

Minutes of the extra ordinary a meeting of the PLANNING & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE held in Rickards Hall on Monday 24 July 2017 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs J Barnett, T Bryant, Mrs J Davison, R Davison, A Layland (Chairman), V Maynard, M McArthur, S McGregor, B Orridge, M Robson, J Scholey, B Todd (Vice Chairman).

In attendance: C Lane (Town Clerk), three members of the public and no press.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received, noted and accepted from Cllrs R Bell (work commitment) and J Wooltorton (prior engagement).

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS OR PREDETERMINATION, including interests not already registered - none

The meeting was closed

3. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

A member of the public who specializes in Public Health raised a number of serious concerns regarding planning application 17/02109/OUT the proposal by Ecolation to open an alternative facility to burial or cremation of bodies on the current site of a driving range. The application and the company's website provide no evidence to support the claim that the process provides no hazard. This sector is poorly regulated and it has not been demonstrated that the process would totally eliminate pathogens. Indeed, research scientists use freeze drying as a method for storing bacteria, superbugs and pathogens. No detail of air extraction or filters is available. It is crucial that the resulting dust must be burnt to prevent the spread of disease. The thought that this untreated material could be taken home and used for planting a tree is extremely worrying as it could/would cause a serious public health issue.

The meeting was reopened

4. TO RECEIVE AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE PLANNING & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE HELD ON Monday 17 July 2017 – they will be presented on 14 August

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES NOT COVERED ELSEWHERE, FOR REPORT ONLY – none

6. PLANNING APPLICATIONS TO BE CONSIDERED

The erection of a single story rear extension with lantern roof light and a loft conversion with rear dormer and two rooflights on front elevation. **5 Lingfield Road Edenbridge KENT TN8 5DR 17/02150/HOUSE**

Members support this planning application.

Erection of a single storey oak frame side extension (garden room) to annex. **Springrove Crouch House Road Edenbridge KENT TN8 5EJ 17/02134/HOUSE**

Members wish the officers to apply a condition to ensure that the use of this building remains auxiliary to the main house, and does not become a separate dwelling.

Outline application for the Removal of existing golf driving range and proposed new building(s) to provide for a facility that is an alternative to conventional cremation or burial, known as Ecolation, incorporating chapel, and cafe. Provision of car parking and external landscaping enhancements. With all matters reserved. **Kent And Surrey Golf Range Ltd Driving Range Crouch House Road Edenbridge KENT TN8 5LQ Ref. No: 17/02109/OUT**

Members supported the comments and scientific evidence provided at the beginning of the meeting and were aware themselves of the danger this process could cause. They Object on both planning and public health grounds.

The public health grounds, there is no evidence that the process is safe and provides no hazard to public safety. It has not been demonstrated that the proposed process would totally eliminate pathogens. Indeed, research scientists use freeze drying as a method for storing bacteria, superbugs and pathogens, so it can't be considered safe.

No detail of air extraction or filters are available with the plans and the resulting dust must be burnt to prevent the spread of disease. The thought that this material could be taken home and used for planting a tree is extremely worrying and could/would cause a serious public health issue. The Environmental Health Department and DEFRA, who are currently reviewing Crematorium Regulations, should be asked to comment on this proposal which is understood to be the first in England.

On planning grounds, members object as the proposal would be detrimental to the openness of the Green Belt. The location of the new building is previously undeveloped land and, although some thought has gone into the design of the building, it would have a visual impact. No evidence has been provided that the current use of the land, as a golf driving range, is no longer needed and its loss would be detrimental to the community.

The proposed location does not meet the criteria for a crematorium to be located, it is on the edge of the built environment and further development of this area is currently under consideration by Tandridge Council. The need for further burial land or a crematorium has not been identified in either of the developing Neighbourhood or Local Plans.

No Environmental Impact statement has been provided. No noise assessment for the refrigeration units and vacuum pumps has been provided. The traffic movement provided seem to be weighted to maximum use of the golf range and minimal use of the chapel.

For all of these this reasons, members strongly object to this proposal.

Other comments: information unrelated to this application has been posted on the SDC planning website for this application.

Three members of the public left the meeting

7. PRESS RELEASE

There were no items on the agenda for which members wished to issue a press release.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm