



## **FALMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL**

### **PUBLIC SPEAKING AT PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Members of the public have the right to speak at meetings of the Planning Committee during the consideration of planning applications. The purpose of the right to speak is to give members of the public the opportunity to make their views known directly to the Committee. They can still write to the Council if they prefer, or in addition to speaking.

Those entitled to speak can be objectors, applicants, their agents and supporters.

Please remember the Council is a Consultee and you must ensure that you notify the Planning Authority direct if you wish to object to planning applications. You should provide them in writing within the specified time period to:

Planning – Central One  
Cornwall Council  
Pydar Street  
Truro  
TR1 1EB

Planning applications can be viewed online at [www.cornwall.gov.uk](http://www.cornwall.gov.uk)

#### When are meetings

Meetings of the Planning Committee are always on a Monday at either 6.00pm. A schedule can be obtained from the Council offices or viewed at [www.falmouthtowncouncil.com](http://www.falmouthtowncouncil.com). If you wish to speak you will need to contact the Town Clerk, preferably in writing or email, although a telephone call will suffice, by no later than 12 noon on the day of the meeting. The Town Clerk will then make a list of those wishing to speak, in the order they contact the Council.

#### How to find out if your application is being considered

Planning applications reported to the Committee will be included in Appendix I or Appendix II. Those included in Appendix I will be reported with a recommendation from the Chairman and are voted on en bloc. If you wish to talk to an Appendix I application you will need to speak to your local Councillor before the meeting to ensure that s/he requests to the Chairman that it is considered in Appendix II.

Planning Committee agendas are available to view at the Council offices or the public notice board at the Municipal Buildings on the Tuesday preceding Committee. Occasionally late received applications are added to the agenda on a Friday and you are advised to check on the day of the meeting for a comprehensive list of applications for consideration.

### Order of speaking

The Officer attending will introduce the application, followed by other speakers in the following order:

- Applicant or agent
- Objectors
- Supporters
- County Councillors

Members of the Committee may question each speaker to clarify points. There will then be a debate and the Council will formulate observations for submission to the Planning Authority.

### Time limit – minor applications

There is a time limit of five minutes for each group of speakers. If there is more than one interested party wishing to speak, the Council will advise them that they should co-ordinate their presentation. If they are unable to do so, the first person registering will be allotted three minutes. At the Chairman's discretion a further total of two minutes will be available to remaining speakers, if they are adding new points. It is the responsibility of speakers to co-ordinate presentations.

### Time limit – major applications

The time limits are as above. However occasionally an applicant or agent for a major development may be invited to present his proposals to the Committee, and s/he will be allowed a period of fifteen minutes with member questions thereafter.

### Can questions be asked of other speakers

You may include questions in the time allocated to you but the Committee has no powers to require other speakers to answer your questions, they may answer your questions if they choose in their allocated time but there will be no debate. Generally it is better if you seek to have questions answered outside the meeting and to state your interests / points on the basis of the information given to you.

You must not interrupt other speakers nor interrupt the Committee debate. All speakers must respect the Chairman and respond to instructions accordingly.

### Relevant issues

Relevant issues will vary with the nature of the proposal and the site and may include:

- Relevant planning issues
- Highway safety, traffic generation and parking
- Noise, disturbance and other loss of amenities
- Appearance and character of development
- Layout and density of buildings
- Impact on any historic buildings, protected nature conservation sites or trees
- Overshadowing, overlooking and loss of privacy

### Irrelevant issues

Again these will vary from case to case but the following are usually irrelevant:

- Private property rights (e.g. boundary or access disputes)
- Personal remarks (e.g. the applicants motives)
- Possible future developments
- Effect on property value

### Contact the Council

For clarification on any of the above issues, the procedures, registering to speak or to check agenda you should contact the Council on telephone 01326 315559.

Mark Williams ACIS  
Town Clerk