

# Welcome to East Plans Panel



This Panel is responsible for making decisions on the bigger and more sensitive planning applications within the East area of the city.

January 2008

# The Plans Panel - who's who?

A number of elected Councillors sit on this Panel and it is chaired by Councillor Graham Latty. Here are the current Plans Panel Members:



*Chair of  
Plans Panel  
Cllr Graham  
Latty*



*Cllr Ann  
Castle*



*Cllr David  
Congreve*



*Cllr Peter  
Gruen*



*Cllr Michael  
Lyons OBE*



*Cllr Keith  
Parker*



*Cllr Alan  
Taylor*



*Cllr Paul  
Wadsworth*



*Cllr Donald  
Wilson*

The chair will ask the Members and officers to introduce themselves at the beginning of the meeting. Occasionally there may be Members who are unable to attend the meeting and so will ask another Member to attend for them.

The Chair is advised by a team of Council Officers led by John Redding, the Area Planning Manager. The Panel is also advised by a lawyer, highways officer, other planning officers and a clerk who records the proceedings and minutes the meeting.

## The Agenda

You should have a copy of today's order of business. Key parts of the meeting are:

- Declaration of interests - Members will declare if they have any personal or prejudicial interests.
- Members apologies for absence.
- Minutes of the previous meeting and Matters Arising.

- Planning Appeal Decisions - Noting the decisions of the Secretary of State, Department for Communities and Local Government, on appeals following the refusal of planning permission.
- Planning Application reports-The Chair will introduce each report and a Planning Officer will present the report. Members of the public may also wish to say something either in support or against an application. All Officer reports have a recommendation of whether the application should be either refused or approved by the Plans Panel.
- There may also be pre-application presentations, late items and applications brought back from a previous meeting.

Members do not always need to discuss an application if they are satisfied that they have all the information they need in order to make a decision.

## Public Speaking

If you have previously notified us that you wish to speak either in support or against an application on today's agenda you will be invited to speak. If you have not notified us prior to the meeting, you will not be able to speak.

You will be asked to keep your presentation to the Panel to three minutes. It is up to you what you say, but it might be useful to bear in mind the following:

- Concentrate on explaining and expanding the points that you have already made in writing.
- You should not attempt to surprise the Panel with new information. Any new information should have already been given to the planning.
- The Panel can only consider applications on planning grounds. You should not discuss the applicant's past behaviour or speculate about their future intentions or say anything which is defamatory.

The Members may ask questions to seek clarification on any points arising from your presentation. This will end your part in the debate about the application.

The Panel will then discuss the application and make a decision. In making that decision the Panel will also consider Government legislation, statements and guidance.

## Decisions

There are several key decisions Members can make:

- Approval - Members can also add or amend conditions to this approval
- Refuse - Members can add new reasons for refusal, and/or amend the reasons for refusal stated in the Officers report
- Defer making a decision - if Members need further information or need to visit the site they can agree to not make a decision until the next Plans Panel meeting
- Defer and delegate - Members can agree the decision in principle and defer the application back to the Officer to make the final decision
- Where the Panel do not accept the officer recommendation, they can request that the application be reported back to the next meeting with suggested conditions to be attached to an approval or reasons for refusal for their consideration

## Communicating with the Panel

Please do not attempt to speak with any of the Members of the Plans Panel before or during the meeting or to pass them any papers or information as this may give the appearance of bias and the Member may have to withdraw from the meeting.

## Lobbying

Please do not lobby Plans Panel Members in person or by telephone. Members cannot appear to be biased on any application and may be forced to withdraw if they feel they may have been compromised.



The decision on an application is only made on the merits of a particular proposal after all the information has been properly considered at the Plans Panel meeting.

Finally, please remember to turn off your mobile phone.