



meeting	PLANNING COMMITTEE	
date	25 th November 2003	agenda item number

REPORT OF COUNCILLORS K ALLSOP, J NAPIER AND Y WOODHEAD

PLANNING SUMMER SCHOOL 2003 - REPORT BACK ON ATTENDANCE

Purpose of Report

To receive the views/comments of Councillors Allsop, Napier and Woodhead on their attendance at the Planning Summer School held in Bangor from 5th - 9th September 2003.

Information and Advice

The Committee approved the attendance of the 3 Members earlier in the year and feedback has been received from Members as follows:-

Councillor K Allsop

I would like to thank the committee for sending me to Bangor for the Summer School which was very informative and interesting.

The program was varied and very busy with meetings morning noon and night the food was excellent and the company very good too!

I found the Planning Law Updates very useful and the E-Planning exceedingly exciting. The amount that we will be able to do in planning electronically will be real bonus to both the planners and the applicants alike.

The paper on Transport was particularly interesting and will be of use to me in the future as was the Urban Regeneration paper.

All the papers are now available on the internet and I can highly recommend a visit to summerplanningschool.com where the papers are now available, not only for Bangor but previous planning schools.

Councillor Napier

"A well organised Planning School giving many planning issues full coverage. During seminars on issues such as town centre development, transport and rural issues, there was always ample time given to Members to ask questions.

In addition there were study tours, all of which were well attended indicating their relevance and interest to those on this course.

Senior Planners were always available to answer questions and discuss individual topics. The general style of advice was on openness, transparency and accountability. There may well have been 'overloads' in terms of knowledge given but the emphasis on openness and transparency was always evident."

Councillor Woodhead

"An interesting week covering a wide range of issues from the evolution of Government Guidance on Planning gain and affordable housing. Other issues considered included:-

- history of partnerships
- property booms and community created value
- neighbourhood renewal and business planning
- e-government
- renewable energy issues
- planning law update
- rural planning
- neighbourhoods and crime

Many issues were covered in a very short time giving some reasoned arguments, but not always answering the questions asked. I would like to thank the Chair and the Committee for the opportunity to attend this conference."

The 3 Members will be able to answer any questions raised at Committee.

Statutory and Policy Implications

This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, personnel, crime and disorder and service users. Where such implications are material, they have been brought out in the text of the report.

RECOMMENDATION

That the report be noted.

Councillor K Allsop

Councillor J Napier

Councillor Y Woodhead

Background Papers Available for Inspection

Conference papers.

Electoral Divisions Affected

All.