

# **NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL**

## **PLANNING COMMITTEE**

**Tuesday, 20 December 2016**

**PRESENT:** Councillor Oldham (Chair); Councillor Golby (Deputy Chair);  
Councillors Birch, Davenport, Haque, Kilbride, Lane, B Markham,  
McCutcheon, Shaw and Walker

**OFFICERS:** Peter Baguley (Head of Planning), Rita Bovey (Development  
Manager), Nicky Toon (Development Management Team Leader),  
Ben Clarke (Principal Planning Officer), Sunita Makh (Solicitor), Dan  
Kalley (Democratic Services Officer)

### **1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mary Markham and Councillor Elizabeth Gowen.

### **2. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 November 2016 were agreed and signed by the Chair.

### **3. DEPUTATIONS / PUBLIC ADDRESSES**

**RESOLVED:** That under the following items, the members of the public and ward councillors listed below were granted leave to address the Committee:

**N/2016/1007**

Matthew Moore

**N/2016/1073**

Mike Hallam  
Paul Toone  
Geoff Armstrong

**N/2016/1091**

Daniel Keane

**N/2016/1111**

Anita Harvey  
Sophie Griffiths  
Cllr Anna King  
Peter Kaye  
Tad Dobraszczyk

**N/2016/1136**

Geoff Pollard

Cllr Ian Simons  
Cllr Phil Larratt

**N/2016/1292**  
Cllr Zoe Smith

**N/2016/1348**  
Cllr Zoe Smith

#### **4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/PREDETERMINATION**

Councillor Kilbride declared a personal non-pecuniary interest in item 10i by virtue of being a Ward Councillor and having been asked to sit as a Governor of the school.

Councillor Birch declared a personal non-pecuniary interest in item 9a by virtue of being a trustee of Community Spaces in Northampton. In addition she declared a personal non-pecuniary interest in item 10e by virtue of being a Ward Councillor.

Councillor Lane declared a personal non-pecuniary interest in item 10d by virtue of being a Ward Councillor.

#### **5. MATTERS OF URGENCY WHICH BY REASON OF SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES THE CHAIR IS OF THE OPINION SHOULD BE CONSIDERED**

There were none.

#### **6. LIST OF CURRENT APPEALS AND INQUIRIES**

The Development Manager submitted a List of Current Appeals and Inquiries and elaborated thereon. The applications at 1 Thornton Road and 754 Obelisk Rise had both been dismissed, the Inspector had agreed with Council's decisions in both instances.

The outcome from the Milton Ham Public Inquiry was still pending.

**RESOLVED:** That the report be noted.

#### **7. OTHER REPORTS**

There were none.

#### **8. NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL APPLICATIONS**

There were none.

#### **9. NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL APPLICATIONS**

**(A) N/2016/1566 - CERTIFICATE OF LAWFULNESS APPLICATION TO USE PREVIOUSLY APPROVED NURSERY SCHOOL FOR GENERAL EDUCATIONAL PURPOSE WITHIN THE NEW COMMUNITY CENTRE BUILDING, ST CRISPIN COMMUNITY CENTRE, ST CRISPIN DRIVE**

The Development Manager submitted a report on behalf of the Head of Planning and elaborated thereon. The Committee were advised that planning permission for a 'New Community Centre, incorporating changing room facilities and Nursery School', had been approved in March 2016. Members of the Committee were informed that building works were now under way and that the building was to be ready in the New Year.

This proposal sought to issue a certificate of lawfulness to change the description from a Nursery School to general education purposes, confirming that this change did not need planning permission. Members were informed that this only came in front of the Committee as it related to land owned by the Council.

**RESOLVED:**

That the application be **APPROVED** for the following reason:

The Council is satisfied that the proposed use of part of the building for general educational purposes would not be materially different from the previously approved use of this part of the building as a nursery, as both uses fall within the same Use Class D1 in the Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987 (as amended). Planning permission is therefore not required for the proposed use.

