

SALC Meeting re Planning Portal

Talked about the changes in legislation regarding planning and that one can now build more things without planning permission e.g. extensions, porches, garages etc. This will not apply to us so much as we are in a conservation area.

The government are setting up an Infrastructure Commission which is an independent body which will look at the requirements for larger developments. It is based in London and will be ready to start processing applications in 2010 e.g. incinerator, Sizewell, Wind Farms, flood defences. They will have sweeping powers to compulsory purchase land, tree felling, rights of way and using green belt land. Their decisions can only be challenged on procedure or if the development causes a serious nuisance. The developers are subject to a community infrastructure levy. The local development framework plan says the East of England needs 750,000 homes.

Planning Portal site - Where planning applications can be submitted on line and it also holds the regional development plan, all new planning changes and anything relevant to the area.  
E-consultation - Parish Councils can submit comments on line; you can also see any other comments. These are kept for 5 years. It is also useful if you want to see what is going on in a neighbouring parish. The site can also give guidance on mobile phone masts, greener homes and building regulations.

A Highways representative, Alan Newman, popped in and told us about the Highways site. Suffolk Council – Planning & Building – Development Control – Highways consultations.

Jason Skilton is the person to contact re 'sat nav' sending lorries down unsuitable roads. Also the SALC website can do a report on 'sat navs'

In the future we will be able to download planning applications and show them on a lap top with a screen and projector at council meetings.

We looked at the planning portal sites for Babergh, Suffolk Coastal, Waveney and Mid Suffolk. Suffolk Coastal's site was inaccessible. Waveney's quite difficult to navigate. It would be more helpful if they all used the same software.

Another change is that co-opted councillors are not allowed to be chairman or vice chair. They be co-opted and vote but not hold office. New codes of conduct for councillors should be ready by April.

As councillors we are representatives not a delegate.

SALC can get Office Pro for £58 instead of £300. There are grants for projector and screen. O2 Community Grants, Awards for All.

Councillor Mandy Aldridge