

Minutes of the meeting of the **Planning Committee** South Staffordshire Council held in the Council Chamber Council Offices, Wolverhampton Road, Codsall, South Staffordshire, WV8 1PX on Tuesday, 21 December 2021 at 18:30

**Present:-**

Councillor Penny Allen, Councillor Len Bates, Councillor Barry Bond, Councillor Mike Boyle, Councillor Bob Cope, Councillor Brian Cox, Councillor Matt Ewart, Councillor Rita Heseltine, Councillor Diane Holmes, Councillor Janet Johnson, Councillor Michael Lawrence, Councillor Roger Lees, Councillor Terry Mason, Councillor Robert Reade, Councillor Ian Sadler, Councillor Christopher Steel

**148 OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Annette Roberts, Kelly Harris, Lucy Duffy, Amanda Willis, Tom Nutt, Pardip Sharma (Solicitor), Simon Hawe (SCC Highways)

**149 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the Planning Committee held on 16 November 2021 be approved and signed by the Chairman

**150 APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received for Councillors Chapman, Hingley and Ford

**151 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest

**152 DETERMINATION OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

The Committee received the report of the Development Management Team Manager, together with information and details received after the agenda was prepared.

**21/00440/FUL – LAND OFF SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE RAILWAY WALK, CASTLECROFT ROAD, CASTLECROFT, LOWER PENN – APPLICANT – BALANCE POWER PROJECTS LTD - PARISH – LOWER PENN.**

Jack Ellis (agent) spoke in support of the application.

Jonathan Crofts spoke against the application (on behalf of speakers who requested to speak).

Councillor Dan Kinsey as local member spoke against the application.

Councillor Robert Reade as local member spoke against the application which he felt would have an adverse impact on the amenity of the area and on the openness of the green belt.

Councillor Bond called for Government guidance on locating battery based electrical storage facilities around the country.

Councillor Mason saw no good reason for moving the location of the

application from a site previously approved (2016).

Councillor Allen supported the application, given the need for renewable energy.

Councillor Steele said the development would be visible from Langley road.

The Chairman thought the proposed facility would be screened from Langley road by a hedge and would not be seen from the north side. He believed the need to address climate change by supporting renewable energy was overwhelming.

Councillor Sadler believed the facility should be located closer to a generator.

Councillor Ewart said battery storage was essential in terms of sustainable energy.

The Development Management Team Manager said that matters of ecology and safety had been comprehensively addressed in the Planning Officer's report. There is a demonstrable need for these facilities but Government guidance (currently a draft Strategy) is required.

Councillor Reade proposed a motion to refuse the application because of the intrusion onto the green belt and the application being contrary to policy GB1 and Q4.

Councillor Bond seconded the motion.

The motion was carried.

**RESOLVED:** That the application be refused.

**21/00660/FUL – BRIDGE FARM, LONG STREET, WHEATON ASTON  
ST19 9NF – APPLICANT – KEON HOMES – PARISH – LAPLEY,  
STRETTON AND WHEATON ASTON**

Neil Cox (agent) spoke in support of the application.

Caroline Starkey spoke against the application. \_

Councillor Cox as local member supported the application, notwithstanding that he believed it comprised too many homes (21 homes).

Councillor Reade and Councillor Allen supported the development as it offered a mix of housing types including affordable housing which they felt was important in villages.

**RESOLVED:** That the application be APPROVED subject to the conditions contained in the Planning Officers Report and to the re-wording of condition 2, 8 and 16 as set out in the Planning Officer's Additional Information.

**21/01059/FUL – LAND AT HOLY AUSTIN ROCK, COMPTON ROAD,  
KINVER – APPLICANT – NATIONAL TRUST – PARISH – KINVER**

24 December 2021

**RESOLVED:** That the application be APPROVED subject to the conditions contained in the Planning Officers Report

153     **MONTHLY UPDATE REPORT**

The Committee received the report of the Lead Planning Manager informing the committee on key matters including training; changes that impact on National Policy; any recent appeal decisions; relevant planning enforcement cases (quarterly); and latest data produced by the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government.

**RESOLVED:** That the Committee note the update report.

The Meeting ended at: 20:15

**CHAIRMAN**