

Extraordinary Strategic Planning Committee Oswestry Retail Applications 18 March 2010

Live Twitter Feed from @cpreshropshire

12:40 PM Mar 18th via txt. Burbidge protestors outside leaning on banners. Hey guys wave them!

12:47 PM Mar 18th via txt. Never been to Lion Quay s before. Soulless just like applications to be decided this pm here

12:53 PM Mar 18th via txt. Burbidge guys in bar saying little changes will persuade objectors. Noo...

1:03 PM Mar 18th via txt. Meeting begins. 250 people here. Looks more like White House press briefing than planning committee

1:07 PM Mar 18th via txt. The headline on screen is "Extraordinary Strategic Planning Committee". Yes, yes,

1:08 PM Mar 18th via txt. Meeting pauses while committee reads late papers. Extraordinary!

1:10 PM Mar 18th via txt. So many familiar faces here. So many who have marched. So many who wrote letters. So much hope

1:15 PM Mar 18th via txt. Ian Kilby council planner speaking. Complex he says. Talking about policies to protect town centre

1:20 PM Mar 18th via txt. In his intro Chairman said any placards and protestors would be thrown out. What planet is he on? Not ours

1:22 PM Mar 18th via txt. Lots stuff on PPS4. Boring planning guidelines but the centre of our case.

1:24 PM Mar 18th via txt. CPRE analysis of retail data at fore. But Kilby says taken into account. No!

1:26 PM Mar 18th via txt. Gosh can anyone follow this technical argument. Never heard so much detail at such a rush in planning

1:31 PM Mar 18th via txt. CPRE evidence again main anti argument cited in detail. Feels like battle tween us and NLP who advise council

1:34 PM Mar 18th via txt. But its so much more than that. CPRE voice only builds on community concern

1:37 PM Mar 18th via txt. Kilby saying Central Car Park site viable and preferred but traffic hell. New prop 4 traffic just in. Advice defer 3 months

1:40 PM Mar 18th via txt. Kilby says that other 3 apps cannot be approved until Central site sorted. Or declined unless Central rejected

1:43 PM Mar 18th via txt. NLP says proposals will lead to 2 much capacity. But PPS 4 says this is irrelevant. We do not agree!

1:47 PM Mar 18th via txt. Laughter as Kilby says thats just an overview after 30 mins. Now on to Central. Its not simple...

1:52 PM Mar 18th via txt. I wonder how many trees were felled 4 250 sets of today's committee papers?

1:53 PM Mar 18th via txt. Central Car Park proposal gross in its scale. Hey guys. This is a small market town!

1:56 PM Mar 18th via txt. Coalition now speaks. Os21, CPRE, Civic Society, chamber commerce

1:58 PM Mar 18th via txt. Martin talking PPS4. Putting pressure on Council to reject flawed advice.

1:59 PM Mar 18th via txt. 3 mins up. Phew! Just in time.

2:02 PM Mar 18th via txt. Chairman introduces lady to present Central case. He asks him to speak. Ooh its a woman sorry he says. Ever thus.

2:04 PM Mar 18th via txt. Debate now. Chair lists 19 factors to be considered.

2:09 PM Mar 18th via txt. Arthur Walpole saying site not available?

2:12 PM Mar 18th via txt. Council saying harm must be demonstrated not need. Under pressure from members over no need so do we need to approve?

2:17 PM Mar 18th via txt. Central not available til 2016 perhaps but as clear as mud. Councillor Dunnell concerned about car crime in car park.

2:23 PM Mar 18th via txt. Officers say Central site is available. Asking question now of Council adviser NLP who was nodding off

2:27 PM Mar 18th via txt. Now discussing scaling down proposal. Officers have not talked to developers about this.

2:34 PM Mar 18th via txt. Applause as councillor says he surprised that Conservation Officer has approved the scheme.

2:39 PM Mar 18th via txt. Lots of planning consultants here. Real people outside work but sitting here inside bad suits looking unreal

2:41 PM Mar 18th via txt. Mansell Williams attacks scheme as ugly and too big.

2:45 PM Mar 18th via txt. Proposal to refuse from Tudor. Officers warning committee about not following advice.

2:47 PM Mar 18th via txt. But Chair insists on defer vote first. Whispering we cannot hear. One member says could not hear motion due to officers talking.

2:49 PM Mar 18th via txt. Chairman struggles to keep control. Commotion in audience. Vote is confirmed.

