

MID SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the MID SUFFOLK DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE A held at the Council Chamber, Mid Suffolk District Council Offices, High Street, Needham Market on Wednesday, 26 July 2017

PRESENT:

Councillors:

Gerard Brewster

David Burn

John Field

Lavinia Hadingham

Derrick Haley

Diana Kearsley

Anne Killett

Sarah Mansel

Jane Storey

David Whybrow

Ward Member: Councillor John Matthissen

In attendance:

Corporate Manager – Growth and Sustainable Planning

Senior Development Management Planning Officer (JPG/KO)

Legal Business Partner (IdeP)

Governance Support Officer (VL/RC)

Item 4

Application Number: DC/17/02636

Proposal: Planning Application for change of use from former sheltered accommodation common room to local authority use.

Site Location: NORTON –1-8 School Close.

Applicant: Mid Suffolk District Council

The Case Officer introduced the application to the Committee outlining that the working hours would be from 08:00 to 18:00 Monday to Friday and that a parking condition was included within the application.

Mike Evans, Applicant, said that security would be provided for the facility and that the touchdown points would also be available for use by Councillors. He continued by saying that the Touchdown Point would provide 6 workstations but that there would only be 4 parking spaces provided.

Councillor Sarah Mansel, Ward Member, raised concerns about vehicular access and parking arrangements as the emergency ambulance space was for residents. The complex had changed to general needs housing so additional cars used the road and parking spaces and traffic issues were already a problem.

The Chairman read out an email from Councillor John Levantis, Ward Member that welcomed the application saying that it would provide a presence in Norton reassuring local people that the move to Endeavour House would not mean a distancing from our communities. He urged that officers plan their use of the office to avoid having to park more than 4 vehicles in School Close.

Councillor David Whybrow said that there were a lot of problems with traffic and school buses in the close and that the use of the building was unacceptable.

Councillor John Field commented that he was concerned that the proposal was impinging on vulnerable members of the community and Councillor Diana Kearsley proposed deferral for more consideration of car parking.

Councillor David Whybrow said that having weighed up the material considerations he believed that if this were a private application it would be refused and proposed refusal. Councillor John Field seconded the proposal. The motion was lost by 4 votes to 3.

A substantive motion that the application be deferred to invite the applicant to withdraw then application to reconsider the parking issues was proposed by Councillor Kearsley and seconded by Councillor Lavinia Hadingham.

By 4 votes to 3

Decision- Deferred to invite the applicant to withdraw the application having regard to the highways, amenity and parking issues associated with School Close.