



Planning, Environment and General Purposes Committee 2024/25

Chair: Cllr Spencer King

Membership of the committee has stayed stable over the past 12 months with many members continuing from 2023/24. It is important to note that there is a good balance within the membership with some members having detailed knowledge of the planning process whilst others have a very deep knowledge of the township and its diverse needs due to being residents for many years. The main role of the committee as a statutory consultee on planning issues affecting the township is to scrutinise new planning applications submitted to Kirklees Council and make representations to Kirklees planners with regards to any issues that we feel would have a negative impact on the local area and its residents.

To this end we invite the public to attend meetings if they so wish and we take note of any correspondence from residents concerning active planning applications. We would actively encourage residents to attend meetings in person if they feel that they have a concern over any planning issues affecting the area and a good number have done so over the past 12 months. Whilst not all the concerns of residents fall within the scope of planning regulations it provides valuable context to the committee about local concerns.

Previous chair Cllr Paul White gave a comprehensive update on the progress of the Local Development Plan in last years committee report and I would further add that the election of a new government and the forthcoming policies with regards to relaxing planning regulations and “cutting red tape” will have a further effect on this plan. It is not yet

clear what impact that the change of government will have in this area and it will be important to keep abreast of any forthcoming changes to ensure that we make representations where appropriate to protect our township and its green spaces.

The work to keep on top of the town cleanup continued this year with reported areas of concern either addressed directly by the council or brought to the attention of relevant responsible bodies where appropriate. It is worth continuing to note the hard work and dedication shown by volunteers from many local groups in keeping the township clean and tidy and this really feeds into the culture of taking pride in the area in which you live.

The committee has had input into many of the projects being considered by the Town Council with regards to improving the facilities and amenities within the area and has fed this back into full council and other relevant committees.

Finally thank you to my fellow committee members, the Town Clerk and the local residents who have engaged with the committee in the last 12 months.

Cllr Spencer King