

New Works Committee. Report to CCT Council 10th September

The New Works Committee has met on 4th July, 11th July, 25th July 8th August and 29th August.

Significant application that we commented on were:

- A proposed conversion of a building to a 'free school ' at Abbey Square, since granted planning permission,
- Extension of Hoole Hall Hotel into the Green Belt,
- Student accommodation at Upper Northgate Street,
- Apartments at the former Gamekeeper Public House on Newall Road, Upton,
- Student accommodation at Linenhall car park, Stanley Street.

On 11th July we had a meeting to which all members of Council were invited, with Justin Paul of J10 Planning and architects and developers for two schemes.

The first was by developers Belong and architects Pozzoni for the ex bank site on City Road bounded by the canal at Leadworks Lane and Queens Avenue to the rear to discuss a pre application scheme for old person's accommodation. Comments were made and a revised scheme has been prepared for comment. A meeting with them has been arranged to discuss the revised scheme in early October

The second was a revised scheme for residential re-development on the bank site on Queen's Park with developers Redrow Homes and architect John Assael. This included proposals to partly conserve the 2nd World War bunkers beneath the site and the replacement of traditional style residential blocks on the frontage with modern design flats. Consultation on a new planning application is awaited.

We have become increasingly concerned about the unplanned and un-coordinated proliferation of student accommodation in Chester, which does not appear to have any regard for the future need for student accommodation nor its most suitable location in the city. On 25th October a letter and report was sent to councillors and officers calling for the urgent preparation of a strategy for student housing to be prepared in order to provide a rational framework to determine current and proposed applications. A number of councillors replied but to date no response has been received from officers. A reminder has been sent.

Andrew Pannell