**10. ITEMS FOR DETERMINATION**

**(F) N/2016/1111 - NEW HOUSE WITH DETACHED GARAGE INCLUDING DEMOLITION OF SINGLE STOREY SIDE BAY TO EXISTING HOUSE ON ADJACENT SITE LAND ADJACENT TO 41 PARK AVENUE NORTH**

The Development Manager submitted a report on behalf of the Head of Planning and elaborated thereon. The proposal being sought was for the erection of an infill dwelling, providing a four bedroom house over three storeys. Part of the proposal included a rear detached garage and two off road parking spaces on site. Access to the off-street parking was to be via a service road to the rear of the property. The exterior to the property was to be in keeping with the local houses, including similar pebble dash rendering on the ground floor level. In addition the development was to be staggered back slightly from 43 Park Avenue North and slightly in front of 41 Park Avenue North. In terms of the impact on the property across the road, this development was 25m away. Members were directed to photos provided by local residents outlining the space for the development and the properties in close proximity.

Anita Harvey, resident at 43 Park North Avenue, addressed the Committee and stated that the report provided was inconsistent with proposals and conflicted with JSC policy section H1, whereby the development was going to impede on the enjoyment and use of her property. This development was to protrude 3m from the back of her property, causing overshadowing. In addition the property would make the kitchen area even darker than it currently was and make rooms on that side of

the house uninhabitable. Furthermore the development would not meet policy E20 of the Northampton Local Plan, as it would not reflect the character and design work of the surrounding houses.

In response to questions from Members, Anita Harvey commented that the development would overshadow her property. .

Sophie Griffiths, resident at 60 Park Avenue North, addressed the Committee and stated that there would be extra pressure created on parking and road safety with this development. Residents were already vying for car parking spaces, furthermore, almost none of the residents used their garages located on the service road. The Police were already being called on a regular basis to come and move illegally parked cars. In terms of the service road, there was already high levels of crime and anti-social behaviour and went against West Northamptonshire's policy to reduce crime and would contravene paragraph 58 of the National Planning Policy Framework.

In response to questions, the Committee were informed that the new build would not be in keeping with the character of the buildings on Park North Avenue.

Councillor Anna King, as Ward Councillor, addressed the Committee and commented that the impact on 43 Park Avenue North would be extremely detrimental to their everyday use of the property. In addition there were major issues with crime in the area, furthermore residents had been unsuccessful in getting a gate installed on the service road entrances, to try and prevent crime.

Peter Kaye, owner of the site, addressed the Committee and informed Members that they had moved into the neighbouring property 30 years ago and were now in a position to develop the land adjoining. The property was to provide a home for a family and contribute to the lack of housing in Northampton. In addition, a neighbour from across the road supported the application and stated that they used their garage to park cars.

Tad Dobraszcyk, on behalf of the applicant, addressed the Committee and stated that this project was to fill a gap at the end of a row of terrace houses. The plot was 6m wide and the development would be the same width as neighbouring houses. The design of the property was going to be in keeping with the local area. Even though parking was an issue in the area, this development included two additional off street parking spaces to the rear of the property.

In response to questions from the Committee, Tad Dobraszcyk stated:

- Although the property being developed would finish behind the neighbouring property there would be no significant change in the amount of light getting into that property.
- Officers had stated that they had no objections to the amount of parking being provided by the development.

In response to questions from the Committee, the Development Manager stated that the Police had not been consulted on the development, there was no requirement to do so on single dwelling developments. Furthermore, Members of the Committee

were drawn to paragraph 7.9 of the report, stating that although the Highway Authority recommended three off-site parking spaces, it would be difficult to defend on appeal if the application was refused.

Members of the Committee welcomed the comments made and the report from officers. In addition they raised a number of comments including:

- Although there was to be an impact on the neighbouring properties, it was felt that this was not going to be any more detrimental than the current position.
- The design was felt to be in keeping with the local area and would mirror the properties on the other side of the road.
- Parking was a concern with the development, however it was unlikely that this would be upheld on appeal.

#### **RESOLVED:**

That the application be **APPROVED** subject to the conditions as set out in the report and for the following reason:

The proposed development is considered acceptable in principle being within an established residential area. Due to its siting, scale and design, it would not have an undue detrimental impact on the appearance and character of the street scene, amenity of adjoining occupiers, trees or highway safety and would contribute towards the Council's 5 Year Housing Land Supply. The proposal therefore accords with Policies E20 of the Northampton Local Plan, H1, BN3 and S10 of the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy and aims of the National Planning Policy Framework.

