

Council - 22 June 2006

Time: 7.30pm

Place: Council Chamber

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive any apologies for absence.

2. MINUTES

To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council held on 18 May 2006.

3. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

To receive any disclosures of interest from Members in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct for Members.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR, THE LEADER OR THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The Mayor to present the Civic Pride Environmental Awards.

5. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

The Leader or his nominee to answer any questions raised by members of the public (provided questions have been submitted in writing to the Chief Executive's office before Noon on the day of the meeting).

6. PETITIONS

To receive any petitions submitted to the Council.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE

To consider the recommendations of the Executive from their meeting to be held on 20 June 2006 on the following matters:-(**Attached at APPENDIX 2**)

1. Outturn and Statement of Accounts 2005/2006 [To Follow]

(A copy of the Council's Accounts for 2005/2006 [To Follow] will be circulated to all Members under separate cover.)

2. Amalgamation of The Poors Charity with the Staines Parochial Charity [To Follow]

Note:Members of the public may make representations in person not exceeding 3 minutes on individual recommendations before they are discussed (provided notice of their wish to do so has been given to the Chief Executive's office before Noon on the day of the meeting).

8. REPORT FROM THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

To receive a report from the Leader of the Council on the work of the Executive.

(Attached at **APPENDIX 3**)

9. REPORTS FROM THE CHAIRMEN OF THE IMPROVEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT AND PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT AND REVIEW COMMITTEES

To receive the reports from the Chairmen of the Improvement and Development and Performance Management and Review Committees on the work of their Committees.

(Attached at **APPENDIX 4** and **APPENDIX 5**)

10. REPORTS FROM THE CHAIRMEN OF THE AUDIT, LICENSING, PLANNING AND STANDARDS COMMITTEES

To receive the reports from the Chairmen of the Audit, Licensing, Planning and Standards Committees on the work of their Committees.

(Attached at **APPENDIX 6**, **APPENDIX 7**, **APPENDIX 8** and **APPENDIX 9**)

11. QUESTIONS ON WARD ISSUES

The Leader or his nominee to answer any questions from Members on issues in their Ward. (provided questions have been submitted in writing to the Chief Executive's office before Noon on the day of the meeting).

12. GENERAL QUESTIONS

The Leader or his nominee or relevant Committee Chairman to answer any questions from Members on matters affecting the Borough or for which their committee has responsibility (provided questions have been submitted in writing to the Chief Executive's office before Noon on the day of the meeting).

13. URGENT BUSINESS

To consider any urgent business.

MINUTES OF THE SPELTHORNE BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

At the Annual Meeting of the Borough Council held in the Council Chamber,
Council Offices, Knowle Green, Staines On Thursday 18 May, 2006 at 7.30pm

Bain Ms M	Grant Mrs D L	Pinkerton Mrs J M
Beardsmore I	Hirst A P	Pinkerton J D
Bhadye S	Hyams Mrs M	Ponton Mrs J E
Bouquet M L	James P R	Royer M T
Ceaser G S	Langridge-John J B	Sider R W
Colison-Crawford R B	Leighton Mrs V J	Spencer Mrs C L
Culnane E K	Lorch S B S	Trussler G F
Davies F	Napper Mrs I	Turner Mrs D
Forsbrey G E	O'Hara E	Weston Mrs P
Fullbrook J M	Packman J D	Wood-Dow Mrs J M

Davies T (Co-opted Member)

124/06 ELECTION OF MAYOR

The retiring Mayor, Councillor Mrs P. Weston, welcomed all Members and guests to the Annual General Meeting of the Council. She reported that it had been a pleasure and privilege to have been Mayor and hoped that she had been a good ambassador for Spelthorne. She referred to the many events and interesting people she had met during the year which included attending and speaking along side Alistair Darling MP at the opening of the widening of the M25 and attending a concert at the house of Prince Edward the Earl of Wessex and his wife Sophie. She paid tribute to numerous people including her friends and fellow councillors who had given support in raising funds for the Mayor's charities.

She thanked Councillor Sider for producing videos of her year in office and her secretary, Sue Hulme for her hard work and helpfulness throughout the year and to Richard Powell for his help at full council meetings.

