

P22/065



Central Milton Keynes Town Council Planning Committee Meeting held at Margaret Powell House On 29 September 2022

Present:

Andrew Thomas (Chair)

Mary Moore

Peter Lightfoot

Thomas Walker-Werth (Planning and Consultations Officer)

Apologies:

David Stabler

Philip Murphy

Jon Muncaster (Planning Advisor)

Paul Cranfield (Clerk)

In attendance: None

P22/056 – Apologies

Apologies were received from David Stabler, Philip Murphy, Jon Muncaster and Paul Cranfield.

P22/057 – Declarations of Interest

None.

At this juncture the chair moved to defer all further items to the October meeting, with the exception of item P22/061 (Mortimer Square). This was agreed unanimously.

P22/061 - Application 22/02178/FUL: Improvement Works to Mortimer Square

Councillors Lightfoot and Moore inquired what differences in detail can be seen between this application and the proposals presented to the Town Council at pre-application stage (before either member had joined the Town Council). The Planning and Consultations Officer and the Chair noted that the previously proposed central fountain, about which the Town Council had raised concerns, had been removed and replaced with the retention of the existing water jets. Changes had also been made to the lighting

arrangements, and the application as brought to the pre-application meeting had been separated into two separate applications. The first of these, the restaurant unit frontages, had already received approval and works had begun on this phase. The bulk of the Town Council's feedback previously had been on that aspect of the proposals.

The current application relates only to the treatment of the square itself.

Concern was raised about the sustainability of using artificial grass for the inner quadrants (the outer quadrant planters use live planting), but it was agreed that there was no policy basis on which to object to the use of this on a privately-owned square in an area where regular footfall is expected which would damage natural grass.

The following wording was tabled as a potential response to the application, and agreed unanimously:

CMK Town Council supports the proposed improvements to Mortimer Square involving new hard landscaping, works to the existing fountain, together with new lighting and replacement planting.

However, in order to enhance the overall visitor and pedestrian experience, the Town Council believes that the development would be further improved by attention to the public realm beyond the Square, such as addressing the timber clutter outside the restaurant units on the leg from the square leading down to Sainsburys.

Recognising the limitations imposed by the tight boundary of this application, the Town Council would welcome a further planning application, at the earliest opportunity, to remove or replace this clutter to enhance this area to a standard, complementary to the improvements proposed for the Square itself.

This to be submitted to Milton Keynes Council by the Clerk.

Additionally, concerns were expressed and noted that the public realm would be improved by greater attention to its management, addressing matters such as overflowing bin stores and the collection of large paladin bins on areas of the footways. However, since these concerns are not a planning matter, it was agreed that they would be better addressed directly to the owners and/or their agents.

The meeting closed at 6.45pm.

The next scheduled meeting to be held on Tuesday 18 October 2022 at Margaret Powell House.

Chair's Signature..... Date.....