2:51 PM Mar 18th via txt. Central Car Park deferred on traffic grounds for 3 months. Confusion chairman not in control.

2:52 PM Mar 18th via txt. BREAK

2:58 PM Mar 18th via txt. Did committee know exactly what they were voting for? Everyone doubts it.

3:04 PM Mar 18th via txt. Back but one committee member missing. Search party sent

3:06 PM Mar 18th via txt. Now on to out of centre apps. Burbidge Smithfield and Hughes

3:16 PM Mar 18th via txt. Smithfield. Town Council backed proposal. Coalition speaking against now. PPS4 of course. It says this scheme fails

3:21 PM Mar 18th via txt. Excellent coalition presentation. Minor slip. Now NFU says that farmers 100% support scheme. Need new livestock market so build supermar ...

3:24 PM Mar 18th via txt. Liberty Mercian now on. Knocking Burbidge. Calling for all 3 apps to be deferred. Over top in pace and style.

3:29 PM Mar 18th via txt. Hughes now. Falling asleep. Just too many slides almost invisible in such huge room.

3:32 PM Mar 18th via txt. Coalitions Martin speaking again. Ooh its PPS4 again. But PPS4 says no 4 this scheme.

3:35 PM Mar 18th via txt. Brilliant finish using Shropshire Star quotes. Applause. Thanks to Jessie 4 this brill suggestion.

3:39 PM Mar 18th via txt. Aggressive pitch from Hughes accusing council of mal admin and rejecting earlier decision on Central as legally flawed

3:40 PM Mar 18th via txt. Burbidge now. The big controversy.

3:44 PM Mar 18th via txt. Historic Cambrian Railway buildings threatened

3:46 PM Mar 18th via txt. Martin from coalition speaking. PPS4! But also tackling heritage matters

3:49 PM Mar 18th via txt. Richard Burbidge himself now speaking. Unexpected. Smooth but not convincing. Schools & fire service in support he says

3:52 PM Mar 18th via txt. Loudest applause of day from back row of audience. Rest of audience roars with laughter. Ooh back row all work 4 Burbidge!

3:57 PM Mar 18th via txt. Burbidge staff having given applause have gone home. Richard B have good speech but it was ruined by using stooges.

4:00 PM Mar 18th via txt. Planning officer trying to justify favouring Burbidge. Contradicts earlier advice from same officers.

4:07 PM Mar 18th via txt. Conservation Officer does not object to demolition of bits of historic railway buildings. Funny approach to conservation

4:09 PM Mar 18th via txt. Arthur Walpole saying dont be tempted by basket delights like cinema. Schemes too large against need.

4:11 PM Mar 18th via txt. NLP trying to justify saying there is no need but it will only harm exist supermarkets not local shops.

4:14 PM Mar 18th via txt. Officers say people will park at Burbidge, walk 1km to town. Shop. Walk 1km back and shop in Tesco. Like people do.

4:16 PM Mar 18th via txt. AW on ball. Going for deferral not reject on Burbidge

4:18 PM Mar 18th via txt. Chairman says need to tackle need and leakage after 2016 and thats what there apps are all about.

4:21 PM Mar 18th via txt. Tony Durnell calls 4 all to be deferred. Applause

4:23 PM Mar 18th via txt. David Evans says Craven Arms destroyed by supermarket. Do we need a supermarket at all. Huge applause.

4:28 PM Mar 18th via txt. Mansel Williams on employment. Needed but we have duty to town. footpath from Burbidge not solved.

4:32 PM Mar 18th via txt. Chairman. We need to look carefully at officers reccs. Objection. Officers now pushing comm to defer all.

4:39 PM Mar 18th via txt. Coalition making last pitch on economic damage to town centre. NLP reply show they have zero understanding of local shops.

4:43 PM Mar 18th via txt. Hughes defer

4:43 PM Mar 18th via txt. Burbidge defer

4:43 PM Mar 18th via txt. Smithfield defer

4:44 PM Mar 18th via txt. Decisions. Defer. Defer. Defer. Defer. All schemes deferred. Back again in 3 months.

4:44 PM Mar 18th via txt. Now for beer

Feedback

cpritch. *10:52pm, 18 Mar from TweetDeck.* Great tweeting from @cpreshropshire during the Oswestry planning meeting today, thank you.

Fiona_WordsBird. *10:45pm, 18 Mar from Web.* @cpreshropshire Thanks for your tweets today. Really made me feel part of it, and I was cheering you on from my desk. :o)