Finally, she thanked her husband for his support as her Consort.

It was moved by Councillor E. O'Hara and seconded by Councillor Mrs D.L. Grant that Councillor M. T. Royer be elected Mayor for the Municipal Year 2006/2007.

RESOLVED that Councillor M.T. Royer be appointed Mayor for the Municipal Year 2006/2007.

Councillor M.T. Royer made the declaration of acceptance of office as Mayor of the Borough of Spelthorne and took the Chair. He thanked his proposer and seconder and those who had supported him in his election as the 33rd Mayor of Spelthorne. He presented Councillor Mrs Weston with the past Mayor's badge and a scrapbook commemorating her year in office.

The Mayor reported that his Mayor's Charity Fund would be supporting three main local charities, which were the Samaritans, Cross Roads and the ATC. The Mayor's Chaplain this year would be the Reverend R. Cosh.

He thanked Councillor Mrs Weston, Members, friends and family for their support during his year as Deputy Mayor.

125/06 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs Amos, Ayers, Chouhan, D'Sa, Jaffer, Mrs Madams, Paton, Searancke and Strong. Honorary Alderman Peter Williamson also extended his apologies.

126/06 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 27 April 2006, be approved as a correct record.

127/06 ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR

It was moved by Councillor F. Davies and seconded by Councillor Mrs. J.M. Wood-Dow and

RESOLVED that Councillor A.P. Hirst be appointed Deputy Mayor for the Municipal Year 2006/2007.

Councillor A.P. Hirst made the declaration of acceptance of office as Deputy Mayor of the Borough of Spelthorne and thanked his proposer and seconder and the Council for appointing him.

128/06 ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR

The Mayor announced the following civic events with full details being obtained from the Mayor's Secretary.

Civic Service – 25 June 2006

Charitable Music Event – 8 July 2006

Charity Lunch hosted by Councillor and Mrs Ceaser - 6 August 2006

River Day – 2 September 2006

Civic Reception to be held in October at Shepperton Studios

Charity Golf Day - date to be arranged

Charity Ball – 3 March 2007 at Kempton Park Racecourse

Civic Day – 2 May 2007

Civic Reception – 17 May 2007

129/06 ELECTION OF LEADER AND DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

It was moved by Councillor E.K. Culnane and seconded by Councillor G.E. Forsbrey and

RESOLVED that Councillor G.S. Ceaser be appointed Leader of the Council for the Municipal Year 2006/2007.

It was moved by Councillor G.S. Ceaser and seconded by Councillor Mrs. V.J. Leighton and

RESOLVED that Councillor E.K. Culnane be appointed Deputy Leader of the Council for the Municipal Year 2006/2007.

130/06 APPOINTMENT OF THE EXECUTIVE

It was moved by Councillor G.S. Ceaser and seconded by Councillor E.K. Culnane and

RESOLVED:

- (a) That an Executive of 6 members be appointed comprising the Leader and the Deputy Leader of the Council and Councillors G.E. Forsbrey, Mrs D.L. Grant,

Mrs V.J. Leighton and E.J. Searancke, with the terms of reference and functions set out in Part 3 (a) of the Council's Constitution; and

- (b) that the members of the Executive hold the following revised portfolios and the Council's Constitution be amended to reflect the changes:

Community Safety and Community Liaison	Councillor E.K. Culnane
Adult and Elderly Services	Councillor Mrs V.J. Leighton
Children and Young People Services	Councillor Mrs. D.L. Grant
Environment	Councillor G.E. Forsbrey
Corporate Services	Councillor E.J. Searancke
Planning Policy and Performance Management	Councillor G.S. Ceaser (In addition to the Leaders role and responsibilities)

131/06 ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMITTEES, ALLOCATION OF SEATS AND APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS

Details of the proposed committees, their size, the political allocation of seats and the members to serve on them had been circulated as **Appendix A** to all members of the Council.

It was moved by Councillor G.S. Ceaser and seconded by Councillor E.K. Culnane and

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Council appoint the seven committees indicated in **Appendix A** with the terms of reference and functions as set out in Part 3 (a) of the Council's Constitution;
- (b) That the allocation of seats on the seven committees be as shown on **Appendix A**;
- (c) That the Members appointed to serve on the seven committees be as shown on **Appendix A**; and
- (d) That Mr M. Litvak and Mr T. Davies be appointed as Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Standards Committee, respectively.

