

50 Onslow Garden
Ongar,
Essex

11.9.06

Ian Willett : Head - Research + Dev. Services

Dear Ian,

Protocol regarding the determination
of planning applications

At a recent Development Control meeting it was asserted that it was the duty of a Chairman of any of the Area Plans Sub-committee to support that committee's views if a planning application had to be referred to the Development Control Committee.

Instead of seeking "an

honest appraisal of the merits of an application" act as a fettered delegate!

I deplored this view of a fellow Councillor: nowhere in the protocol or elsewhere is this assertion supported. Rather only "relevant planning considerations" should form the basis for a decision.

I have no wish to make an issue of this incident. If however I am correct in my interpretation then the independence of Councillors might be emphasised in future training courses etc.

Yours sincerely

Keith Wright

Dist Cllr: Ongar.