

To: Members of the Development
Control Committee

**From COUNTY SECRETARY'S
DEPARTMENT**

Chief Officers

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**DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE
9 SEPTEMBER 2003
MINUTES**

ATTENDANCE

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

N K Brook, G R Churchard, R S Clements, K M Crout, M Green, B N W Hammond (Chairman), S J Mills, E N Singam, W A Storey (Vice-Chairman), J W A Usher.

OTHER MEMBER IN ATTENDANCE

D Beatty.

Upon consideration of the agenda for the Development Control Committee meeting on 9 September 2003, as circulated, copy annexed, action was taken or decisions were reached on individual items as recorded below.

CHAIRMAN'S ANOUNCEMENT

The Chairman announced that a new amplification system had been fitted in the Council Chamber and would be used for the first time for a public meeting at today's Committee meeting.

MEMBERSHIP

It was noted that R S Clements had replaced R N Copping and K M Crout had replaced D R McManus as members of the Committee for this meeting.

MINUTES

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 8 July 2003 were confirmed as a correct record.

PUBLIC PETITION

The Chairman advised that Mr Wigg was unable to attend the meeting today, to present a petition on behalf of residents of Watford, requesting speed reduction measures for Phillipers / York Way / Garsmouth Way, Watford.

In accordance with Mr Wigg's wishes, the Committee noted the content of his letter which was printed on the second page of the agenda for this Committee meeting.

The Chairman advised that the request contained in the petition would be investigated by the Director of Environment with the results of the investigation being notified to the petitioner, the Development Control Committee Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Spokesmen and the local County Councillor.

NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS

No other business had been notified.

QUESTIONS

No questions had been submitted.

PART I AGENDA**1. EAST HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT – PROPOSED DEMOLITION OF SINGLE MOBILE CLASSROOM UNIT AND REPLACEMENT WITH A NEW DOUBLE MOBILE CLASSROOM UNIT AT THUNDRIDGE C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL, ERMINE STREET, THUNDRIDGE**

[Officer contact: Dan Szymanski Tel: 01992 556267]

Colin Hall made a presentation on behalf of nearby residents opposing the planning application.

Julie Evans from Children, Schools and Families Department made a presentation supporting the planning application.

The Development Control Manager of the County Development Unit, Environment Department stated that from September 2003 the school had 73 pupils with a capacity for 84 pupils. As a consequence of the demolition of a single mobile classroom unit already undertaken for health & safety reasons, the school now had an urgent need for a replacement mobile classroom unit to be provided.

The local County Councillor representing this school, whilst observing the need to provide new classrooms expressed his opposition to the provision of a double mobile classroom, due to the loss of playspace, his concern as to how the existing buildings were being used and its unsympathetic appearance in a conservation area. He stated that he would strive to ensure that funds would be made available

in the Budget as soon as possible to provide permanent accommodation to replace the mobile unit.

The Committee, whilst observing the urgent need for a new classroom unit, were unhappy with the lack of planning in providing for the future accommodation needs of this school. Additionally the Committee were concerned about how long mobile classrooms would continue to be used before being replaced by suitably designed permanent buildings, especially in conservation areas, due to their appearance and in this instance, a more sympathetic colour of building would be appropriate.

RESOLVED

- That a) the Director of Environment be authorised to grant a temporary planning permission for the proposed development for five years subject to conditions requiring the submission of a programme for implementation of a School Travel Plan within three months of planning permission being granted and the Travel Plan being submitted within twelve months thereafter, the colour of the mobile classroom, additional planting and restricting the hours of working required to erect the classroom.
- b) given the existing capacity issues at the school, the length of time that the original single mobile classroom has been on site and its location in the Conservation Area, the Director of Children, Schools and Families be advised that any further extension of time for mobile accommodation is unlikely to be considered favourably and that consideration be given to the longer term accommodation needs of the school which are in keeping with its setting.

A L Laycock
County Secretary