

PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

By Cllr Andy Turner, Chairman of Planning

2024/25 saw business as usual for the Marden Parish Council's Planning Committee.

Meetings continue to be held in the Parish office twice monthly and occasionally in the Old School Room for some of our larger applications or where large numbers of the public wished to attend.

The Planning Committee this year has been, as ever, reviewing and commenting on planning applications that have come forward within the parish. The scope of application varies greatly from small scale domestic extensions/loft conversions to strategic houses sites to large scale infrastructure projects like solar farms and everything in-between! This has involved keeping on top of all the policy requirements both locally and nationally, and all the changes that have occurred alongside. Biodiversity and habitat have featured heavily in these changes with Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) being the big one! I would like to thank all my colleagues, both on the Planning Committee and our Borough Councillors for keep the MPC abreast of all these changes and developments.

Alongside, this the Planning Committee has been involved in liaising and working with MBC on the Marden Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan (CAAMP). This has involved the Planning Committee and MPC working with MBC's conservation officers to re-assess and carry out an appraisal on the conservation area(s) within the Parish of Marden. This included carrying a public consultation on the appraisal. The information has been collated, and MBC has issued the final edition of the CAAMP which has shown no changes to the current document.

The Marden Neighbourhood Plan (MNP) review is still on going. Last month an open morning was held and part of this was to showcase the policy changes (under Regulation 14). Details can be viewed at the rear of the hall and the consultation is open until 25th April. If you require further details please speak to any Cllr or contact Ali in the parish office. Following the closing date the responses will be reviewed and any amendments made before re-submission to MBC for Comment.

The other major task undertaken by the Planning Committee is reviewing and commenting on planning applications within the Parish. This year 108 planning applications have come before the Council, which is slightly more than last year, some of which have been controversial. I hope that all residents' views have been considered and we endeavour to listen to all concerns in formulating a response to the Borough.

As always, I would like to thank my fellow Councillors on the Planning Committee, who bring passion and drive to do the very best for their community. These Councillors bring a vast array of knowledge and skills to all meetings. In particular, I would like to thank the Parish Clerk, Alison Hooker. It is not an easy job translating a range of Councillor comments into a coherent and concise format. I know that Ali puts in a huge amount of preparation time, and for this we should all be grateful.