

South Somerset District Council

Notice of Meeting



Area West Committee

Making a difference where it counts

Wednesday 19th December 2007

5.30 p.m.

**Town Hall
Guildhall
Fore Street
Chard
Somerset**

(See location plan overleaf)

The public and press are welcome to attend.

If you would like any further information on the items to be discussed, please ring the Agenda Co-ordinator, **Andrew Blackburn** on Yeovil (01935) 462462
email: democracy@southsomerset.gov.uk, website: www.southsomerset.gov.uk

This Agenda was issued on Monday, 10th December 2007

Ian Clarke, Head of Legal & Democratic Services



2007-2008
*Neighbourhood and
Community Champions:
The Role of Elected Members*

2006-2007
*Improving Rural Services
Empowering Communities*

2005-2006
Getting Closer to Communities

**If you need this information in large print,
Braille, audio or another language,
please contact 01935 462203**



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Area West Membership

Chairman Kim Turner
Vice-Chairman Robin Munday

Simon Bending	Nigel Mermagen	Jean Smith
Michael Best	Ric Pallister	Andrew Turpin
David Bulmer	Ros Roderigo	Linda Vijeh
Geoff Clarke	Dan Shortland	Martin Wale
Nicci Court	Angie Singleton	

South Somerset District Council – Corporate Aims

Our key aims are: (all equal)

- To deliver well managed cost effective services valued by our customers
- To increase economic vitality and prosperity
- To improve the health and well-being of our citizens
- To ensure safe, sustainable and cohesive communities
- To promote a balanced natural and built environment

Scrutiny Procedure Rules

Please note that decisions taken by Area Committees may be "called in" for scrutiny by the Council's Scrutiny Committee prior to implementation. This does not apply to decisions taken on planning applications.

Consideration of Planning Applications

Members of the public are requested to note that the Committee will break for refreshments at approximately 6.45 p.m. Planning applications will not be considered before 7.00 p.m. The public and representatives of Parish/Town Councils will be invited to speak on the individual planning applications at the time they are considered. Anyone wishing to raise matters in relation to other items on the agenda may do so at the time the item is considered.

Highways

A representative from the Area Highways Office will be available half an hour before the commencement of the meeting to answer questions and take comments from members of the Committee. Alternatively, they can be contacted through Somerset Highways direct control centre on 0845 3459155.

Members Questions on Reports prior to the Meeting

Members of the Committee are requested to contact report authors on points of clarification prior to the Committee meeting.

Information for the Public

The Council has a well-established area committee system and through four area committees seeks to strengthen links between the Council and its local communities, allowing planning and other local issues to be decided at a local level (planning recommendations outside council policy are referred to the district wide Regulation Committee).

Decisions made by area committees, which include financial or policy implications are generally classed as executive decisions. Where these financial or policy decisions have a significant impact on council budgets or the local community, agendas will record these decisions as “key decisions”. Members of the public can view the council’s Executive Forward Plan, either online or at any SSDC council office, to see what executive/key decisions are scheduled to be taken in the coming months. Non executive decisions taken by area committees include planning, and other quasi-judicial decisions.

At area committee meetings members of the public are able to:

- attend and make verbal representations, except where, for example, personal or confidential matters are being discussed;
- at the area committee chairman’s discretion, members of the public are permitted to speak for up to 3 minutes on agenda items; and
- see agenda reports.

Meetings of the Area West Committee are held monthly at 5.30 pm on the 3rd Wednesday of the month in venues throughout Area West.

Agendas and minutes of area committees are published on the Council’s website www.southsomerset.gov.uk.

The Council’s Constitution is also on the web site and available for inspection in council offices.

Further information about this committee can be obtained by contacting the agenda co-ordinator named on the front page.

Public Participation at Committees

This is a summary of the Protocol adopted by the Council and set out in Part 3 of the Council’s Constitution.

Public Question Time

The period allowed for participation in this session shall not exceed 15 minutes except with the consent of the chairman of the committee. Each individual speaker shall be restricted to a total of three minutes.

Planning Applications

Comments about planning applications will be dealt with at the time those applications are considered, rather than during the Public Question Time session.

Comments should be confined to additional information or issues, which have not been fully covered in the officer’s report. Members of the public are asked to submit any additional documents to the planning officer at least 72 hours in advance and not to present them to

the Committee on the day of the meeting. This will give the planning officer the opportunity to respond appropriately. Information from the public should not be tabled at the meeting. It should also be noted that, in the interests of fairness, the use of presentational aids (e.g. PowerPoint) by the applicant/agent or those making representations will not be permitted. However, the applicant/agent or those making representations are able to ask the Planning Officer to include photographs/images within the officer's presentation subject to them being received by the officer at least 72 hours prior to the meeting. No more than 5 photographs/images either supporting or against the application to be submitted. The Planning Officer will also need to be satisfied that the photographs are appropriate in terms of planning grounds.

At the committee chairman's discretion, members of the public are permitted to speak for up to 3 minutes each and where there are a number of persons wishing to speak they should be encouraged to choose one spokesperson to speak either for the applicant or on behalf of any supporters or objectors to the application. The total period allowed for such participation on each application shall not normally exceed 15 minutes.

The order of speaking on planning items will be:

County Council, Town or Parish Council Representative
Objectors
Supporters
Applicant/Agent

If a member of the public wishes to speak they must inform the committee administrator before the meeting begins of their name and whether they have supporting comments or objections and who they are representing. This must be done by completing one of the public participation slips available at the meeting.

In exceptional circumstances, the chairman of the committee shall have discretion to vary the procedure set out to ensure fairness to all sides.

The same rules in terms of public participation will apply in respect of other agenda items where people wish to speak on that particular item.

If a Councillor has declared a personal and prejudicial interest

Under the new Code of Conduct, a Councillor will be afforded the same right as a member of the public, except that once the Councillor has addressed the Committee the Councillor will leave the room and not return until after the decision has been made.

Area West Committee

Wednesday 19th December 2007

Agenda

Preliminary Items

- 1. To approve as a correct record the minutes of the previous meeting held on 21st November 2007 and of the Area West Community Forum (Ilminster) Sub-Committee held on 15th November 2007**
- 2. Apologies for Absence**
- 3. Declarations of Interest**

In accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct, which includes all the provisions of the statutory Model Code of Conduct, members are asked to declare any personal interests (and whether or not such an interest is "prejudicial") in any matter on the agenda for this meeting. A personal interest is defined in paragraph 8 of the Code and a prejudicial interest is defined in paragraph 10.

Planning Applications Referred to the Regulation Committee

The following members of this Committee are also members of the Council's Regulation Committee:

Cllr. Mike Best
Cllr. Kim Turner
Cllr. Linda Vijeh

Where planning applications are referred by this Committee to the Regulation Committee for determination, in accordance with the Council's Code of Practice on Planning, members of the Regulation Committee can participate and vote on these items at the Area Committee and at Regulation Committee. In these cases the Council's decision-making process is not complete until the application is determined by the Regulation Committee. Members of the Regulation Committee retain an open mind and will not finalise their position until the Regulation Committee. They will also consider the matter at Regulation Committee as members of that Committee and not as representatives of the Area Committee.

4. Public Question Time

This is a chance for members of the public, representatives of Parish/Town Councils and County Councillors to participate in the meeting by asking questions, making comments and raising matters of concern.

Parish/Town Council representatives may also wish to use this opportunity to ask for the District Council's support on any matter of particular concern to their Parish/Town.

Anyone wishing to raise matters in relation to items on the agenda may do so at the time the item is considered.

5. Chairman's Announcements

Items for Discussion

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