WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

PLANNING (ENFORCEMENT) COMMITTEE

THE EARL BALDWIN SUITE, DUKE HOUSE, CLENSMORE STREET, KIDDERMINSTER

3RD APRIL 2008 (6.00PM)

Present:

Councillors: M A W Hazlewood (Chairman), S J Williams (Vice-Chairman), P B Harrison, Miss M A Mason, Miss S C Meekings, D J Millis, C D Nicholls, Mrs F M Oborski, J Thomas, N J Thomas and G C Yarranton.

Observers:

There were no members present as observers.

ENF.37 Apologies For Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors: J-P Campion and Mrs L Edginton.

ENF.38 Appointment Of Substitutes

Councillor G C Yarranton was appointed as a substitute for Councillor J-P Campion.

ENF.39 Declaration of Interests

No declarations of interest were made.

ENF.40 Minutes

DECISION:

The minutes of the meeting held on 31st January 2008 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

ENF.41 Amendment To Pro-Active Enforcement Policy And Scheme Of Delegation

A report was considered from the Head of Planning, Health and Environment that sought approval for changes to be made to the Scheme of Delegation relating to the closing of certain enforcement cases and also approval for the associated amendments to the existing Pro-Active Enforcement Policy.

The Head of Planning, Health and Environment explained that currently the Committee received a report on all matters investigated by Enforcement Officers. Some of the cases for investigation proved to be ones where there had been no breach of planning control or the breach was so minimal that it was not expedient to take the matter to the Planning (Enforcement) Committee. He commented that previously the department had relied on Ward Members to identify problems and if they required it, a full report was made to the Committee. To improve efficiency, it was therefore suggested that delegated powers be granted to Enforcement Officers

to sign off such cases and these would still be reported for information on the agenda. However, it was considered to be good practice to consult with the Ward Member as well.

DECISION:

RECOMMENDED TO CABINET:

The following be recommended to Council for adoption:

An amended Scheme of Delegation to include:

1. **The closure of enforcement cases where there has been a breach of planning control but the head of Planning, health and Environment, in consultation with Ward members, considers it is not expedient nor in the public interest to take enforcement action.**

2. **The Revised Pro-Active Enforcement Policy as set out in Appendix 1 of the report.**

ENF.42 Exempt Information

DECISION:

Under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972 the press and public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of "Exempt Information" as defined in paragraphs 2, 6 and 7 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Act.

ENF.43 Summary of Minutes

The following proceedings were considered after the press and public had been excluded from the meeting. A summary of the minutes relating to these items has been made as "exempt Information" would be disclosed if the minutes were published in full:-

ENF.44 Minutes

The exempt minutes of the meeting held on the 31st January 2008 were confirmed as a correct record and were signed by the Chairman.

ENF.45 Planning Enforcement Matters

The Committee received reports and took a number of decisions on new and existing enforcement cases.

ENF.46 Information Matters

The Committee considered brief particulars of 46 new complaints lodged since the last meeting of the Committee.

The meeting ended at 6.30 p.m.