

Committee – Planning Committee

Date 19th June 2025

Public Questions (1 total)

1. Question from Richard Lawler to Chris Gomm (Head of Planning) and Chair of Planning – Councillor Garth Barnes

I have been reflecting on my recent experience with the planning portal, particularly in relation to the Folly application, and I've also received feedback from residents who felt let down by the system after submitting their comments. A common concern was the lack of notification when the application was scheduled for consideration by the Planning Committee.

In light of this, I'd like to suggest one simple change to improve public engagement and trust in the planning process:

That anyone who submits an objection or comment on a planning application is automatically notified when that application is due to go to committee.

This seems like a modest but meaningful improvement. From what I understand, it could potentially be implemented within the existing planning portal—possibly just by enabling an existing notification setting in the back end.

I hope Cabinet will consider this as a practical and low-cost step towards improving transparency and inclusion in the planning process.

Response from Chris Gomm (Head of Planning) and Chair of Planning – Councillor Garth Barnes

Thank you for your feedback. By registering on our public access website the progress of applications can be tracked, including automated notifications when the status of an application changes. This automated notification does not include referral to committee however nor committee dates. It is agreed that the notification process would be improved by Mr Lawler's suggestion. We will take this away and discuss with our IT colleagues. Our public access system is provided by a third party (Idox Software) which provides a significant number of local planning authorities with the same system so any changes may be dependent on the capabilities of that system.

