

Girton Annual Parish Meeting
Wednesday 11th May 2022
Planning Committee Report

The Planning Committee consists of all members of the Parish Council, and its purpose is to provide local input about the effects of developments as planning applications are lodged.

This has been a difficult year. Our new Clerk has had an enormous number of urgent issues to tackle. I therefore agreed that planning should not be her top priority; so, if you feel cheated that some applications were not discussed by the Parish Council the fault is mine.

The most contentious item this year, however, is the development at 2 Duck End, for which a planning application was not submitted. We support residents' objections to this; and currently a retrospective application, which the Planning Committee has opposed, is in process of assessment by SCDC.

Other items which have caused controversy are the new 5G mast at the NIAB site, and the Felix Hotel. The law places strict limits on the powers local authorities have over infrastructure projects such as 5G, so our hands are tied. South Cambs officers are still struggling with the Felix

application: the opposition has been fierce and protracted, but there appear to be few grounds in law for a refusal as it is not a listed building or in a Conservation Area. It may be that if Girton had a Neighbourhood Plan the situation might have been different, and this may be an issue the Council needs to look at again.

Girton College is planning significant development to bring the majority of its members on site. The plans had been approved several years ago; but various factors, not least covid-19, have delayed the development beyond the stipulated time-limit for the development to begin. The College has therefore re-issued its application, and a delegation from the College attended a Parish Council meeting to explain their thinking. Several points were raised by members of the public and councillors, chiefly centred on the proposed new access on to Girton Road and the changes which covid-19 has wrought in patterns of life and work. The College was very receptive, and although these will not alter the details of the outline application already submitted, we expect to work with the College on the details at the Reserved Matters stage.

Douglas de Lacey (Chair, Planning Committee)

May 2022