

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

PLANNING COMMITTEE

HELD REMOTELY

18TH MAY 2021 (6PM)

Present:

Councillors: C Edginton-White (Chairman), C J Barnett (Vice-Chairman), J Aston, V Caulfield, A Coleman, H E Dyke, M J Hart, L J Jones, and L Whitehouse.

Observers:

Councillors: R H Coleman, P Dyke, S Griffiths, I Hardiman, K Henderson, N Martin, Mary Rayner and John Thomas.

PL.01 Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from Councillors P Harrison, F M Oborski MBE and C Rogers.

PL.02 Appointment of Substitutes

Councillor B Dawes was appointed as a substitute for Councillor C Rogers.
Councillor A Totty was appointed as a substitute for Councillor F M Oborski MBE.

PL.03 Declarations of Interests by Members

Councillors H E Dyke, M J Hart, C J Barnett, L Whitehouse, L J Jones, A Coleman, B Dawes and C Edginton-White declared for transparency that they had all received correspondence about the application but had made no comment. Councillor A Totty declared for transparency that that he had commented on the application on social media, and Councillor V Caulfield declared for transparency that she had met with representatives from PGM to find out more about the application but all Members confirmed they came to the meeting with an open mind and would judge the application on the information received from Officers.

PL.04 Minutes

Decision: The minutes of the meeting held on 16th March 2021 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

PL.05 Applications To Be Determined

The Committee considered the response to be submitted to Worcestershire County Council as part of the statutory consultation on application 20/0758/COUN following a presentation from the Development Manager on the application.

Decision: Members provided comments to enable the Development Manager to provide a full response to the County Council on application 20/0758/COUN.

Agenda Item No. 4

Full response to Worcestershire County Council on application 20/0758/COUN.

Following a full discussion the Planning Committee noted that based upon the Development Plan, the Framework and the National Planning Policy Statement for Waste that there were no planning grounds to object to the proposal. However, they had significant concerns in respect of environmental issues and the impact that the proposal would have on local residents of Wyre Forest. In particular the following concerns were highlighted;

- Increase of pollutants within Air Quality Management Areas in Kidderminster, Stourport and Bewdley from both additional traffic and from the facility itself.
- That Wyre Forest has a higher level of Asthma sufferers than the national average and particularly in Stourport where levels are the highest in Wyre Forest, any increase in pollutants could push AQM's and other areas of high pollutants to be above acceptable levels and have an adverse impact on health. There are difficulties in getting emergency help for sufferers given the District's location away from key health care facilities.
- Concern of where pollutants will fall during differing weather patterns.
- Increase of pollution due to increased congestion.
- That whilst the facility is highlighted as being 'low carbon' this is only due to the way this is calculated, in reality it will increase carbon in a District that has declared a Climate Emergency. Proposals should be looking at being carbon neutral in this context.
- That no environmental permit had been applied for, and as such that there was no confidence in the evidence presented thus far without this process being at least commenced.
- A number of Councillors had received letters from residents which they wished to be shared with the County Council.

The Planning Committee resolution (on a vote of 5 to 3 (with 3 abstentions)) was that they were unable to support the Officers proposal of a no objection response, due to environmental concerns and the impact that it was perceived that the proposal could have on local residents of Wyre Forest. However, the Committee acknowledged that there were no material planning matters that they were able to raise as part of this consultation.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 7:54pm.