

PLANS GROUP REPORT



Kem Mehmed

The last twelve month period has seen a steady increase in the number of planning applications of all types received by the City Council, reaching a total in excess of 2400. Although the majority are for minor matters which have no significant impact on the aims of the Civic Society, a number of applications have been examined in detail by our two Plans Groups. They are selected by the group conveners (myself and Peter Lee) from the on-line, weekly lists provided by the City Council. Each Group is scheduled to meet once every four weeks at the Town Hall offices to go through the paper files of the selected applications.

Over the past year we met 16 times, studied about 110 files and made comments on 25 of these. Most of the comments passed to the planning office offered suggestions and opinions on applications and many were in support of proposals of good quality. Only 13 comments returned could be considered to be objections.

Descriptions and summaries of a selection of our comments submitted on applications have been published in our newsletters and can be found on line together, in most cases, with the City Council decision.

Some of the planning matters dealt with by the Committee as a whole included the Peterborough Local Plan-Further Draft (see our web-site) and our opposition to the erection of gates across the Guildhall Walk right of way (see David Jost's report on page 11).

Significant Applications this year have included:

- Fletton Quays. A number of applications following the overall approval of the whole site. Access road from Town Bridge through to new council office block. Public Realm, details of riverside promenade and other public spaces. Residential blocks including 280 apartments, retail units and undercroft car parking, approved in January. Increase to 350 apartments and additional car parking, decision awaited.
- Broadway Theatre, Conversion to apartments. Strong representation made objecting to loss of theatre. Decision awaited
- Barnack, Uffington Road, 80 dwellings outside village envelope. Refused but allowed on appeal. This came as a very unpleasant surprise and is based solely on the lack of a 5 year supply of housing sites at the time of the appeal.
- Wittering, southern edge of village, 190 dwellings. Decision awaited.
- Brassey Close, apartments. Refused and dismissed on appeal.
- Market Multi-storey Car park. Fencing to top floor parapet. Permitted despite objections.
- 29 Long Causeway, major changes to street elevation to create new bank.

Following last year's AGM two members volunteered to join the Plans Group panel and we welcomed, Peter Hughes and Keith Lievesley to our team. Very recently Tony Knighton has been unable to attend the meetings due to illness so we have to make our usual appeal for more help. The panel now comprises; Henry Duckett, Peter Lee, Kem Mehmed, Peter Sargent, Pauline Sidebottom, Bill Samuel, Peter Hughes, Keith Lievesley, Peter Beasley and, on occasion, David Turnock.

Kem Mehmed and Peter Lee