

COMMUNITIES, HOMES AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

1ST OCTOBER 2024

Councillor Martyn Palfreman – Scrutiny Agenda Item Request – Planning Consultations – Task and Finish Group

Purpose:

To consider a request from Councillor Martyn Palfreman under Article 6 (6) of the Council's Constitution

THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE IS ASKED TO:-

To consider a request from Councillor Palfreman for the Committee to establish a Task and Finish Group Review into the Planning Consultation Process.

Reason(s)

There is a provision within Scrutiny Procedure Rules which allows any member of a Scrutiny Committee to submit a request in writing to the Chief Executive for a matter relevant to the Committee to be placed on the agenda.

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:- Cllr Carys Jones – Rural Affairs, Community Cohesion and Planning Policy

Directorate

Name of Head of Service:

Steve Murphy

Report Author:

Kevin Thomas

Designations:

Head of Law, Governance and Civil Services

Democratic Services Officer

Tel Nos.01267 224693

SPMurphy@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

Tel: 01267 224027

kjthomas@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

**COMMUNITIES, HOMES AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE**

1ST OCTOBER 2024

Councillor Martyn Palfreman – Scrutiny Agenda Item Request – Planning Consultations – Task and Finish Group

Councillor Palfreman has requested that an item on the Planning Consultation process be placed on the agenda for the Committee’s consideration as detailed below:

Effective engagement with residents, businesses and other organisations on all planning applications is critical in ensuring that all those affected have an opportunity to comment on the impact of proposals and that members and officers are able to make informed and equitable decisions.

Current arrangements for consulting on planning applications, whilst consistent with minimum statutory requirements, are inadequate. Public notices of planning applications are not always displayed in appropriately prominent locations, and on occasions disappear before the end of the notice period. Only occupants of immediately adjoining premises are informed of proposals in writing, meaning that others in the vicinity might have no knowledge of plans which could affect them directly and materially.

To address these clear deficiencies, I request that a comprehensive review of current procedures be undertaken on behalf of the Communities, Homes and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee, with a view to identifying improvements which will give people in Carmarthenshire a meaningful opportunity to have a say on proposed developments in their local environment. Potential improvements to address current deficiencies include:

- Providing written notice of applications to occupants of **all** properties within a reasonable radius of proposed developments, and certainly those that will be impacted visually and be affected by factors such as reduced parking and anticipated increased traffic flows
- Ensuring that public notices are always displayed in locations reasonably accessible to the public and that these locations are monitored throughout the notice period to make certain that notices are not damaged, defaced or removed
- Enhancements to the online planning portal to rationalise information and facilitate public access to supporting documentation.

I request that the Communities, Homes and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee undertakes a comprehensive review of current procedures through a task and finish group which would consider the viability of these improvements and others as appropriate. The review would take account of (1) legislative requirements, (2) implications of the Council’s wider commitments to effective engagement with communities (3) evidenced best practice in other areas and (4) resource implications of suggested changes and lead to recommendations for improvement for consideration by an appropriate committee of the Council.

Cllr Palfreman will provide further information at the meeting

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED ?	NO
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IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report:

Signed: S.P. Murphy

Head of Law, Governance and Civil Services

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets	Bio-diversity & Climate Change
NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER(S) AWARE/CONSULTED

YES

**Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information
List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:**

THERE ARE NONE

Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection