

FALKIRK COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the PLANNING COMMITTEE held ON SITE on MONDAY 14 NOVEMBER 2011 commencing at 9.30 a.m.

PRESENT: Councillors Alexander, Lemetti, McLuckie, McNeill, Oliver, Thomson and Turner.

CONVENER: Councillor McLuckie.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Buchanan and Mahoney.

ATTENDING: Development Manager; Senior Planning Officer (B Vivian); Roads Development Officer (C Russell); Solicitor (K Quin), and Committee Officer (A Sobieraj).

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None

P107. EXTRACTION OF DIMENSION SANDSTONE AT DRUMHEAD QUARRY, DENNY FOR MR AND MRS D GRAHAM – P/11/0156/MRL

With reference to Minute of Meeting of the Planning Committee held on 2 November 2011 (Paragraph P104 refers), Committee gave further consideration to Report (circulated) dated 25 October 2011 by the Development Services on an application for mineral resource level permission for a local development for the phased extraction of dimension sandstone and aggregate stone and the associated phased restoration at a site at Drumhead Quarry, Denny.

The Convener introduced the parties present.

The Senior Planning Officer (B Vivian) outlined the nature of the application.

Ms McLean, the applicant's agent, was heard in support of the application.

Mr Stark, representing the Scottish Stone Liaison Group (SSLG), in support and whose associated letter had been submitted by the applicant with the application, was invited by the Convener to be heard in support of the application. This included the importance of a local facility to the development of skills for stonemasonry and in restoring many of Glasgow and Stirling's historic stone buildings.

Mr Gourlay, an objector, was heard in relation to the application.

Mr Brodie, an objector, was heard in relation to the application.

Mr Wright, an objector, was heard in relation to the application.

Mrs Wright, an objector, was heard in relation to the application.

Mr Lapsley, an objector, was heard in relation to the application.

The objections as submitted included the following issues:-

- The unsuitability of and the wide ranging road safety issues relating to Denovan Road from increased heavy lorry use due to weight restrictions, the road's poor condition, narrow width, winding nature and many blind spots, and the location of a bridge near the proposed entrance;
- That Denovan Road was already busy and used as a short cut at various times of the day avoided Denny Cross;
- The damage to Denovan Road and the already deteriorating road surface and the need for passing places and a bellmouth;
- The poor state of repair of the existing access track and that associated material would be washed and carried down onto Denovan Road;
- That the existing access junction was dangerous and this required to be upgraded;
- That there should be no left hand turn onto Denovan Road from the site;
- The importance of time restrictions on the operation of lorries;
- The concerns relating lorries being large;
- The road safety concerns from Denovan Road linking to a number of rights of way and used by walkers, runners, cyclists, horse riders and children;
- The need for a footpath to be built along Denovan Road should permission be granted and the road widened;
- The need for the speed limit on Denovan Road to be reduced to protect other road users;
- The importance of improving the Denovan Road/Stirling Street junction as additional heavy lorry traffic would increase the existing danger from vehicles parking close to the junction and the proximity of a pelican crossing;
- Clarification was required on the existing public right of way to Plean alongside the quarry;
- The fencing off of the site to take account of the public right of way;
- The proximity of properties directly on Denovan Road to Stirling Road and related noise issues and operating hours;
- The general area becoming filthy from heavy lorries running to and from the quarry;
- The importance of the applicant being responsible for cleaning the road;
- That the site would become an eyesore in the countryside;
- The impacts on wildlife;
- That affected residents had not been informed by the applicant;
- The lorry movements at present and the existing use of the access by farm machinery and excavators;

- The Council's enforcement in relation to the restoration of the site and non compliance with earlier planning conditions;
- The future management of the quarry and lack of consideration to the neighbouring properties;
- The felling of trees at the site;
- The current problems of fly tipping at the site; and
- The vehicles adherence to restrictions and associated enforcement.

Questions were then asked by Members of the Committee.

The Convener thereafter read out emails from Dr Edmund and Mr R Macdonald, objectors, in relation to the application.

Councillor McNally, as a local Member for the area, was heard in relation to the application.

Councillor Waddell, as a local Member for the area, was heard in relation to the application.

The Convener concluded by thanking the parties for their attendance and advising that the matter would be determined by the Planning Committee on 30 November 2011. (Please note that this date was subsequently changed to 5 December 2011 with the approval of all Members).

Members thereafter visited the current access road from the quarry to Denovan Road.