

SOUTHWOLD TOWN COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

10th January 2020

TOWN COUNCIL TO OBJECT TO PLANNING APPLICATION FOR MARKET HOUSES ON POLICE STATION SITE

The council members received a presentation from Cllr Jeans, Chair of the Town Council Planning and Development Cttee, which set out the background to the marketing of the police site and

its links to the vacant former fire station site, the request as detailed within the planning application, and the planning policies to which consideration should be given when considering the application.

The Town Council had, in 2015, commissioned a report from Ingeleton Wood on a design code for the then vacant properties at the Front of the Town (which include both the police and fire station sites) and the Town Council requirements for the Front of Town design framework were set out at the meeting together with the preferred building out of the site as described within framework and within the emerging Neighbourhood Plan. The application does not include any affordable housing on the site and the proposed new builds would therefore be sold on the open market. In view of the already high proportion of second homes and holiday homes in the town, discussion also took place regarding the provision of the principal residence requirements being sought within the emerging Neighbourhood Plan and the effect this policy might have on the site, and at what stage these could take effect.

Councillors were concerned that the police station, which is still used daily by the Police Community Support Officer (who is funded by the Town Council) would not remain within the town if the application was agreed. No details were provided in the application about any alternative site and councillors agreed that the police station is considered as an important community facility. Councillors unanimously agreed to recommend to East Suffolk District Council that the Local Planning Authority refuse the application as it presently stands.

Commenting on the application, Cllr Jeans said 'the Town Council would like to see police station continuing to be used for community benefit with the remainder of the site providing affordable housing

OTHER MATTERS THIS WEEK

The police and the Town Hall had been made aware of health and safety concerns about the fireworks being let off by members of the public on the beach on New Years Eve. It must be stressed that the fireworks are not part of any organised display by the town council or any other organisation and therefore it is the responsibility of individuals to ensure they are acting lawfully.

The Town Council were also made aware that the bottle banks at Church Green were overflowing and arranged for these to be emptied by the contractors - the contractors contact details are on the bins for anyone who sees that they do need emptying at any time.

MEETINGS WEEK OF 13TH JANUARY

Town Council meeting - 14th Jan at 7pm

Finance cttee meeting - 15th Jan at 10.45am

Landlords cttee meeting - 15th Jan at 12.15pm

Leisure and Environment cttee meeting - Friday 17th Jan at 4pm

Please note that the Planning cttee meeting scheduled for Tuesday 14th Jan has been cancelled.