

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

APRIL 2021

PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

When the pandemic struck the Town Council agreed to authorise the Planning Committee to approve planning applications via email and submit their decisions at the subsequent full town council meetings.

The amount of applications has slowed due to the pandemic, however equally there have been some quite significant ones too. Not least the application for the care home at the old post office and Viking Centre site on Middle Street North. The application was very much welcomed by the committee which featured a 72 bed high quality care home, car parking, landscaping and also provision for expansion for the Medical Centre including parking for patients and staff. Demolition is well underway now and we look forward to seeing this long derelict site fully developed and will play a significant role in the revitalisation of Middle Street North.

Another application of interest, especially considering the current climate, was from Driffield Agricultural Society to develop a camp site on the Showground. This innovative idea first initiated with temporary planning approval, after the lockdown in August, and was extremely popular. Driffield Town Council were very pleased to welcome this application for a permanent summer site right next door to our town centre and can see many exciting possibilities for even more partnership working with Agricultural Society.

Other applications included changes to shop fronts as local town centre businesses began to adapt in the aftermath of the pandemic, planning new ventures which can only be a positive sign, we have just received a change of use for the former Nat West Bank from a micro brewery and also a change of use for the former Mortimer's Warehouse, which is very exciting and will, when completed, bring much needed regeneration to the Riverhead area of the town.

In less encouraging news, we refused the application to allow traffic to cross an ancient bridleway at Long Lane, and still await the outcome of this variation on a condition application from the housing developer, the cynic is us, believes that it is simply a diversion tactic to delay as long as possible the installation of an essential roundabout on the neighbouring bypass.

Frustratingly we still await progress on the cattle market site, although we hear rumours that an application is pending and also we would very much like to see the land at the former Sugar Mills developed within the next 12 months.

We are generally very pleased that despite the pandemic the nature of applications highlight a positive future for Driffield in general.

Cllr Georgina Lucas

Chairman