132/06 CHAIRMEN OF AREA FORUMS

It was moved by Councillor G.S. Ceaser and seconded by Councillor E.K. Culnane and

RESOLVED that the Chairmen of the five Area Forums for the Municipal Year 2006/2007 be appointed as shown on **Appendix B**, as follows:

Ashford	Councillor F. Ayers
Shepperton	Councillor R.W. Sider
Staines and Laleham	Councillor E. O'Hara
Stanwell and Stanwell Moor	Councillor Mrs C.L. Spencer
Sunbury	Councillor E.K. Culnane

133/06 DISCRETIONARY HOUSING PAYMENTS REVIEW BOARD

It was moved by Councillor G.S. Ceaser and seconded by Councillor E.K. Culnane and

RESOLVED that all Members of the Council, other than those appointed to the Executive, be appointed to form a Panel from which Discretionary Housing Payments Review Boards could be drawn, as necessary.

134/06 APPOINTMENTS BY THE COUNCIL TO OUSIDE BODIES

(a) South West Middlesex Crematorium Board]

It was moved by Councillor G.S. Ceaser and seconded by Councillor E.K. Culnane and

RESOLVED that Councillor Mrs D.L. Grant be appointed as the Council's representative and Councillor A.P. Hirst be appointed as deputy to serve on the South West Middlesex Crematorium Board.

(b) Surrey County Districts Film Licensing Joint Committee

It was moved by Councillor G.S. Ceaser and seconded by Councillor E.K. Culnane and

RESOLVED that Councillors Mrs D.L. Grant and Mrs J.M. Wood-Dow be appointed as the Council's two representatives to serve on the Surrey County Districts Film Licensing Joint Committee

135/06 INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE – GEOFF CHILTON

The Leader of the Council, Councillor G.S. Ceaser, reported on the outstanding service given by Geoff Chilton over the last six months in his role as a three-day a week interim Chief Executive. His performance was of a high standard and equalled that of a full time role. He thanked Geoff for his wisdom, guidance and help in progressing the councils aspirations to continue to improve on the Council's CPA rating of 'Excellence. On behalf of all members and staff he wished him well for the future.

Mayor _____

22 June 2006

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE FROM THE MEETING HELD ON 20 JUNE 2006

1. **OUTTURN AND STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2005/2006**

- 1.1 The Executive have considered a report advising that the Council's Statement of Accounts for 2005/2006 has been completed and that the audit was due to commence on 29 July 2006. The Accounts and Audit Regulations required that the accounts for 2005/2006 must be completed and approved by the Council by 30 June 2006, and signed by the Leader of the Council and the Chief Financial Officer [i.e. the Strategic Director (Support)].
- 1.2 **The Executive recommend that the Council on 22 June 2006 approve the Statement of Accounts for 2005/2006 and authorise them to be signed by the Leader of the Council.**

(A copy of the Council's Accounts for 2005/2006 has been circulated to all Members under separate cover with the Agenda for the Executive on 20 June 2006.)

2. **AMALGAMATION OF THE POORS CHARITY WITH THE STAINES PAROCHIAL CHARITY**

- 2.1 The Executive has considered a report on a proposal to merge the Poores Charity, for which the Council are the Trustees, with the Staines Parochial Charity. The Charity Commission has approved the merger on the basis that the aims of both Charities were sufficiently similar that an amalgamation could go ahead. In order for the merger to proceed, the Commission require approval from the Staines Parochial Charity trustees, which has already been received, and from the current Poores Charity trustee [i.e. the Council], which must be authorised by the full Council and recorded in the minutes of the relevant Council meeting.
- 2.2 **The Executive recommend that the Council endorse the amalgamation of the Poores Charity with the Staines Parochial Charity, as approved by the Charity Commission.**

Councillor Gerry Ceaser
Leader of the Council

22 June 2006

REPORT FROM THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL ON THE WORK OF THE EXECUTIVE

Since the last meeting of the Council the Executive has met on two occasions. This report is an overview of some of the more significant issues we have discussed at our meetings on 25 April and 23 May 2006.

