

Speaking at

DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE

What are Development Control Committee Meetings ?

Development Control Committee meetings are held to consider planning applications which are not decided by planning officers. The Committee considers applications in relation to planning policy, the representations received from members of the public, consultation responses and the recommendations of the planning officer.

Where are the meetings held?

The meetings are normally held every three weeks on a Tuesday evening at 6.00 p.m. in the Council Chamber at the offices of South Derbyshire District Council in Swadlincote. The layout of the Council Chamber is shown in the diagram on the reverse side.

Can I speak at meetings ?

Anyone wishing to speak at the Committee may be able to do so, subject to the procedure set out in this guidance. Only those members of the public who have already submitted a written representation will be allowed to speak. When people speak about an application, their comments are considered in the light of planning policy along with other relevant information, including any written representations.

Who can speak ?

Two people are able to speak on an application. One person is allowed to speak on behalf of any objectors and one person may speak in support of the application. If more than one person wishes to speak for or against the same application, they should choose a representative to speak on behalf of everyone. The contact details of the first person to register will be passed on to others so that they can nominate a representative. If no representative is chosen, the first person to ask to speak will be given the opportunity.

How do I arrange to speak ?

If you wish to speak about an application that is being considered by the Committee, you must register by telephone during office hours with the Democratic Services Unit. Registration is from 10.00 a.m. on the Tuesday 7 days prior to the meeting until 5.00 p.m. on the day before the meeting (normally Monday). Office hours are 8.45 a.m. until 5.00 p.m. on Monday to Thursday and 8.45 a.m. until 4.30 p.m. on Friday. The contact details are at the end of this leaflet.

How long can I speak for ?

The chosen person will be able to speak for 3 minutes. The Chair will advise you when you have 30 seconds left. After 3 minutes, you will be asked to stop speaking and you will not be able to address the Committee after this time.

What can I speak about ?

You should state your views and comments. You should not ask questions of other speakers or the Committee. The Committee is only able to consider planning issues. Therefore, you should limit yourself to comments on these issues.

Examples might include the following:-

- The suitability of the site for this particular development;
- The design, appearance and layout of the proposal;
- Any loss of light or privacy;
- Any noise, disturbance or smell;
- Highway safety or traffic;
- The effect on the character or amenity of an area; or
- Whether the development is consistent with the Council's planning policy and government guidance.

You should avoid speaking about matters that are not planning issues, such as the following:-

- Matters covered by other laws (e.g. alcohol licences or health and safety laws);
- Private property rights (e.g. boundary or access disputes);
- Personal remarks (e.g. the applicant's morals or motives);
- The effect on the value of property;
- The effect on competition for other businesses;
- Possible future development; and
- Loss of views over other people's land.