.

A submission will certainly be made as part of Mansfield District Council's current survey to nominate Spa Ponds for Local Green Space designation for Spa Ponds to be included as a protected Local Green Space in Mansfield District Council's Local Plan.