

Bramshaw Parish Council Planning Policy

The roles of the Parish Council and the National Park Authority

In the New Forest the National Park Authority (the NPA) decides whether planning applications should be allowed. By law, the NPA has to follow its published planning policies when it decides whether to grant planning permission.

Bramshaw Council has no power to decide planning applications, but we can make recommendations to the NPA. The NPA must let us know about each planning application they get for our area, and must give us time (the consultation period') to make a recommendation.

We have 5 options to use for our response and these are listed below.

1. We recommend PERMISSION, for the reasons listed below but would accept the decision reached by the National Park Authority's Officers under their delegated powers.
2. We recommend REFUSAL, for the reasons listed below but would accept the decision reached by the National Park Authority's Officers under their delegated powers.
3. We recommend PERMISSION, for the reasons listed below.
4. We recommend REFUSAL, for the reasons listed below.
5. We are happy to accept the decision reached by the National Park Authority's Officers under their delegated powers.

Most of our planning applications are decided by the planning officers who work at the NPA.

How we deal with planning applications

Planning is very important to the Parish Council. Although some applications might not seem important by themselves, the cumulative effect of applications can have a big impact on the parish. For this reason, we will normally consider every planning application in the parish. The main exception is if the consultation period for an application ends before our monthly meeting (as we cannot take decisions outside of our meetings). But we can ask for an extension of time to make our response.

The parish council is free to consider any aspect of a planning application, and of its handling by the NPA, when deciding how to respond to it. Broadly speaking, then the council will want to be satisfied that the NPA is applying and interpreting the relevant planning policies and rules in a way that is good for the parish.

If we think a planning application will have a positive impact on the parish, then we will recommend that it should be allowed. If we think the impact will be harmful we will recommend refusal. If the impact is neutral then we will say so and not make a recommendation.

There are occasions when our recommendation is opposed to that of the officers, in such cases the application will go automatically to Planning Development Control committee to be debated and decided by that Committee. In such cases we (BPC) would ordinarily attend to speak on the application. Such occasions arise if we feel the application would have a significant impact on the parish and there is scope to interpret the NPA policies in our favour.

If the NPA's policies are categorically against us, then asking that the application be sent to the PDC committee may be a pointless waste of time.

Planning Advice

Individual parish councillors are happy to answer questions from parishioners about the way in which the planning system works. However, we are not planning experts, so you should always get some pre-application advice from the NPA.

The parish council will not comment on the merits of specific applications except at its official meetings.

REVISED 24th March 2015.