We have made recommendations to the Council on two matters that appear separately on this Agenda.

ISSUES INCORPORATING ALL 4 CORPORATE PRIORITIES

IDEA PEER REVIEW – ACTION PLAN

We have approved a Comprehensive Performance Assessment [CPA] Improvement Plan that will be incorporated into the 2006/2009 version of the Council's Corporate Plan.

CONSULTATION ON PROPOSALS FOR COMPREHENSIVE PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT [CPA] 2006-2008

We have made a formal response to the Audit Commission in reply to their consultation on Comprehensive Performance Assessment [CPA] for District Councils. The consultation ended on 30 May and the Commission will publish a confirmed framework by the end of July.

EXTERNAL AUDIT ANNUAL AUDIT AND INSPECTION LETTER 2004/2005

We have noted a report, presented jointly by Paul Chambers from the Audit Commission and Henry Arthurs from Baker Tilly, the Council's External Auditors, summarising the key findings in Baker Tilly's Annual Audit and Inspection letter for 2004/2005.

The Annual letter, which was a requirement of the Audit Commission, included a summary of the findings relating to the financial accounts for 2004-2005, a Direction of Travel report relating to the CPA improvement, and a Statement on Use of Resources.

The report showed a very positive picture overall for financial management at Spelthorne and, in relation to the Key Financial Systems and Financial Governance Report 2004-2005, demonstrated that the Council has been prudent in budgetary matters.

APPROVAL OF LIST OF TENDERERS FOR BUSINESS PROCESS REVIEWS

We have approved the list of tenderers for the Business Process Reviews and subsequently RSe Consulting have been commissioned to take on the initial work on this project.

NOMINATIONS OF MEMBERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO SURREY LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION [SLGA] AND SLGA OUTSIDE BODIES

We have nominated Members for appointment to serve on various Surrey Local Government Association and SLGA Outside Bodies for terms of one and three years, respectively, and the SLGA are expected to announce the appointments made in early July.

MAKING SPELTHORNE A BETTER PLACE / MAKING SPELTHORNE SAFER / IMPROVING CUSTOMER SATISFACTION WITH SPELTHORNE'S SERVICES

WASTE MANAGEMENT

We have agreed to (1) extend the ACRE contract from November 2006 to September 2007, (2) change the weekly refuse collection system to alternate weekly from the end of 2007, (3) operate any future refuse and recycling collection systems in-house based on either a kerbside sort or co-mingled method on an alternating weekly system (2007), (4) Officers setting up a working group on partnership opportunities in waste management with other local Surrey Authorities, (5) the holding of a Members' Seminar on 24 July and (6) request the Improvement and Development Committee to examine the future approach to the waste collection process and to report back to the Executive.

ENVIRONMENTAL / STREET SCENE ENFORCEMENT

We have considered a report identifying the scope of the new powers under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005. We have approved the creation of a new Environmental / Street Scene Enforcement scheme based initially on the priorities of dog fouling, dog control and litter, and on meeting the costs from savings made in other budgets.

THE LICENSING OF HOUSES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION [HMO]

We have agreed that a standard fee of £450 be charged by the Council for the licensing of each eligible HMO. Where landlords have more than one HMO that is eligible for licensing and where there is a saving of time on the "fit and proper person" check, we have agreed to a reduction of £50 on the standard fee for each HMO.

SPELTHORNE / MELUN TWINNING

We have reviewed the Council's twinning arrangements with Melun, in France. In light of limited funding available and a reduction in recent exchange activities, we have decided to continue the arrangements, but on a significantly revised basis. The Borough has been twinned with Melun for 16 years and numerous exchanges have taken place during this time. However, in recent years there have been fewer exchanges and the support for exchange links has decreased.

From 2007 there will be no budget allocation for twinning, but funds are available this year from a small budget and under spending in earlier years. Twinning exchanges will

continue to be supported, but on a revised basis of a maximum grant of £100. The Council itself will maintain its Civic links and invite representatives from Melun to annual events such as the Civic Service and Mayor making. The Twinning Committee itself will no longer continue. Instead, the Council's Twinning Secretary will be working with the Mayor, the Executive Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Community Liaison and one other Councillor to oversee the arrangements for the allocation of grants.

PLANNING DELIVERY GRANT 2006/2007

We have noted the Planning Delivery Grant [PDG] earned by Spelthorne for 2006/2007 in the sum of £360,111 and have agreed the areas of expenditure to be met from this funding.

SURREY MINERALS PLAN

We have made a formal response to Surrey County Council on the main issues for Spelthorne arising from the draft Surrey Minerals Plan.

MAKING SPELTHORNE A BETTER PLACE / ENGAGING YOUNGER PEOPLE IN SPELTHORNE

SPECIAL SCHOOL STATUS - SUNBURY MANOR SCHOOL

We have awarded a grant of £10,000 to Sunbury Manor School from the Spelthorne Lottery scheme funds to support their bid for Special School status, subject to the School raising the rest of the required sponsorship for this project.

Councillor Gerry Ceaser
Leader of the Council

22 June 2006

**REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE LICENSING
COMMITTEE ON THE WORK OF THE LICENSING COMMITTEE
AND LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEES**

There has been one Licensing Committee and three Sub-Committee Hearings under the Licensing Act 2003 since my last report, details of which are set out below.

LICENSING COMMITTEE - 2 NOVEMBER 2005

1. Licensing Act 2003 – Review of Transitional Period

The Committee reviewed the work carried out by Licensing Sub-Committees during the Transitional period and the issues which had arisen as a result. The Committee agreed measures to address these and improve the Council's own internal arrangements and those with its partners and the advice, information and service it provided to residents.

2. Licensing – Gaming and Gaming Machines on Alcohol Licensed Premises

The Committee considered and recommended to the Executive changes to the delegations to Officers to allow efficient administration of the required process following the transfer of functions relating to gaming and gaming machines on alcohol licensed premises from licensing justices to local authorities.

LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE - 9 NOVEMBER 2005

The Sub-Committee considered and granted a Premises Licence to Greene King Brewing and Retailing Ltd in respect of The Phoenix, 43 Church Street, Staines, subject to modification and addition of conditions.

LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE – 16 NOVEMBER 2005

The Sub-Committee considered and granted a Premises Licence to Mr A Yazdi in respect of Tops Pizza, 11 - 13 Church Street, Staines.

LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE – 1 DECEMBER 2005

The Sub-Committee considered and refused the grant of a Personal Licence to Mr H.E.J. Ladlow.

Councillor Robin Sider
Chairman of the Licensing Committee

15 December 2005

REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN ON THE WORK OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Planning Committee has met three times since the previous report was prepared for the Council meeting. This includes a re-convened meeting in November for items that could not be considered at the October meeting due to time considerations. This report therefore gives an overview of the key applications considered by the Planning Committee at its meetings on 12 October, 1 November (reconvened meeting) and 9 November.

1. The Planning Committee meeting on **12 October 2005** dealt with 10 items in total.

Public speaking took place on nine of the items with eleven people taking the opportunity to address the Committee.

The most notable items on the agenda were:

- (a) the refusal of a block of 14 flats at 81-91 London Road, Staines.
- (b) the refusal of a block of 14 flats at 5A-7 Fairfield Ave, Staines.
- (c) the approval of planning permission and listed building consent for an extension to 59 Church Street, Staines.
- (d) the agreement to pursue enforcement action regarding unauthorised buildings and extensions at Greentree, Chertsey Bridge Road, Shepperton.

The meeting was adjourned in accordance with Standing Orders.

2. The re-convened Planning Committee meeting was held on **Tuesday 2 November 2005** and dealt with the seven remaining items from the agenda of 12 Oct. Public speaking took place with one person taking the opportunity to address the Committee.

The most notable items on the agenda were:

- (a) the refusal of a block of five flats at 230 Stanwell Road, Ashford.
- (b) the approval of the erection of a block of five flats at 434 Staines Road West, Ashford.

3. The Planning Committee on **9 November 2005** dealt with seven items in total. Public speaking took place on two items with two persons taking the opportunity to address the Committee.

The most notable items on the agenda were:

- (a) the raising of an objection to a consultation from LB Hounslow, for the operation of a motorcross facility at Bedfont Lakes Country Park.
- (b) the raising of an objection to a consultation from LB Hounslow for the operation of a clay target and our rifle shooting range at Bedfont Country Park.

APPENDIX 5

- (c) the deferral of an application seeking the temporary relaxation of a condition to allow 24 trading at the Tesco Superstore, Escot Road, Sunbury.

Councillor John O'Hara
Chairman of the Planning Committee

15 December 2005

REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN ON THE WORK OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

The Audit Committee met on 23 May 2006.

Mr Henry Arthurs, a Partner with the Council's external auditors, Baker Tilly gave a presentation on the relationship between External Audit and the Audit Committee, which emphasised that the establishment of this Committee was a positive step in terms of delivering good governance of the Authority. The Committee was given an insight into the work of External Audit, and how this supported the role of the Committee. He stressed the importance of the Committee in ensuring that key issues were included in the Statement on Internal Control, the Committee's role within the Use of Resources assessment, and its provision of an overview on corporate risk management.

The Committee then considered the following items of business:

1. STATEMENT ON INTERNAL CONTROL

- 1.1 The Committee examined the Statement on Internal Control, which the Council is required to produce under the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003.

2. AUDIT SERVICES ANNUAL REPORT

- 2.1 The Committee discussed the annual report which covered the work undertaken last year by Audit Services. The Committee indicated that it wished to ensure that the recommendations made by Audit Services were implemented, and would welcome reports, from time to time, from local managers on progress.

3. EXTERNAL AUDIT AND INSPECTION PLAN

- 3.1 The Committee received the External Audit Plan for 2006/2007, which had been prepared by Baker Tilly.

4. AUDIT SERVICES – ANNUAL PLAN 2005/2006

- 4.1 The Committee considered and noted a report from the Head of Audit Services, in which she explained how the annual plan was prepared and described the proposed work for 2006/2007.

5. COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2006

- 5.1 Revisions to the Work Programme in the light of updated information were agreed by the Committee.

Councillor Michel Bouquet
Chairman of the Audit Committee

22 June 2006

**REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE LICENSING COMMITTEE ON
THE WORK OF A SUB-COMMITTEE**

There has been one Licensing Sub-Committee Hearing since my last report, details of which are set out below.

Licensing Sub-Committee 31 May 2006

The Sub-Committee heard and refused an application for the grant of a Private Hire Vehicle Driver Licence.

Councillor Robin Sider
Chairman of the Licensing Committee

22 June 2006

REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN ON THE WORK OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Planning Committee has met twice since the previous report was prepared for the Council meeting. This report therefore gives an overview of the key applications considered by the Planning Committee at its meetings on 26 April and 24 May 2006.

1. The Planning Committee meeting on **26 April 2006** dealt with 14 items in total (including a consultation from an adjoining authority and an appeal/enforcement report).

Public speaking took place on 5 items with 10 persons taking the opportunity to address the Committee.

The most notable items on the agenda were:

- (a) The deferral of an application at the former Crooked Billet PH for the demolition of the existing building and the erection of 31 flats, new access and car parking. This was to seek an increase in the level of amenity space and in the level of parking provision, to ensure the scheme did not represent an overdevelopment of the site
 - (b) The grant of permission for an extension to provide bed and breakfast accommodation, plus the conversion of an existing building to form a live/work unit and creation of new wet dock at Turks Boatyard, Sunbury
 - (c) The refusal of planning permission for the redevelopment of a 3 storey building with ground floor retail and 14 flats at 26-34 High Street, Shepperton
 - (d) The grant of permission for a three storey building accommodating five flats at 230 Stanwell Road, Ashford.
 - (e) The refusal of planning permission for the erection of 6 flats following the demolition of the existing bungalow at 231 Charlton Road, Shepperton
2. The Planning Committee meeting was held on **24 May 2006** and dealt with 13 items (including an appeal report and two TPO requests). Public speaking took place on 6 items with 8 people taking the opportunity to address the Committee.

