

Non Executive Business Item – 3.6: Councillor Melvin Cohen

Safeguards to permitted development

Amendment in the name of Councillor Anita Campbell

Change first sentence to read:

Council notes Cllr Melvin Cohen's desire to urge the government to introduce safeguards that will protect suburbia when making changes to what is allowed by permitted development, but believes this does not go far enough.

And add after:

Council endorses the Member's Item in my name unanimously passed by the Planning & Environment Committee that expressed concerns about:

- Plans to strip individual local councils of responsibility for planning if they are deemed to be too slow to approve developments - a move that Conservative Chair of the Local Government Association described as "a blow to local democracy."
- Suggestions from the Chancellor, George Osborne, that the rules on building on the greenbelt should be relaxed (denied by Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, Eric Pickles at Conservative Party Conference).
- Proposals to allow larger home and business extensions (almost double the size) without planning permission.

Council notes that:

- The Planning and Environment Committee believe these suggestions and proposals are an attack on local democracy and Localism, they will result in an attack on green and open spaces, and the greenbelt, they will set resident against resident (in the case of larger extensions), and they should be opposed at all costs.

Some local authorities have already stated their opposition to these proposals, including Richmond, who are seeking ways to defy any new legislation on allowing larger extensions without planning permission.

- The Planning & Environment Committee opposes the government's current proposals on larger extensions without planning permission, including plans in the government's consultation.
- The Planning & Environment Committee requested that the Leader write to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government relaying their views and concerns.

- The Planning & Environment Committee RESOLVED – That the Leader of the Council write to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government relaying the Committee's views and concerns.

Council calls on the Leader to write this letter as a matter of urgency.

Substantive Business Item to read:

Council notes Cllr Melvin Cohen's desire to urge the government to introduce safeguards that will protect suburbia when making changes to what is allowed by permitted development, but believes this does not go far enough.

Council endorses the Member's Item in my name unanimously passed by the Planning & Environment Committee that expressed concerns about:

- Plans to strip individual local councils of responsibility for planning if they are deemed to be too slow to approve developments - a move that Conservative Chair of the Local Government Association described as "a blow to local democracy."
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Council calls on the Leader to write this letter as a matter of urgency.

Under Standing Order Part 4, Section 1, 31.5: if my item is not dealt with by the end of the meeting I ask that it be voted on at the meeting.