

015. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors were reminded that this item allowed the Chairman to receive disclosures of personal and prejudicial interests from Councillors on matters to be considered at the meeting. The disclosure must include the nature of the interest. If they became aware, during the course of a meeting of an interest that has not been disclosed under this item they must immediately disclose it. They may remain in the meeting and take part fully in discussion and voting unless the interest is prejudicial. A personal interest is prejudicial if a member of the public with knowledge of the relevant facts would reasonably regard it as so significant that is likely to prejudice the Councillors judgment of the public interest and it relates to a financial or regulatory matter.

Cllr Best declared a personal interest relating to PA 00392/2010/Tav – please see appendix B for further information.

Cllr P Sanders took part in the open discussion regarding the matter of the banners only in his capacity as a Town Councillor only.

016. MATTERS ARISING

There were no such matters.

017. DARTMOOR NATIONAL PARK

There were no such matters.

018. TOWN CENTRE ISSUES

a) Representatives of WDBC Planning to attend this meeting to discuss the matter of the banners on Bedford Square.

Following from the Properties Committee meeting of 20th April 2010, Edward Persse (West Devon Borough Council (WDBC) Principal Planning Officer) and Graham Lawrence (WDBC Conservation Officer) had been invited to this meeting to discuss the Bedford Square banners. Cllr Best welcomed them to this meeting.

Mr Persse explained and emphasised that WDBC wanted to work and have open dialogue with the Town Council (TTC) to find a way to advertise TTC events that is more effective as well as lifting and enhancing the historic nature of the area. WDBC feels that the current banner situation appears to detract from that.

Members asked if WDBC had any thoughts on alternatives. Mrs Persse spoke of vertical banners on lampposts as per the banner on a lamppost in front the 'The Quay' on Plymouth Road – banners would be interchangeable to suit the advertising needs of the TTC.

Members said that this alternative had been explored in the past. Devon County Council (DCC) had in the past refused banners on lampposts as they were not strong enough to take the strains of attached banners flying in the wind. Members also said that the TTC, in conjunction with DCC, would need to investigate whether the existing lampposts on Bedford Square are strong enough for banners to be attached in this way. If not then new lampposts would need to be installed at a cost with permission from English Heritage and DCC.

Members asked what the issue was actually was - the banners or how they were fixed – as the banners in their current state have been around for at least 50 years.

Mr Persse felt that both are issues. WDBC could take enforcement but would much prefer to work with TTC to find a solution. Enforcement action would not be in the interest of either party.

Mr Lawrence also said that as Court Gate is considered as a Scheduled Ancient Monument because it rises from the ancient medieval abbey ruins, Ancient Monument permission would be required for any additional fixtures in the ground in that area.

Members' spoke of about the fact TTC is investigating a temporary structure in front of the Town Hall front door and perhaps this could be used to fix advertising material.

Returning to the subject of the banners in their current form, Mr Lawrence said it although it was difficult to gauge how often banners were erected in the past, traditionally banners were only erected at certain times and in that position as advertising for coaches as Bedford Square was one a coach park. Nowadays, the use of banners has increased so they have become a permanent feature.

Mr Lawrence felt that the banners in their current form and position are not actually that highly visible to all approaches to Bedford Square. They are offset from Plymouth Road. The market barrows on the Square with posters are actually more eye-catching and visible. Mr Lawrence suggested perhaps another notice board in keeping with the current ones.

Mr Lawrence felt that it may be advisable for TTC to review the effectiveness of the banners as advertising material and assess their impact on the character of the environment considering that Tavistock has 'World Heritage' status.

Members disagreed with the opinion that the banners were not visible or effective. Members were extremely concerned that to change the currently simple and cost-effective advertising system would come at great cost to TTC.

Mr Lawrence said it would be up to TTC as owners of advertising space to obtain revenue from those wishing to advertise there.

Mr Lawrence said that the whole issue of the current situation was that the permanent banners detract from the character of the town especially since the inception and significance of 'World Heritage' status.

Mr Persse said that he understood why banners in the current form were used but reminded members that this area has the most designations in West Devon - many listings including an Scheduled Ancient Monument, a Conservation Area as well as having this internationally significant status.

Members were concerned that WDBC were trying to 'sterilise' the area by removing the rural character of these banners.

Mr Persse said that WDBC would like to see advertising that enhances and adds to the attractiveness of the area. He added that TTC were delighted

when Tavistock received 'World Heritage' status but with that comes a responsibility to protect it and TTC has that responsibility.

Mr Persse emphasised again that WDBC wants to work closely with TTC to resolve this and find a solution that adds to the town.

Members asked how to establish a way forward as, ideally, TTC would prefer not to be involved in any legal action.

