



Planning Applications Committee

13:30 to 14:00

8 June 2023

Present: Councillors Driver (chair), Sands (M) (vice chair following election), Calvert, Champion, Hoechner, Lubbock, Peek, Price, Prinsley, Sands (S), Stutely and Young

Apologies: Councillors Thomas (Va) and Thomas (Vi)

1. Appointment of Vice Chair

RESOLVED to elect Councillor Sands (M) as vice chair for the ensuing civic year.

2. Declarations of interests

Councillor Price declared an other interest in item 4 (below) Applications 23/00271/F and 23/00272/L - 30 Bethel Street, Norwich, NR2 1NR, because members of his family attended one of the educational establishments run by the Inspiration Trust.

3. Minutes

RESOLVED to approve the accuracy of the minutes of the meetings held on 13 April 2023 and 27 April 2023.

4. Applications 23/00271/F and 23/00272/L - 30 Bethel Street, Norwich, NR2 1NR

The planner (case officer) presented the report with the aid of plans and slides. There had been two objections from residents in Old Barley concerned about noise and pollution from the air conditioning unit affecting residential amenity, and members were referred to section of the report under the heading Main Issue 2: Amenity, where these concerns were addressed. The recommendation was to approve the application subject to specific conditions to require details for servicing the plant to ensure that the historic features of the building were not damaged by cabling or winches, and to limit the hours of operation of the air conditioning unit to 8am to 5pm to reduce impact on residential amenity. Discussions with the applicant suggested that they envisaged using the air conditioning units Monday to Friday and only during the summer months.

During discussion the development management team leader said that there was no evidence to suggest that the units would become a statutory noise nuisance, but if it did, Environmental Protection would take steps to protect the residential amenity of

the neighbours. There had been no complaints about existing air conditioning units on the site. Members were advised that decisions needed to be made within the planning policy framework and there was no policy to restrict installation of air conditioning units on the grounds that it was “energy rich”. The proposed condition would limit the use of the air conditioning units to between the hours of 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. Officers would not like to prevent the school being used at weekends and therefore did not recommend a condition preventing weekend use of the air conditioning units.

The chair moved and the vice chair seconded the recommendations to approve the application as set out in the report.

During discussion a member said that there had been no complaints about the noise of existing units. From her experience teaching in hot stuffy classrooms, she considered that air conditioning would be welcome.

A member commented on his opposition to the proposal for air conditioning units by asking what was wrong with opening windows to allow air ventilation.

RESOLVED to:

- (1) with 11 members voting in favour (Councillors Driver, Sands (M), Calvert, Champion, Hoechner, Lubbock, Peek, Prinsley, Sands (S), Stutely and Young) and 1 member abstaining from voting (Councillor Price) to approve application no 23/00271/F at 30 Bethel Street, Norwich NR2 1NR and grant planning permission subject to the following conditions:
 1. Standard time limit;
 2. In accordance with plans;
 3. Hours of operation;
 4. Anti-vibration mountings.

- (2) with 11 members voting in favour (Councillors Driver, Sands (M), Calvert, Champion, Hoechner, Lubbock, Peek, Prinsley, Sands (S), Stutely and Young) and 1 member abstaining from voting (Councillor Price) to approve application no 23/00272/L at 30 Bethel Street, Norwich NR2 1NR and grant listed building consent subject to the following conditions:
 1. Standard time limit;
 2. In accordance with plans;
 3. Servicing details.

CHAIR