

Denis M Browne
15 The Butts
Brentford
Middlesex TW8 8BJ

t 020 8560 7548
e planning@brentfordcc.org.uk

Marilyn Smith, Head of Development Control
Department of the Environment,
London Borough of Hounslow

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ref: BCC 541. dmb

By email.

Dear Marilyn,

Committee Procedure.

We have been advised by the Brentford TW8 Newsletter that Area Planning Committees are to be abolished and that their powers will in part be transferred to SDC and the Monitoring Committees.

As you know the BCC was set up by Hounslow Council in 1989 as part of the Councils moves to improve its decision making process. Since that time the BCC has retained a Planning Consultative Committee, which regularly writes to your colleagues on all cases which may affect development of Brentford.

I would be grateful if you can clarify how the new regime will work:

1. SDC, What are the times/dates of the 2011 SDC meetings?. Will it receive advice from the Monitoring Committee on all applications that IBAC does not now determine?. How will it deal with extra applications?. Will objectors be heard? And if so what is the process for seeking leave to speak? What is the deadline for BCC views to be included in officers reports? If the officers recommend refusal will the application go to committee? Are the officers intending to continue with the comprehensive committee reports to members?

2. Monitoring Committee. What are the dates, times , location of meetings. during 2011? Will the monitoring committee continue its monitoring functions? Will the open discussion between members and members of the public continue? Where a scheme is to go on to SDC will the local committee take the item first, as we have requested, or leave it until the end of the agenda? On these items what is the procedure for to seeking consent to speak? Will SDC members be unable to comment at monitoring? Will the views of monitoring be conveyed to SDC as individual comments or as the adopted view of the committee? Will their views be put to SDC by a chosen spokes person?

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3. Applications on which the BCC or others raises **objections**. Will all opposed items go to SDC? What determines whether they go to Monitoring first? If the officers agree with objectors will they be delegated to refuse? If a refused application is appealed will the reasons for refusal be put to SDC?

4. Tree Applications. We understand that the procedure for determining TPO decisions may remain unchanged. Can you confirm that that means that if the officers recommend support for the application and there are no objections the decision is delegated? If there is an objection does it go to SDC?

5. Advertisement Applications. Is this the same procedure.

6. Deemed Consent. We are adjusting to the revisions. Do you have any guidance for your colleagues which might also help us?

7. Certificate of Lawfulness. Can you give me any guidance on current practice?

If you have issued guidance on these points, or others I have not yet raised, please let us see copies. Can you tell us when the new arrangements start?

Yours sincerely

Denis Browne
Chairman, Planning Consultative Committee
Brentford Community Council

PS> Please also see my email forwarding the Brentford TW8 Newsletter. If my email failed you can read the text on that web site.