

Received
09/11/2021

Planning Application P/21/075/COU and Request for an EOT

Dear Lisa

Thank you for your correspondence indicating that the LPA intend to recommend, subject to conditions, the application P/21/075/COU. The application is shown as 'Decision Due 12/11/201' on the LPA Portal. I expect therefore to receive the decision accordingly.

I also note that a 'Call In' has been requested by the Lead Member for Planning and a Committee Date of 16/12/2021 is indicated. You requested an EOT that I have not acceded to. I would wish to point out to you that under the published Articles and Protocols of the Isles of Scilly Council this Call In request may not proceed.

First, it was made well beyond the allowed time frame as Published in the Planning Protocols of the Isles of Scilly Council, as adopted by Full Council, a mere 30 weeks ago, on February 23rd 2021.

Second, the Call In is without merit, as it states 'Public Interest' as the motivation for the Call In. This is both specious and spurious. There was ZERO public interest in the planning application as indicated by there being no comments from the public during the consultation period. Islanders habitually comment on such applications where public interests pertains. In this matter they have not.

Third, this injudicious attempt to manipulate the Democratic Process has been made by the Lead Member for Planning. It is reprehensible that any Member, aware of the Council's Code of Conduct and with responsibility for a democratic process, should initiate, confirm and execute a process that is against the published protocols of the Council. This is especially the case where the protocol expressly states that a Call In may be agreed by you and either the Lead Member Planning, The Chairman or the Vice Chairman. Were it the case some extraordinary issue was involved, the Lead Member Planning should have requested authorisation from the Chairman or Vice Chairman. No such exceptional issue pertains.

For reference, the Protocol States:

"A 'call-in' request form has been provided in the appendices to this document. Any Member wishing to call-in an application identified as 'delegated' should complete the 'call-in' request form in **the interests of transparency of decision-making**. This form will be placed in the public domain and should be submitted to the Planning Department **within 21 days of the application appearing on the weekly list (or from the date of the site notice)**.'

The proposed Call In is an injudicious mechanism used against one of the Council's most important responsibilities, Planning. Its use impacts on the confidence of the community in its Officers and Members who operate on our behalf. I would request therefore that you proceed with this application under the adopted protocol. The Committee Agenda Item should therefore be removed.

I understand the pressures the Pandemic has brought to the efficient operation of the Council and heavily used departments such as Planning. Nonetheless, the probity, ethicality and integrity of decision making processes must be upheld. I am copying this note to both the Chief Executive and the Chairman of the Council. Not because I wish to complain about your conduct, but rather that they can confirm your responsibilities and authority and have a meeting with the Lead Member Planning to remind him of the Codes of Conduct under which the Council operates. Should the Lead Member Planning have issues, regarding any planning matters, he has the opportunity to raise them at Full Council in his capacity as a Portfolio Holder. Manipulating a planning application to raise an agenda item is not the correct or ethical manner in which to do so.