Members asked what if banners were smarter. Mr Persse replied that it was a combination of banners and location – perhaps a solution could be to relocate the banners.

Mr Lawrence said that it was common for organisations and businesses to go through a review period of how their advertising is done which leads to a natural progression of updating signage. There are other ways to advertise which could prove even more effective than the current situation.

Members did feel that in the overall scheme of things, there are more important issues in Tavistock than flying banners, a subject over which there is a great amount of debate, and how many complaints did WDBC receive on this matter.

Mr Lawrence said that WDBC have received several complaints. There is a public perception that TTC are not being enforced or WDBC are not picking up on issues when members of the public are.

Members asked how WDBC would feel about a more permanent structure in the same place that is more in-keeping.

Mr Lawrence replied that liberating Court Gate from anything like this would be the ideal solution. He suggested that perhaps the market barrows could be used as an interim solution as they are already being used for advertising on Bedford Square.

Mr Lawrence said that ideally, WDBC would like to have further open and frank debate about the needs of TTC and come to a solution.

Members thanked Mr Persse and Mr Lawrence for taking time to come and discuss the matter with TTC. The matters discussed will be reported to Council who will then respond.

Mr Persse said he will pass on the comments made by TTC to WDBC.

- b) Letter from Tavistock Group of Artists regarding banners – NOTED.
- c) E-mail from Tavonians Theatre Company regarding banners – NOTED.
- d) WDBC notification of a Listed Building application for erection of a cubed sign at The Archway, Bedford Square – PA 00414/2010/Tav – NOTED.
- e) Visual information from WDBC regarding proposed hanging cubed signage on exterior of new TIC. Also see Appendix B 00414/2010/Tav – NOTED.

019. GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

- a) Planning & Licensing Committee meeting Tues 25th May 2010 at 10.00am, WDBC Council Chamber, Kilworthy Park – Agenda received and available for inspection at the Town Council Offices – NOTED.
- b) WDBC Information Leaflet No. 2 – 'Commenting on Planning Applications' – NOTED.

020. URGENT BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIRMAN

There was no such business.

021. PLANNING DECISIONS and APPLICATIONS

- a. **Planning Decisions by West Devon Borough Council.**
Attached at Appendix A – NOTED.
- b. **New Planning Applications to West Devon Borough Council.**
Attached at Appendix B – NOTED.

The next meeting of the Plans Committee will be held on
TUESDAY 8th June 2010 at 6.00 p.m.

Rising at 7.32 p.m.

Signed.....

Dated.....

APPENDIX A

TAVISTOCK TOWN COUNCIL
PLANS COMMITTEE – LIST OF PLANNING DECISIONS (Appendix A)
FOR PLANS MEETING 26/05/2010

<u>Name, Address</u> <u>P/App No.</u>	<u>Development Type</u>	<u>Town Council's</u> <u>Comments</u>	<u>Decision by</u> <u>local Planning</u> <u>Authority</u>	<u>Date of Decision</u>
Mr T Chowdhury 78 West Street Tavistock PL19 8AQ P/A No. 12422/2008/Tav	Erection of hanging signs, alterations of fascia & associated lighting.	NOT TO SUPPORT – Concern over lighting	Conditional Consent	4 th May 2010
Mr T Chowdhury 78 West Street Tavistock PL19 8AQ P/A No. 12423/2008/Tav	Installation of external lighting for shop front & fascia.	NOT TO SUPPORT – Concern over lighting	Conditional Consent	4 th May 2010
WDBC The Archway Bedford Square Tavistock PL19 0AE P/A No. 00121/2010/Tav	Erection of free standing information board.	SUPPORT: -Hanging board. -Information Board OBJECT: Large single white letter 'I' as not in keeping with character of building or conservation area. With input from Conservation Officer.	Conditional Consent	4 th May 2010
Mr Croker 11 The Heights Tavistock PL19 8HQ P/A No. 00212/2010/Tav	Application to carry out works under TPO for the felling of 1 Pine in the rear garden.	SUPPORT with Input from the Landscape Officer.	Grant of Tree Works	5 th May 2010

