



Speakers are selected on a “first come, first served” basis until the above numbers have been reached. Subsequent objectors/supporters are put in touch with those who have already registered to speak so that they can agree what they want to say, either for or against an application, and who will speak.

\*If a Member of the Committee is also a Local Ward Member, wishes to speak against, or in support, of an application in that capacity and has registered to speak, then they are allowed to withdraw from the meetings proceedings for that item only and speak for 5 minutes on that particular item. In this event, they would not take part in the debate nor have a vote on the determination of the application on which they spoke. Having spoken, they would be required to leave the room. They then may return to the Committee to determine the remaining items.

### **Time limits for speakers**

The maximum time for each speaker is three minutes, other than the Ward Member/s and Town/Parish Councillors who have five minutes, and this is strictly controlled with start/stop lights.

### **Procedure at meetings**

Those who have registered their interest to speak should arrive at the venue at least 20 minutes before the start to be briefed on the procedure. The sequence of speakers is as follows:

- 1 Presentation of application by Planning Officer
- 2 Town/Parish Council representative\*
- 3 Objectors (up to 3)\*
- 4 Applicant/Agent/Supporters (up to 3 with Applicant having priority)\*
- 5 Further clarification by Planning Officer (if required)\*
- 6 Ward Member (including Committee Members if following the above\* procedure)
- 7 Committee debate and decision.

*\* if the “Opportunity to Speak” is taken up*

Committee members are not able to question speakers directly but are permitted to ask “closed” questions to seek clarification or provide more information through the Chair only.

Speakers are asked to make verbal presentations only (unless special disability circumstances apply). If a written copy of a presentation is submitted this is included on a supplementary report, provided it is received by Planning Services not later than the day before the meeting.

If an application is deferred, speakers are allowed an opportunity to speak at a subsequent meeting when the application in which they have an interest is considered again.

### **Venue and time of meetings**

All meetings start at 5pm. Meetings of the Planning Applications Committee are held on a three weekly cycle on a Wednesday in Lewes. However, it may sometimes be necessary to change the venue to another part of the District and prior notice will be given.

## **Registering an interest to speak**

If you wish to speak you must register your intention not later than 12 noon on the day before the Committee meeting.

This can be done in several ways. You can write to us at:

Planning Services  
Southover House  
Southover Road  
Lewes BN7 1AB

Alternatively, you can send us a fax on 01273 484452 or telephone 01273 471600.

You can also send an e-mail to:  
planning@lewes.gov.uk

Please always quote the application number where known.

## **Relevant issues**

When considering applications the Committee members can only take account of relevant "Planning" issues. These can include:

- Structure & Local Plan Policies
- Government Guidance including Orders and Circulars
- Case Law and previous decisions
- Highway safety, traffic, parking
- Noise, disturbance, smells
- Design, appearance, layout, materials, character
- Overshadowing, loss of privacy, residential amenities
- Effect on Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas, Trees.

There are also certain issues which the Committee members cannot take into account in making planning decisions. Please do not waste your speaking time on these matters.

These include:

- Matters covered by other laws eg. licensing
- Private property rights
- Effect on value of property
- Loss of view from a private property
- Possible future development
- Preferable alternative development
- Personal circumstances (except in exceptional cases)
- Applicant's morals or motives
- Moral/religious issues.

Please note there is no legal protection for comments made at meetings and it is therefore important that derogatory or defamatory statements are avoided.

### **Further information**

If you have any queries about the scheme please contact the Planning Administration team (01273 471600).