



# Oundle Town Council

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## Speaking up on Planning

Oundle Town Council is consulted by the Planning Authority of East Northamptonshire Council for views and opinions in respect of planning applications. Oundle Town Council does not have any powers to grant or refuse applications, but the Council's views are valued by the Planning Authority.

Plans are considered at our Full Council meetings which are held on the first and third Thursdays of every month, commencing at 7.30pm at Fletton House, Fletton Way, Oundle. All planning applications that are due to be considered will be published on the agenda issued on the preceding Friday.

If you feel strongly about an application, either for or against it, you may attend the relevant meeting to speak about the application. You can speak for 2 minutes only, after which time you will be asked to stop.

If you wish to attend a meeting you must advise us in writing or email us 48 hours before the meeting. You will then receive an invitation to attend and speak at the meeting. At the meeting, the Chairman will introduce the item having asked the Clerk if there are any speakers.

If several people wish to speak on the same application either in support of or against the application, they will be asked to choose a spokesperson to represent them in each case.

When called to speak, you or your representative will come forward to the committee table to make your statement before returning to the public seating area.

The order for speakers is as follows,

- A speaker for and/or against the proposal,
- The applicant.

Although members will not normally ask you any questions, they may do so at the discretion of the Chairman to clarify an issue.

At the conclusion of the representations, the members of Oundle Town Council will, after due consideration, announce the recommendation they will be making to the Planning Committee of the District Council.

## What can I speak about?

You may explain the effect the development will have on you and the reasons for your views. You must make your comments within the framework of the planning law, although the committee will not expect you to be a planning expert.

You will need to think about:

- Highway Safety & traffic noise,
- Design, appearance, layout, and character of the area,
- Planning policy (Local Plan, Structure Plan),
- Residential amenity,
- Issues of disturbance, smell, etc.
- Historical Buildings, trees, etc.

The members cannot consider non-planning issues like private property rights, right to a view, effect on a property value, developer's morals/motives etc. however much you may feel concerned about such issues.

At the meeting you should avoid:

- making statements of a personal or slanderous nature which could result in legal action against you,
- being abusive,
- interrupting other speakers, the Council members, or the meeting.

As an alternative to speaking at the meeting, or as well as speaking, you may put your comments in writing to Oundle Town Council, and to the District Council. You could also speak to a Town Councillor with a request to represent your views on your behalf. This will be regardless of whether he or she agrees as they are here to represent your views.

There is a nominated Head of Planning for the Town Council who reviews each plan in detail before any meeting takes place. If you would like to contact this individual, please look at the Councillor details to ascertain who the Head of Planning is for this current year.

If you have any questions regarding this process, please do not hesitate to ring the Town Clerk at the Council Offices who will be pleased to assist you.