

Chairman's report – Planning

The role of Wythall Parish Council Planning committee is that of a consultee. We do not have the power to grant or refuse planning applications, instead, based on our detailed knowledge of the area, we comment on each application, indicating whether based on planning criteria, we feel the application is acceptable or not.

The majority of the applications that we see are for alterations and extensions to residential properties, such as adding on extra rooms, a conservatory, or demolishing one house to replace with another.

We see a small number of commercial applications, for example additional car parking, new or replacement agricultural buildings, small and larger scale new housing, changes to opening hours and changes of use.

We look carefully at these and consider the potential impact it may have on adjacent areas, properties and residents and then make our comments to Bromsgrove District Council (BDC), which is the planning authority.

We also work with our fellow councillors at both District and County, to try and ensure that all concerns are taken into account, and that residents views are considered.

If an application affects you as a resident, we are happy for you to come along to our Planning meetings and put forward your concerns, as sometimes there are issues which are less than evident from the submitted plans.

We take considerable interest in proposed applications which are in the Green Belt, regularly challenging whether the proposal meets the required criteria, and pointing out items of concern.

We also contact the BDC enforcement team, if we become aware of issues such as a new building or extension that has not been given planning permission, or where land is being used for an unsuitable or unauthorised purpose.

If you are interested in what goes on, please do feel free to come along to one of our meetings and sit in. The dates of the Planning committee meetings are advertised both on the Parish Council website and on the noticeboards around the parish.

Cllr. Helen Cleaver