#### **(G) N/2016/1136 - FIRST FLOOR EXTENSION TO BUNGALOW TO BECOME A TWO-STORY DWELLING AND GROUND FLOOR EXTENSION TO SIDE/REAR 16 SWALLOW CLOSE**

The Development Management Team Leader submitted a report on behalf of the Head of Planning and elaborated thereon. She reported that additional comments received from the resident of no. 11 Swallow Close. The Committee were informed that the property was a four bedroom bungalow at the end of a close. The properties in the cul-de-sac were primarily bungalows, however there were a number of two storey dwellings in Swallow Close and in the immediate vicinity of the site. The application sought to extend the existing bungalow into a two storey dwelling with three bedrooms. To the side of the property the bathroom window would be glazed to ensure privacy to the neighbouring property. In view of the site's location in a corner plot and the varied surrounding character, it was not considered that the design would be unacceptable.

Geoff Pollard, resident at 15 Swallow Close, addressed the Committee and stated that the new dwelling would overlook his garden. The report failed to take into account the Government's policy on trying to keep and maintain bungalow properties for the elderly population. He commented that if this application was granted, then it might set a precedent for other bungalow owners to follow suit. The population of those over 65 was due to increase by 12% in the period 2015-2020, these people would need accommodation that could meet their needs.

Councillor Ian Simons, Parish Councillor, addressed the Committee and commented that this development would be out of character with Swallow Close, primarily because this bungalow was at the hammerhead of a set of bungalows. In addition there was an issue of a shared driveway that would need to be used during construction. It was felt that due to the interference of this construction the Police would need to be called to remove vehicles potentially blocking the driveway.

Councillor Phil Larratt, as Ward Councillor, addressed the Committee and agreed that the area had a vast range of different sized properties, however, there was a short supply of bungalows in the vicinity and there was an increase in the ageing population. Furthermore, this property would be out of character for the area.

The Development Management Team Leader informed Members that the first floor would be set away from the neighbouring boundary with No. 15 and, therefore, would not cause any unacceptable issues with overlooking of neighbouring properties. In addition Condition 6 of the report clearly stated that no additional windows were to be installed in the north-east elevation of the extension, safeguarding the privacy of adjoining properties. With regards to concerns regarding impacts during construction on the shared driveway, this was not a planning matter, and if there was any damage this would be a civil matter.

Members of the Committee welcomed the comments made and agreed that it was a shame to lose bungalows in the area, however this development seemed to be in keeping with the character of the local area and would not impact neighbours to a detrimental point.

**RESOLVED:**

That the application be **APPROVED** subject to the conditions as set out in the report and for the following reason:

The proposed development due to its siting and design would not have any adverse impact upon the character of the area and the residential amenity of the adjoining neighbouring properties. The proposal would accord with saved Policies E20 and H18 of the Northampton Local Plan, Policy S10 and H1 of the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy, the Council's Residential Extensions and Alterations Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document and advice given within National Planning Policy Framework.

**(D) N/2016/1073 - OUTLINE PLANNING PERMISSION WITH ALL MATTERS RESERVED EXCEPT ACCESS FOR RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT OF UP TO 30 RESIDENTIAL DWELLINGS WITH ASSOCIATED OPEN SPACE, CAR PARKING AND VEHICULAR ACCESS FROM BOOTH RISE AND DEMOLITION OF 58 AND 62 BOOTH RISE LAND REAR OF 62 BOOTH RISE**

The Principal Planning Officer submitted a report on behalf of the Head of Planning and elaborated thereon. The Committee were informed that the application sought outline consent for up to 30 dwellings, with access for approval, which would be fixed. The access point would be created with the demolition of 58 Booth Rise and

would run to the side of 60 Booth Rise. The layout of dwellings as part of the development at this stage was indicative only.

The Highway Authority had not raised any objections to this development. In addition the development featured some variations in terms of level, ranging from a high point adjacent to Booth Rise to a lower point next to Lumbertubs way. The indicative parameters stated that the development would comprise a combination of bungalows, two storey houses and two and half storey houses. A condition could be imposed to limit building heights of the final development. As per the report this application was subject to S106 agreements. Furthermore, the Principal Planning Officer made reference to additional comments received and attached as part of the Addendum to the meeting.

