

KETTERING TOWN COUNCIL

Meeting	PLANNING COMMITTEE 2021	Page 1
Report Originator	Emma Driver	<i>Agenda item No</i> PC21/004
Title	Responding to Planning Application Consultations – proposed approach	

Purpose of Report

To agree with members the process by which planning applications are selected for submission to this committee and to outline the provision of training for members on planning applications.

Selection of Planning applications

The Town Council is entitled to be consulted on all planning applications relevant to its area. Generally speaking, the Town Council is allowed 24 calendar days in which to make a response, although some flexibilities may apply in some cases.

There are currently about 8-10 planning applications received by North Northamptonshire Council every week that relate to the Town Council's area, which, on the basis of a monthly planning committee, would be too great a number to sensibly cover at each meeting.

Statutorily, planning applications are categorised as "major", "minor" and "other". Appendix one sets out the definitions for each of these categories. It is proposed that only major and minor applications are routinely submitted to the planning committee for consultation purposes. Members will receive a weekly list of all applications, including those in the "other" category and individual members may either respond directly to NNC on any "other" applications which they are interested in or – if they feel it raises a wider issue – can ask for that item to be brought to committee. Depending on the experience of using this facility, some more granular tests might be needed to avoid it being over-used as an approach.

Member training

NCALC will be organising training for all town and parish councillors on planning matters, and it is likely that NNC will also want to arrange training as well, with a more local focus, in due course. It is proposed that all members of this committee should be expected to attend at least one training course on planning as a condition of their continued membership of the committee.

Recommendations

It is recommended that.

- a) Only "major" and "minor" planning applications together with listed building consents to be submitted to the committee for comment.
- b) That any member is entitled to comment directly to NNC on any "other" application in their ward, and, where it raises wider issues or sets a precedent, to seek the chair's agreement that it be submitted to the Town Council's planning committee for comment.
- c) That this approach be reviewed after 6 months
- d) That all members of the planning committee attend at least one training session within three months of becoming a member as a condition of their continued membership.