

Item 4 Appendix B

Constitution Advisory Group: Consultation on Development Management Committee

Cllr	Comments
Doreen Gurney	Would have liked to have more information on the background behind the one venue, do you have this or will it be forthcoming as and when discussions take place.
Dr Rita Egan	I agree. I also think we should explore the possibility of video conferencing. This is not a complex technology and neither is it that expensive. (Cllr Egan was replying on what Cllr Bowater had sent below)
David Bowater	<p>As a member representing the most westerly ward in CB I feel this is a very retrograde step. We were elected to serve all of the residents of CB and to provide them with services with some level of equality. Development Management is the committee which deals with the public on a personal level more than any other. Public attendance at DM is higher than any other I have seen. For a resident of the ward I represent to attend a meeting at Priory House without their own motorised transport would require an expensive taxi journey as the bus journey is almost impossible.</p> <p>For this reason I cannot support this proposal. Some DM meetings must be held in Dunstable or facilities for a video link must be installed. Were this to be extended to Town Council offices I might be persuaded to change my mind.</p>
Christina Turner	After experiencing the last 6 meetings I feel that this is eminently sensible. I was on the Task Force when this matter was originally discussed and at that time was all for the twice monthly meetings. But having experienced the actual time and travelling involved I feel this new suggestion would be better by far.

Cllr	Comments
Anthony Brown	<p>This proposal is very close to that of the interim task force recommendation and I for one am completely in favour of its adoption.</p> <p>However I also understand the concerns of the councillors and residents in the location not chosen to be the single venue regardless of which it is. [Priory House or Dunstable]</p> <p>To over come this problem then it would not be to difficult to install a video conferencing link between the two centres which would eliminate the need for excessive travel. The cost of this link could easily be covered by the savings claimed by the report in officer time.</p>
Roy Johnstone	<p>Totally opposed to this. I am against centralising committee meetings at any one venue. I understand the Chairman of DM committee does not drive, is that a factor in this? As I cannot as yet open all attachments, where is the single venue, Dunstable or Chicksands? Can I have the reasoning in simple text please.</p>
Julian Murray	<p>I wonder whether the public should be considered, inasmuch as they should not have to travel too far to attend and speak at meetings concerning applications in their area.</p> <p>If the interval of three weeks is thought better than two weeks, then that is no different from what used to happen in South Beds. Yes, should the agreed alternation of sites be continued, as in my view it should together with meetings of all committees, the effect should be neutral as far as public participation is concerned.</p>
Alan Bastable	<p>I am quite happy that meetings are held every three weeks in the same venue.</p>
Dennis Gale	<p>I think it makes sense looking at the past figures so I am in favour of the 3 week cycle to be held at Chicksands.</p>

Cllr	Comments
Norman Costin	<p>Thank you for the thoughts of the CAG. Please could you give me some information that would be relevant, ie could you please advise me of the numbers who have been attending the DMC for each site since it was set up. I suggest that you break the numbers down between Councillors, Officers, Agents and the Public.</p> <p>Please also let me know the finishing times of each of those meetings.</p>
Tony Green	<p>I note with disappointment the decision reached by the committee, and would therefore propose that as the three largest towns in the Council's area are in the South of the County, the single location for the Development Control committee to meet should be at Dunstable.</p>
Rita Drinkwater	<p>My response to the constitutional advisory group for three weekly meetings in one venue is one of support.</p>
Carole Hegley	<p>My views on this committee are still consistent with those I gave prior to April this year in support of a single venue, having read the report I am still of the same opinion for a single venue and the proposed frequency.</p>