Mike Hallam, in his capacity as County Councillor for the area, addressed the Committee. He stated that three other applications in this area had been previously refused, including Booth Park, which had only been overturned on appeal. It was his opinion that this was a case of garden grabbing, irrespective of the size of gardens available to 58 and 62 Booth Rise. The owner of 60 Booth Rise refused to sell his property to the developer and was not in support of this application. The area was notoriously busy with traffic and had registered high levels of air pollution, especially around peak time traffic. In addition traffic regularly exceeded the speed limits in place.

In response to questions from Members of the Committee, Mike Hallam commented on a number of issues including:

- Air emissions were high in this area due large numbers of stationary vehicles. In addition this area suffered from high levels of air pollution irrespective of it being an area of congestion.
- The high gradient levels adjacent to the development would make this development stick out.
- The Council originally raised objections to the Booth Park application due to traffic concerns and overdevelopment of the site, but the application was approved by WNDC

Paul Toone, resident at 50 Booth Rise, addressed the Committee and stated that a recent Police survey showed 75% of all vehicles passing the site were going in excess of the 30 mph speed limit. The pavements by the site were far too narrow to accommodate people walking past the development and were also used by cyclists. The access points were in a dangerous position and would cause a number of traffic accidents. The development did not make provision for enough car parking spaces and was short of the requirement as laid out in the 2016 Northamptonshire Policy. Furthermore this was an example of garden grabbing to try and create more housing.

In response to a question from Members, Paul Toone confirmed that there was a right filter lane in place to Booth Park development.

Geoff Armstrong, on behalf of the agent, addressed the Committee and stated that this development would fit in with the local area. In relation to impacts on Nos. 56 and 60, a six foot high wall would be erected with additional landscaping to ensure no disturbance was made to local residents and to keep out noise pollution. In a recent

traffic assessment there would be 14 two way movements from the site, therefore only one movement every four minutes. The visibility by the access point far exceeded the minimum requirement and were over 90m. Furthermore there had been no objections raised by Environmental Health or ecologists.

In response to questions from Members, Geoff Armstrong responded as follows:

- The layout plans were only indicative, therefore there was scope to move open space areas and dwelling positions.
- There were no issues raised by ecology reports and the development has been mindful of the local wildlife.

The Principal Planning Officer confirmed that the gradient levels would be considered when dealing with the reserved matters. This application merely sought to deal with the principal of the development and fixing the access point.

In response to further questions from Members of the Committee, the Principal Planning Officer stated:

- The Section 106 Agreement would run with the land and as a consequence, any future landowner would be bound, in perpetuity, to maintain the open space for public use.
- Only part of the site was garden space, the remainder was overgrown.

Members of the Committee made a number of comments including:

- Air pollution was a major concern in this area, the inclusion of this development would only further erode this.
- It was unsatisfactory to keep one bungalow in the middle of the access roads, this would not be in keeping with the local area.
- The traffic on the main road up to the site was already congested and this development would only increase this.
- There was a high risk to public safety with this development, primarily with the increased traffic coming out of a new development.
- The development was not in keeping with policy E20 of the Northampton Local Plan, as these dwellings would be different in character from surrounding buildings.
- There were concerns around the green space areas.
- This development was eroding natural green space to the rear of existing properties.
- Noted that, that as the site was not identified in the current housing land supply, it would contribute towards the needed five year supply.

RESOLVED:

A proposal was made to approve the application in line with the officer's recommendation. Upon taking a vote, this motion failed.

A further proposal was made to refuse the application, as the fixed access point would have a detrimental impact on Nos. 56 and 60 Booth Rise and would be contrary to National Planning Policy H1.



On a vote this motion to REFUSE the application was passed for the following reason:

By reason of the scale and layout of the proposal, the development would lead to an increase in vehicle and pedestrian movements in close proximity to 56 and 60 Booth Rise. The development would therefore result in an increase in noise and disturbance creating a significant adverse impact upon residential amenity that would be contrary to the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework and Policy H1 of the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy.

