

PLANNING DIVISION INFORMATION SHEET 1.4 PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Plans Sub-Committee meets every four weeks. They consider planning applications, alleged contraventions of planning law and tree preservation orders.

The Development Control Committee meets on average once every eight weeks. Committee Members consider major or contentious planning applications and other planning issues affecting the Borough. The reports concern a whole range of issues, including service planning, strategic and London-wide issues, planning and transport policy, conservation, and countryside management. Part II of the agenda contains items, which, because they relate to legal, or financial or personnel issues, are confidential and cannot be heard in public.

- Members of the public making written comments on planning applications have the opportunity to address Councillors at Committee if they wish. However, this does not apply where a planning application is decided by the Assistant Director (Planning and Building Control) under delegated powers, i.e. where the application will not be considered by a Committee.
- Anyone wishing to speak must have already written in expressing their views on the application.
- Committee agendas can be inspected on our website, at the Civic Centre or in public libraries from five working days before the Committee meeting. Alternatively, you may contact the Planning Division to find out if an application is included on an agenda.
- Speakers must give notice to the Democratic Services Team of their intention to speak no later than 10 am on the working day before the meeting. Contact details of the clerk for each meeting are given on the agenda, or you can call 020 8461 7588/020 8461 7694/020 8313 4316. At the Chairman's discretion, items will be taken in an order that reflects the level of public interest and having regard to visiting Ward Members.
- Should speakers wish to table any additional correspondence or photographs, all documents must be submitted to the Democratic Services Team by 5.00 p.m. on the working day before the meeting, either by email or by delivery to the Civic Centre.
- The proposal plans will be available to the Committee and the report may be updated by the Assistant Director or their representative before anyone speaks.
- Order of public speakers: if the recommendation is 'permission' then it will normally be the opponent first, supporter second. If the recommendation is 'refusal', the reverse order will apply.



- Normally one person is permitted to speak for an application and one person permitted to speak against it. If there are more than two requests to speak for or against, people with similar views should get together and agree spokespersons, failing that, the first people who notified Democratic Services of their intention to speak will be called. Among supporters, the applicant (or if the applicant wishes, the agent) takes precedence, and if the applicant or agent do not wish to speak, the first supporters will be called.
- Residents' Associations or other organisations wishing to make use of these arrangements must appoint a single spokesperson to represent their views.
- Speakers are reminded that only material planning considerations are relevant to the determination of planning applications.
- Each speaker will normally be given up to three minutes
- Members of the Committee (not visiting Ward Members) may ask speakers to clarify points raised. If the applicant's representative is unable to answer technical questions, the Chairman may allow these questions to be answered by other representatives of the applicant. Otherwise, once members of the public have spoken, no further intervention will be permitted.
- Council officers attending the Committee may be called upon to clarify any points raised before Members of the Committee discuss the item.
- The Chairman has absolute discretion to vary the established programme described above or to curtail it when considered appropriate.

AFTER THE MEETING

For planning applications, a Decision Notice is normally issued within a few days after the Committee meeting. Planning conditions or the grounds for refusal will be listed on the Decision Notice. These are available on our website at www.bromley.gov.uk/planningaccess.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information regarding committee meetings and the arrangements for public speaking please contact Democratic Services on 020 8461 7588/ 020 8461 7694/ 020 8313 4316.

For further information regarding planning reports and decisions please contact the Planning Division at planning@bromley.gov.uk or by telephone on 020 8313 4956, or write to us at the Civic Centre, Churchill Court, 2 Westmoreland Road, Bromley BR1 1AS.

