

## Question from Council referred to West Area Planning Committee

At the Council meeting on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2014, Sarah Wild (a member of the public) submitted a question to Councillor Colin Cook (detailed below). Councillor Craig Simmons under Council procedure rule 11.11(f)<sup>1</sup> moved that it be referred to the West Area Planning Committee. Having been seconded, Council agreed to this happening so that it could be considered further.

### (1) **Question to the Board Member, City Development (Councillor Colin Cook) from Sarah Wild**

#### Planning consultation methods

One of the recommendations following the investigation into what happened over Roger Dudman Way is that consultation methods between the council and members of the public should be improved. This would mean that the public had optimal access to planning documents.

So why have the public been denied access to hard copy planning application documents, except for major developments, when the on-line version is unclear?

**Response:** Approximately 80% of all planning applications to the City Council are now submitted electronically. The City Council no longer holds a paper copy of all planning applications in the reception area at St Aldate's Chambers ready to be viewed by the public. It is Council policy to encourage customers to access Council information via its website as far as possible.

However, the City Council does not deny access to hard copies of planning application documents. It has been, and remains, willing to make a hard copy of a planning application available on request in reception if a customer makes an appointment to come and view a particular application because the on-line copy is unavailable or unclear.

Furthermore, the City Council will be reviewing its post-application guidance on planning processes in response to one of the recommendations in the Independent Report on Roger Dudman Way.

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<sup>1</sup>Extract from Oxford City Council Constitution.

#### **11.11(f) Referring Questions to the Board or to Committee**

After a question has been answered, there will be no discussion. Any councillor can propose that a matter raised by a question is referred to the Board or to a committee. If the proposal is seconded, it will be voted on without discussion.