8.25pm Councillor Davenport left the room at this point.

**(H) N/2016/1292 - CHANGE OF USE OF EXISTING DWELLING TO 3NO. FLATS AND DEMOLITION OF EXISTING REAR OUTBUILDING AND ERECTION OF REAR STORE - PART RETROSPECTIVE 2 ELIZABETH WALK**

The Development Management Team Leader submitted a report on behalf of the Head of Planning and elaborated thereon. She also clarified that the height of the existing rear structure should be 2.8m as stated in paragraph 2.1 of the report. The Committee were informed that this application had been deferred from the previous meeting on 22 November 2016. The report had been updated to make reference to the National Planning Policy and space standards following concerns raised by Members regarding the internal sizes of the flats.

With regards to the National Space Standards, Members were advised that these standards had not been adopted by the Council as Planning Policy and, therefore, the application could not be considered against these standards. Members were advised that whilst the floor area of the flats fell below the requirement of Policy H23 of the Local Plan, the policy is dated and more recent changes in planning regulations could effectively allow smaller dwellings and levels of accommodation. The application still sought the demolition of the out-building and re-building to provide an ancillary store. Furthermore, the Committee were advised that there were additional comments attached to the addendum.

Councillor Zoe Smith, as Ward Councillor, addressed the Committee and commented that as an authority more need to be done to protect people who lived in Northampton. It was unacceptable to have such a development passed and allow people to live there. In addition, it was unacceptable to still have the outbuilding in place and for it to even be considered to be re-built. This was an example of losing a family home.

The Development Manager clarified that the National Space Standards only applied to new build properties and were not planning policy.

In response to questions from Members, the Development Management Team Leader stated that in respect of the outbuilding, a condition was proposed to agree details of materials to be used prior to re-building, . In addition Members were informed that the outbuilding height would be reduced by 50cm and not 10cm as stated in the report.

**RESOLVED:**

A proposal was made to approve the application in line with the officer recommendation. Upon taking a vote, this motion failed.

A further proposal was made to refuse the application, under policy H23 as the first and second floor flats failed to meet the minimum floor space requirement.

On a vote the application was **REFUSED** for the following reason:

The proposed combined floor space of the ground and first floor flat measured internally would be considerably less than 100 square metres, which combined with the limited size of the third floor flat would fail to provide a sufficient level and quality of accommodation and residential amenity for the occupiers contrary to Policy H23 of the Northampton Local Plan, Policy H1(f) of the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy and the aims and objectives of the National Planning Policy Framework.

8.45pm Councillor Davenport returned to the meeting.

**(A) N/2016/0856 - CONVERSION AND EXTENSION OF FORMER COUNCIL OFFICE BUILDING TO RESTAURANT AND HOT FOOD TAKEAWAY, RETAIL UNIT AND 24 NEW STUDENT UNITS AND THREE SELF-CONTAINED LIVING ACCOMMODATION UNITS, REMOVAL OF EXTERNAL STAIRCASE; ERECTION OF ENTRANCE CANOPY AND AWNING; CHANGE OF USE OF FOOTWAY TO INTRODUCE OUTDOOR SEATING AREA ON FISH STREET 14 FISH STREET**

This item was withdrawn from the Agenda.

**(B) N/2016/1007 - FULL PLANNING APPLICATION FOR 82 RESIDENTIAL DWELLINGS INCLUDING PARKING AND OPEN SPACE WITH ACCESS FROM BECTIVE ROAD FORMER GREEN OAKS PRIMARY SCHOOL , BECTIVE ROAD**

The Principal Planning Officer submitted a report on behalf of the Head of Planning and elaborated thereon. The Committee were informed that outline planning permission had been granted for the erection of up to 170 dwellings. Subsequent to granting planning permission, a new application was submitted to develop a new school on the north eastern portion of the site. This was approved in principle by the Committee in September 2016, subject to the completion of the S106 Legal Agreement.

The Principal Planning Officer stated that this application was seeking full planning permission for the erection of 82 dwellings, comprising 4 two bedroom flats, 47 two bedroom houses and 31 three bedroom houses. In addition the proposal made

provision for 146 parking spaces and a central open space area. As per the report this application was subject to the completion of a S106 agreement.

