

EPPING TOWN COUNCIL

Statement of Involvement in Town & Country Planning

Section One: Planning

Epping Town Council actively participate in Planning and Development matters affecting Epping Parish. The Council are a statutory consultee on planning matters and hold a fortnightly Planning & General Purposes Committee meeting, where they consider every planning and tree protection order planning application in Epping Parish.

The Planning & General Purposes Committee view the relevant documents relating to each planning application and return planning comments to Epping Forest District Council (EFDC), as our Local Planning Authority, on every application, promptly. Residents are actively encouraged to attend these meetings and share their comments and concerns with councillors, which help to inform the comments they then return to EFDC as a Committee.

Epping Town Council monitor all decisions received, noting those having received planning permission and those refused and actively note and report on breaches of the planning control system through the relevant channels. Additional comments are returned to the Planning Inspectorate when requested. Councillors and officers also attend any public exhibitions on large scale planning developments and input accordingly.

Any objections made by Epping Town Council's Planning & General Purposes Committee are reinforced at Epping Forest District Council's subsequent public meeting; where an Epping Town Councillor will attend and speak against the application.

Epping Town Council assist residents with planning queries, signposting them to the correct planning officer, advising them of processes and assisting them when speaking at our meetings.

The Planning & General Purposes Committee also consider and respond to many other consultations, including:

- Transport and Highway matters
- Car parking and associated schemes
- Essex County Council and Essex Highways Strategy documents
- Bus reviews and transport
- **Epping Forest District Council's Local Plan and associated documents**

Any District and County Council members also attend further meeting and site visits in this capacity.

All town councillors and staff are encouraged to attend relevant planning training at EALC, EFDC.

The Town Council's Annual Report includes a statement from the Chairman of Planning, highlighting the volume of planning work undertaken by the Town Council. The Town Council considered approximately 140 applications per year in detail.

Section Two: Epping Forest District Council's Local Plan

Epping Town Council have spent a considerable amount of time analysing Epping Forest District Council's draft Local Plan, which has been undergoing consultation since 2016. Epping Town Council have returned detailed comments at each stage and signposted residents to do the same.

As the Plan has now been examined and further consultation is expected, Epping Town Council will continue to analyse and return comments until the Plan is finally adopted.

Section Three: Neighbourhood Planning

Epping Town Council resolved to write a Neighbourhood Plan in 2014 and have been working on the Plan since that time. The Council has currently drafted Version 11 of the Plan and is waiting to modify the document in line with the District Council's emerging Local Plan.

The Town Council has undertaken two extensive consultations, supported by ongoing public consultation; where meetings are open to all residents and comments are welcome at all times. The Neighbourhood Planning Advisory Committee, which includes town councillors and resident stakeholders have met regularly and drafted the Neighbourhood Plan collectively, making the revisions collectively. A Town Planner has been employed to draft the Plan and ensure it meets its statutory requirements.

Planning is an important part of the Town Council's work with a Committee Secretary, Planning & Events Officer and the Town Clerk all involved in Planning work.