The most notable items on the agenda were:

- (a) The refusal of planning permission for the erection of 2 and 3 storey buildings incorporating 14 flats at land formerly known as Bulldog Service Station, London Road, Ashford
- (b) The refusal of planning permission for the demolition of 2 existing dwellings and the erection of 4 blocks containing 5 two bed flats, 3 two bed town houses, 2 semi-detached houses and 3 four bed terraced houses at 217-219 Charlton Road, Shepperton
- (c) The refusal of planning permission for the erection of 2 two bed houses, 4 one bed flats and 4 two bed flats along with a new access and associated parking at 10-12 and land rear of 14 & 16 Cambridge Road, Ashford

- (d) The grant of planning permission subject to a legal agreement for the erection of a 3 storey building incorporating 12 flats with basement and ground level parking at 82 & 84 Chertsey Road, Ashford
- (e) The grant of planning permission for the erection of a single storey extension to west elevation to create new 'quiet room'/exercise room at The Penrose Club, Hengrove Crescent, Ashford

3. Other matters of interest

- (a) Performance figures for speed of determining planning applications:

	Major applications (BVPI Target) (60% in 13 wks)	Minor applications (BVPI Target) (70% in 8 wks)	Other applications (BVPI Target) (85% in 8 wks)
2005			
July	100%	88%	91%
August	100%	72%	83%
September	None	67%	82%
October	50%	73%	65%
November	None	29%	80%
December	None	58%	77%
2006			
January	None	68%	75%
February	33%	62%	91%
March	50%	87%	87%
April	100%	80%	86%
May	100%	78%	86%

- (b) In the April and May committee agendas, Members were advised about a number of decisions on recent appeals. Of 8 appeals in total 6 were dismissed, and 2 allowed (75% dismissal rate). This compares well with the national average of 66%. Those dismissed included the erection of a detached house at 35 & 37 Minsterley Avenue, Shepperton, the conversion of a property into three flats at 526 London Road, Ashford and the erection of 3 two bed dwellings at 3 Green Lane, Sunbury-on-Thames.

Councillor John O'Hara
Chairman of the Planning Committee

22 June 2006

REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN ON THE WORK OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

The Standards Committee has met once since the last Council meeting and this report gives an overview of the key issues considered by the Committee.

DISCUSSION PAPER FROM THE ODPM – STANDARDS OF CONDUCT IN ENGLISH LOCAL GOVERNMENT: THE FUTURE

The Committee noted the discussion paper published by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister [ODPM], which brought together the government's response and current views on the future of the conduct regime for local government. It set a vision for the future and provided a co-ordinated response to a series of recent recommendations, reviews and consultations relevant to conduct issues in local government. The response covered the role and effectiveness of the Standards Board for England, recommendations following consultation on the Code of Conduct for Members and a proposed new Model Code of Conduct for Local Government Employees, including political restrictions and pay of political assistants. Any changes to the Code of Conduct for Members or new legislation would be reported to the Committee, as and when they come into force.

PLANNING CODE

The Committee considered the approach needed for the review of the Planning Code and the agenda for the Members' Seminar on this matter being held on 5 June 2006. Members received copies of the current code, a note on areas for discussion and a timetable for undertaking the review during 2006, including consultation with the Planning Committee and the Executive.

The Committee agreed that the agenda for the Members' Seminar on 5 June and the overall review would cover revisions to the advice within the Code to set out more clearly and in a transparent way the "rules of engagement" for (1) General role of Members, (2) General role of Officers, (3) Presentation on Likely Major Development Proposals, (4) Decision making, (5) Involvement of Members in Appeals and (6) Call-ins. The Committee further agreed the timetable for undertaking the review during 2006, subject to any comments from members direct to the Monitoring Officer.

ANNUAL ASSEMBLY OF STANDARDS COMMITTEES

The Committee nominated Councillor Jack Pinkerton to accompany myself, the Vice-Chairman and the Monitoring Officer to attend this years Annual Assembly of Standards Committees taking place on 16 and 17 October 2006 at the International Conference Centre in Birmingham.

UPDATE ON ANY RELEVANT LEGISLATION OR INFORMATION FROM THE STANDARDS BOARD

The Committee noted the general information [i.e. Bulletins issued on a regular basis] available on the Standards Board for England website. The Bulletins are a source of useful information and provide updates on any relevant legislation together with statistical analyses of complaints received and referrals made, as well as general guidance.

Murray Litvak
Chairman of the Standards Committee

22 June 2006