Matthew Moore, on behalf of the applicant, addressed the Committee in support of the application. He stated that extensive consultation had taken place with local residents and other consultees. Planning application had already been approved in 2014 for 170 dwellings, which was far more than the current application. This development was aimed at local residents and a number of houses were to be a part of the Government's Help To Buy scheme for first time buyers. In addition the proposal contained lots of open spaces and took account of national and local planning policies.

In response to questions from Members Matthew Moore made a number of comments including:

- All properties were to be built from timber frame, making them more energy efficient. At the current time there were no plans to look at solar panels.
- There were no plans to include electric car charging points within the development.
- In addition to aiming the development at first time buyers, 35% of the properties would be affordable housing.
- With regards to the access roads to the site, as this was to come off a residential road, there was not much the developers could do to widen the road.

Members of the Committee welcomed the application and commented that it was good to see affordable housing being provided and that there was a lot of open space.

#### **RESOLVED:**

That the **APPLICATION** be approved in principle subject to the S106 Agreement to secure:

- i) 35% on-site affordable housing;
- ii) Primary School Education payment;
- iii) A payment towards improvements in highway capacity;
- iv) A payment towards bus stop provision;
- v) That the on-site Public Open Space is maintained and made available for public access in perpetuity;
- vi) A payment towards health care provision;
- vii) A payment towards the provision and/or enhancement and/or maintenance of off-site open space; and
- viii) The Council's monitoring fee, subject to the Head of Planning being satisfied the monitoring fee is necessary and of an appropriate scale.

and the conditions as set out in the report and for the following reason:

The proposed development, subject to conditions, represents an acceptable land use which would contribute towards the Council's five year housing supply and would have a neutral impact upon the character and appearance of the surrounding area, visual and neighbour amenity and the highway system. The development is therefore

in conformity with the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework, Policies S1, S3, S10, H1, H2 and BN7 of the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy and Policy E20 of the Northampton Local Plan.

It is also recommended that in the event of the Section 106 Legal Agreement not being completed within three calendar months of this Committee meeting, in addition to being able to grant planning permission as recommended above, the Head of Planning be given delegated authority to either refuse or finally dispose of the application (at his discretion) on account that the necessary mitigation measures have not been secured in order to make the proposal acceptable in line with the requirements of Policies INF1 and INF2 of the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy and the National Planning Policy Framework.

**(C) N/2016/1009 - PRIOR NOTIFICATION TO CHANGE OF USE OF EXISTING RETAIL SHOP (USE CLASS A1) TO RESTAURANT/CAFÉ (USE CLASS A3) 44 ST GILES STREET**

The Principal Planning Officer submitted a report on behalf of the Head of Planning and elaborated thereon. The proposal sought to change the use of the property from a shop to a restaurant, to operate in conjunction with the restaurant that already occupied part of the ground floor. Members were informed that Planning Officers proposed refusing this application as it would exacerbate the level of non-retail uses within the area.

The Principal Planning Officer confirmed that there had been a previous refusal for the change of use and the applicant was aware of the issues.

**RESOLVED:**

That the application be **REFUSED** for the following reason:

The proposed development would exacerbate the level of non-retail uses within an allocated secondary frontage to the detriment of the viability and vitality of the town centre. The proposal therefore fails to comply with the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework and Policies 12 and 13 of the Northampton Central Area Action Plan.

**(E) N/2016/1091 - ERECTION OF THREE RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS COMPRISING A TOTAL OF 80 SPECIALISED SUPPORTED LIVING APARTMENTS (USE CLASS C3), TOGETHER WITH ASSOCIATED ACCESS, PARKING, OPEN SPACE, BINS AND SCOOTER STORES UNITED TRADES CLUB, BALMORAL ROAD**

The Principal Planning Officer submitted a report on behalf of the Head of Planning and elaborated thereon. The surrounding land uses are varied comprising of a mixture of houses and flats, in addition to a number of contrasting commercial uses. The application sought to erect three buildings, which would form 80 units of accommodation for use as a specialist supported living. Furthermore there would now be ample parking spaces as part of the development.

Daniel Keane, on behalf of the applicant, commented that this application had been endorsed and would benefit those needing supported living accommodation.

