



Planning & Environment Committee

Councillor Carol Williams



Review of Planning Applications

- Consultee – no decision making power, but provide knowledge of the local community and environment
- Use of individual expertise and co-option where expertise is lacking
- Review all documents on planning portal from both statutory consultees and local residents
- Provide feedback on individual planning applications focusing on ‘material planning considerations’

Frequently noted issues

- Over-intensive development, such as infill developments
- Risk of flooding e.g. surface water management
- Capacity of infrastructure e.g. sewer, roads, parking
- Overlooking
- Loss of light

Issues over the last year

- Conditions relating to large developments
- Additional housing on large developments
- Churchill Homes application in the Town Centre – use of Planning Consultant
- Southern Water and the need for a new sewer – which will involve moling under Green Lane next week to lay pipes
- Contribute to the areas for Section 106 contributions by developers

Environmental issues

- Protection of Foalhurst Wood
- Prevention of destruction of the ancient pear orchard on Church Farm to protect natural environment for wildlife
- Monitor plans of surrounding Boroughs e.g. Maidstone Borough Council e.g. 39.4 hectares suggested 748 residential units, mixed use at Long Oast (PW), mixed use on land between Maidstone Road & Whetsted Road
- Speed Watch
- Support recently convened team of Flood Wardens