

Standards Committee Observations of Council Meetings

Meeting Attended: Development Management Committee

Date: 4 October 2010

Venue: Ballroom Oldway

| Agenda Item | Chair's Action | Members Action(s) | Remarks |
|---------------------------------|---|---|--|
| 1, 2, 3(a), 3(b), 4. | Absolutely by the book. | Appropriate where declarations of interest and/or personal prejudicial interest were necessary. | Started spot on time. Proceedings easy to hear and follow. Sequence of published agenda amended to accommodate those members of the public who had attended to support or dispute applications. An excellent procedure which ensured people were not kept waiting unnecessarily. |
| N1, N2, N5/N6, N7, N8, N9. | Fully in control, ensuring non-committee speakers kept to their time limits and orchestrating questions, debate, proposals and voting to allow all councillors to have their say. | Sensible questions, calm debate and no (observable) party politics. | I cannot imagine that any member of the public could have much cause for complaint as to the procedures which were followed – even if an application or objection was refused, the grounds on which the decision was reached were made very clear. |
| N3, N4, N10, S1, S2, S3, S4, S5 | Not observed | Not observed | A very long agenda! |

General Comments:

Probably a bit outside the remit of observing code of conduct, nevertheless:

1. Full marks to the organisation; sound and visual aids were excellent. The latter were essential in allowing all present to understand what the issues were. I really enjoyed the experience.
2. It became obvious to me on my first acquaintance with the planning process that the explanation of each item by the Planning Officer(s) was vital, and I was very impressed by the very clear guidance given. I was equally

impressed by the clear response to any councillors' questions – obviously not rehearsed and displaying a very professional knowledge of each application/objection.

3. The fact that the committee had visited the site(s) of some of the items showed that decisions were not being taken lightly.
4. In view of the vital roles of the officers and the secretarial support from Democratic Services would it not be appropriate, as is normal elsewhere, to acknowledge their being "In attendance" in the minutes?