Members welcomed the report and commented that the development was much needed.

**RESOLVED:**

That the application be **APPROVED IN PRINCIPLE** subject to the prior completion of a S106 legal agreement to secure:

- i) That the development be used solely for specialist supported living;
- ii) A payment towards provision and/or enhancement of open space within the vicinity of the Application Site; and
- iii) The Council's monitoring fee, subject to the Head of Planning being satisfied the monitoring fee is necessary and of an appropriate scale.

and the conditions set out in the report and for the following reasons:

The proposed development represents an appropriate land use and would have a neutral impact upon the character and appearance of the area, neighbour amenity and the highway system. The development is therefore in conformity with the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework, Policies S1, S10 and H1 of the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy and Policy E20 of the Northampton Local Plan.

It is also recommended that in the event of the Section 106 Legal Agreement not being completed within three calendar months of this Committee meeting, in addition to being able to grant planning permission as recommended above, the Head of Planning be given delegated authority to either refuse or finally dispose of the application (at his discretion) on account that the necessary mitigation measures have not been secured in order to make the proposal acceptable in line with the requirements of Policies INF1 and INF2 of the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy and the National Planning Policy Framework.

**(I) N/2016/1264 & 1387 - VARIATION OF CONDITION 1 OF PLANNING PERMISSION N/2000/0981 TO ALLOW USE OF BUILDING AS A FREE SCHOOL  
INSTALLATION OF NEW DOORS, WINDOWS, INFILL CLADDING PANELS, GATES AND RAMPS WITH HANDRAILS NBC DEPOT, STATION ROAD**

The Development Management Team Leader submitted a report on behalf of the Head of Planning and elaborated thereon. Members of the Committee were informed that application number N/2016/1264 had been deferred to a meeting in the New Year. With regards to application N/2016/1387, this related to minor external alterations to the building.

**RESOLVED:**

That the application is **APPROVED** subject to the conditions as set out in the report and for the following reason:

The proposed external alterations would have a neutral impact on the appearance of the existing building and surrounding area and are in accordance with Policy E20 of the Northampton Local Plan, Policy S10 of the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy and the National Planning Policy Framework.

**(J) N/2016/1348 - CHANGE OF USE FROM DWELLING (USE CLASS C3) TO HOUSE IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION (USE CLASS C4) FOR 5 RESIDENTS 100 BOSTOCK AVENUE**

The Development Manager submitted a report on behalf of the Head of Planning and elaborated thereon. The Committee were informed that this was a retrospective application for a change of use from a residential dwelling to a house in multiple occupation (HIMO). The Highway Authority had raised an objection due to the lack of parking in the area.

Councillor Zoe Smith, as Ward Councillor, addressed the Committee and stated that this was another example of the Highway Authority objecting to a change of use, when there was a lack of parking in the local vicinity. This would have been a perfect family home, however it was an example of the changing of homes to now accommodate single people. She commented that the Council should be looking at creating more single purpose built accommodation units to stop homes being used as HIMO's. The current parking issues had caused members of the public to park illegally on the edge of street corners, which in turn had risked the safety of those people using the pavements.

Members of the Committee commented that this was one of the better HIMO application's that had been presented. Although it was a shame to lose family homes there were no planning grounds to refuse the application.

**RESOLVED:**

That the application be **APPROVED** subject to the conditions as set out in the report and for the following reasons:

The proposed development for a change of use from a dwelling to a house in multiple occupation (HIMO) would not lead to an unacceptable concentration of HIMOs within the locality that would adversely impact upon the character of the street scene, nor would the development have significant adverse impacts on neighbouring amenity or parking provision. The property is of sufficient size to accommodate the level of accommodation as proposed, in accordance with the requirements of Policies H1, H5, and S10 of the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy, saved Policies E20 and H30 of the Northampton Local Plan, the Council's Houses in Multiple Occupation Interim Planning Policy Statement and the aims and objectives of the National Planning Policy Framework.

**11. ENFORCEMENT MATTERS**

There were none.

**12. ITEMS FOR CONSULTATION**

There were none.

**13. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS**

None required.

The meeting concluded at 9.30pm