**NMPC Planning committee report for year ending April 2O19.**

Throughout the year NMPC planning committee have reviewed and commented on all planning applications made in the NMPC area. On average two or three applications per month have been considered. The principles followed by the NMPC planning committee can be summarised by considering the requirements of DBC Core Strategy planning policies CS11 RE Neighbourhood Design and CS12 RE Quality of Site Design. For example, CS12 clause (c) indicates the development should avoid visual intrusion, loss of sunlight and daylight, loss of privacy and disturbance to surrounding property. For full text of CS11 and CS12 see Dacorum Adopted Core strategies 2006-2031 Pages 63.

If these clauses are not satisfied the NMPC planning committee would object to the proposal.

Currently most planning application decisions are delegated to a DBC case officer. If the case officer’s recommendation is queried by NMPC then the issue could be referred to a DBC committee for the decision to be made by elected DBC councillors and not the case officer.

This is a substantial safeguard that should be actively supported and utilised by the NMBC Planning committee

I have four suggestions for future conduct of NMBC planning committee administration.

1.The planning meeting proceedings should be moved (as the current Finance Committee arrangement) to the beginning of the NMPC general meeting and not tacked on to the end of the meeting when the meeting is conducted whilst clearing up is in progress, which I consider is damaging to the planning review in progress.

2.NMPC funds should be utilised to purchase a projector and screen so that all councillors can simultaneously view drawings at a large size instead of trying to view small images from a laptop or tablet, or requiring small scale prints to be made and presented for viewing at the planning meeting. A very small size/scale print makes it difficult for councillors to appreciate the scale of what is being proposed

3. Frequently proposals are poorly presented often ‘as existing’ drawings are omitted to make comparison with ‘as proposed’ or drawings are unclear in indicating what is being proposed. When these shortcomings are present NMPC should request DBC to seek more comprehensive proposal images and seek an extension of the consultation period.

4. The Current Planning Code of Practice needs updating with numerous minor modifications. All Parish Councillors involved with Planning issues should read/understand /comply fully with an updated Planning Code of Practice.

Peter Lardi

Chairman NMPC planning committee April 2019