APPENDIX A

<p>Holland & Barrett Retail Ltd 44 Brook Street Tavistock PL19 0HE</p> <p>P/A No. 00220/2010/Tav</p>	<p>Erection of fascia sign & hanging sign.</p>	<p>SUPPORT as in keeping with the surrounding environment and its character.</p>	<p>Conditional Consent</p>	<p>5th May 2010</p>
<p>Mr Kumar Beechwood Down Road Tavistock PL19 9AQ</p> <p>P/A No. 00224/2010/Tav</p>	<p>Householder application for erection of extension.</p>	<p>SUPPORT</p>	<p>Conditional Consent</p>	<p>4th May 2010</p>
<p>Mrs K Scott 1A Duke Street Tavistock PL19 0BA</p> <p>P/A No. 00228/2010/Tav</p>	<p>Erection of signage including fascia & hanging sign.</p>	<p><u>SPLIT DECISION:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SUPPORT hanging sign only. • OBJECT to wall sign as not in keeping with character of surrounding environment. 	<p><u>SPLIT DECISION:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grant hanging sign. • Refuse fascia sign. 	<p>7th May 2010</p>
<p>Ford St & Maynard Almshouse Charity Between 24 & 25 Ford St Tavistock PL19 8DZ</p> <p>P/A No. 00247/2010/Tav</p>	<p>Listed Building application for the installation of remote door entry system.</p>	<p>SUPPORT as entry system provides greater security to residents.</p> <p>As a trustee of this charity, Cllr Pike declared a personal interest and left the room for the duration of the discussion and decision-making of this application.</p>	<p>Conditional Consent</p>	<p>10th May 2010</p>
<p>Mrs S Buck 30 Ordulf Road Tavistock PL19 8NE</p> <p>P/A No. 00292/2010/Tav</p>	<p>Application to carry works under TPO for crown reduction of 2.5m of Sweet Chestnut and pruning of overhanging Oak branches over house.</p>	<p>SUPPORT with input from Landscape Officer.</p>	<p>Grant of Tree Works</p>	<p>5th May 2010</p>

APPENDIX A

<p>Mrs J Rice 23 Westmoor Park Tavistock PL19 9AA</p> <p>P/A No. 00321/2010/Tav</p>	<p>Application to carry works under TPO for the removal of 3 branches on Sycamore of approx 12-15ft & 1 low branch of Sweet Chestnut.</p>	<p>SUPPORT with input from Landscape Officer.</p>	<p>Grant of Tree Works</p>	<p>5th May 2010</p>
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APPENDIX B

TAVISTOCK TOWN COUNCIL
PLANNING COMMITTEE - NEW PLANNING APPLICATIONS (Appendix B)
FOR PLANS MEETING 26/05/2010

PD & BJ Bishop Pixon Lane Garage Pixon Lane Tavistock PL19 9AZ	P/A No. 00370/2010/Tav 23 rd April 2010	Listed Building	Application for extension of time limit for the conversion of store to form 2 dwellings as per planning permission 7182/2005/Tav.	SUPPORT
Mr & Mrs Westlake 13 Tiddy Close Tavistock PL19 9BS	P/A No. 00373/2010/Tav 29th April 2010	Full	Householder application for erection of conservatory.	SUPPORT
Mr R Collins 19 Rowan Close Tavistock PL19 9NH	P/A No. 00384/2010/Tav 28 th April 2010	Full	Householder application for erection of conservatory & extension.	SUPPORT
Mr T Kaminski Land at OS No's 1670, 1756 & 1944 Launceston Road Tavistock	P/A No. 00386/2010/Tav 29 th April 2010	Change of Use	Extension of time limit in relation to PA 7309/2009/Tav for use of land as nursery & garden centre.	SUPPORT
Punch Partnerships Unlon Inn King Street Tavistock PL19 0DS	P/A No. 00392/2010/Tav 29 th April 2010	Full	Change of Use of function room to holiday letting accommodation including alterations & extension to building.	SUPPORT as hostel type accommodation with bicycle parking facilities. As a neighbour of this address, Cllr Best declared a personal interest and left the room for the duration of this discussion and decision-making.
Mr & Mrs R Moore Maple Lodge Down Road Tavistock PL19 9AG	P/A No. 00399/2010/Tav 29 th April 2010	Full	Householder application for erection of conservatory.	SUPPORT

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<p>Mr A Golding Blue Haze Down Road Tavistock PL19 9AG</p>	<p>P/A No. 00404/2010/Tav 4th May 2010</p>	<p>Tree Application</p>	<p>Removal of tops of 3 Conifers on boundary of Blue Haze & 1 Downlea to level of an existing Pittosporum.</p>	<p>SUPPORT with Input from Landscape Officer</p>
<p>WDBC Abbey Arch Bedford Square Tavistock PL19 OAE</p>	<p>P/A No. 00414/2010/Tav 6th May 2010</p>	<p>Listed Building</p>	<p>To hang a 38cm³ (cubed) sign from an existing external wall bracket.</p>	<p>SUPPORT Vote taken: 4 For 1 Against on grounds of health and safety if a strong wind blows.</p>
<p>Mrs B Iverelgh Rosehill Middlemoor Tavistock PL19 9DY</p>	<p>P/A No. 00420/2010/Tav 6th May 2010</p>	<p>Full</p>	<p>Householder application for alterations & extension to dwelling.</p>	<p>SUPPORT</p>