

Lichfield's Planning Committee

# How it works



## Development



Find out more about Lichfield District Council's Planning Committee process.

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## What is the Planning Committee?

This is the committee that makes decisions on planning applications in the Lichfield District area. It also considers tree preservation orders, enforcement and listed buildings.

## When does it meet?

Planning Committee generally meets every four weeks on Monday evenings at 6pm at Lichfield District Council's Frog Lane Offices in Lichfield (back entrance).

The meetings are open to the public who are welcome to come along.

## Who is on the committee?

The committee is made up of 15 of the elected district councillors, who receive training in planning. The Chairman and Vice Chairman are appointed each year.

The committee receives planning and legal advice from council officers.

## Why aren't all planning applications decided by the committee?

Senior planning officers have powers delegated to them to determine applications on behalf of the committee. Around 95% of applications are decided in this way.

The applications considered by the Planning Committee are normally larger or more significant applications that raise a number of planning issues.

## How does the committee reach its decision?

Copies of the agenda, including the full reports by planning officers, are circulated to the committee members five working days before the meeting. These are also available at **[www.lichfielddc.gov.uk](http://www.lichfielddc.gov.uk)** for anyone to see.

Each report contains full details of the proposal along with a summary of the history of the site, the relevant policies, summaries of the views of objectors and supporters, and the reasoned judgment of the planning officers.

The report also contains a recommendation from officers to approve or refuse the application.

At the meeting, an officer will present the application and, if requested, provide further information on each application and each case is generally debated by councillors.

Members of the public can address the committee, usually to object or offer support on an application. To find out more please see the leaflet 'Having Your Say'.

The committee will finally make a decision on the application on the basis of the officers' recommendations, the substance of the discussion, and any other information received during the debate. This decision is reached either unanimously or by a show of hands, if opinion is divided.

### Does the committee have to accept planning officers' recommendations?

The planning agenda contains planning officers' recommendations. The committee is not bound by these and the members are free to make a decision based on the planning merits and other issues.

If the committee seeks to make a decision against officer recommendations, that decision must be based on proper planning reasons.

If extra information is needed, the application may be deferred until a later meeting.

Members of the public can speak at Planning Committee meetings.





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### More information

To find out more about the Planning Committee and when it meets, please contact the committee clerk on **01543 308075** or visit **[www.lichfielddc.gov.uk/council](http://www.lichfielddc.gov.uk/council)** (in the 'Council info/Committees' section).

### Useful information

To find out more about Planning Committee and the Chairman, go to **[www.lichfielddc.gov.uk/council](http://www.lichfielddc.gov.uk/council)** and click on 'Committees'.

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If you need this leaflet in another format, such as large print, please call Lichfield District Council on **01543 308000** and for someone in Development or email **[devcontrol@lichfielddc.gov.uk](mailto:devcontrol@lichfielddc.gov.uk)**