

Rother District Council Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)

Addendum

At its meeting on 16 December 2024, Rother District Council's full Council approved changes to the public speaking scheme at Planning Committee and Committee management. Details of the changes and the reasons for them are set out in full in the report to the [Audit Committee](#) (2 December 2024). As a result of the changes, paragraphs 4.25 and 4.26 on page 45 of the SCI (adopted January 2022) are amended as follows.

4.25 The maximum ~~number of~~ **time allowed for** speakers for and against the application ~~by members of the public~~ will depend upon the type of application – as set out ~~in the table below~~. **Each speaker will be allowed to address the Planning Committee for no more than 5 minutes. If more than one speaker wishes to speak on the same application, in advance of the meeting, they will need to appoint a spokesperson to address the Planning Committee on their behalf or share the five-minute slot.**

- ~~• Householder: 1 speaker each for and against~~
- ~~• Minor/Other: 2 speakers each for and against~~
- ~~• Major: 3 speakers each for and against~~

TYPE	PARISH & TOWN COUNCIL	AGAINST / OBJECTOR	FOR / SUPPORTER	WARD MEMBER(S)
All Applications (except Large Major Application, in excess of 100 dwellings or equivalent)	1 x 5 mins <i>(Only a formally nominated Representative of the Parish or Town Council where the application site is located)</i>	1 x 5 mins	1 x 5 mins <i>(The Applicant or Applicant's Nominated Representative will be prioritised)</i>	5 mins

*Large Major Application, in excess of 100 dwellings or equivalent	1 x 5 mins <i>(Only a formally nominated Representative of the Parish or Town Council where the application site is located)</i>	2 x 5 mins	2 x 5 mins <i>(The Applicant or Applicant's Nominated Representative will be prioritised)</i>	5 mins
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* Definition of a large major application:

- C) *the provision of a dwellinghouses where –*
- i. *the number of dwellinghouses to be provided is 100 or more; or*
 - ii. *the development is to be carried out on a site having an area of five hectares or more and it is not known whether the development falls within sub-paragraph (c)(i);*
- D) *the provision of a building or buildings where the floor space to be created by the development is 10,000sqm or more; or*
- E) *development carried out on a site having an area of 10 hectares or more.*

4.26 ~~At the Planning Committee meeting, the application will be introduced by the Chairman and then by the Development Manager or the Planning Officer for the application. If relevant, a representative of the parish/town council will then be invited to speak. Following this, registered speakers will then be invited to address the committee; first speakers objecting to the application, and then speakers in support of the application including the applicant. Finally, a Council Ward Member not on the Planning Committee will be invited to address the committee on behalf of the public. Each speaker will have no more than five minutes to address the committee. Once each speaker has finished addressing the committee, Members of the Planning Committee will be given the opportunity to ask the speaker questions on the content of their speech.~~ The Planning Committee meeting will be managed by the Chair with the advice of the Officers of the Council. Where there are registered speakers, applications will be dealt with as follows:

- The Chair will introduce the application by reading out its planning application reference number, site address and Agenda page number.
- The Planning Officer will introduce the planning application and provide the Planning Committee with any update as necessary.
- The Chair will invite those who have registered to speak to come to the designated table and address the Planning Committee for no more than five minutes each or as set out paragraph 4.25 above.
- The Planning Committee may ask the Council Officers for clarification.
- The Planning Committee will then debate and decide the application.

The order of speaking is as follows:

- Nominated Parish or Town Council representative (where the application site is located).
- Objectors.
- Supporters (the Applicant or Applicant's nominated Representative will be prioritised).
- Rother District Council Ward Member who does not sit on the Planning Committee.

Once speakers have delivered their speeches they will not be allowed to speak again. The Chair may ask a speaker a question to clarify a point of fact, if required in exceptional circumstances. Other Members of the Planning Committee are not permitted to ask questions of the speakers.