

PLANS GROUP REPORT



Kem Mehmed

Our two Plans Group convenors check through planning applications lists for schemes which may be of concern to the Society. The groups commit to meet on alternate fortnights, one group convened by Kem Mehmed, the other by Peter Lee. On about half the occasions this year there was no need for a meeting. Additionally, our Chairman receives notifications of most major developments at the pre-application stage, giving the whole committee an opportunity to meet the design team, have a pre-application view of drawings and express its initial views. Occasionally these meetings are at a genuinely early stage; more usually they are very close to the application submission date when a scheme has already been ‘firmed up’ following meetings with the City Council’s planners. Clearly the former gives the Society greater scope to influence the outcome in a positive way.

Over the past year the Plans Groups have met on at least 13 occasions. Over 110 applications have been examined and comments submitted on 21 of them.

A summary of our comments on the most significant cases is published in our newsletter together with the decision of the City Council. This year these have included:

- Queensgate, Cinema and foodhall
- Alwalton Hill, Change from employment to 610 dwellings.
- Brassey Close, Student apartments.
- Barnack, 80 houses
- Memorial Hospital, Rebuilding and retention of facade.
- The Gables Thorpe Road - Conversion to apartments
- Guildhall Walk, Gates.
- Fletton Quays, Details of Access road, offices, car park, renovation of engine shed, public realm and residential blocks.

Each of the Plans Groups has a member drawn from the general membership as well as its three committee members. This year they have been Bill Samuel and Sarah Cresswell and we are very grateful indeed for their contribution. Sarah has now stepped down and we would like to recruit another Plans Group member from the general membership. Please get in touch if you would like to join us. The only qualifications are a reasonable familiarity with Peterborough and being able to use e-mail and internet. It would be a once a month commitment. We meet on Wednesday afternoons and it’s not a life-time sentence!

Kem Mehmed and Peter Lee



Chairman David Turnock and committee member David Jost photographed by David Lowndes for a Peterborough Telegraph article on Fletton Quays.