

A number of planning applications are granted or refused permission by the Planning Committee. In most cases Members of the Committee reach a decision based on information provided in officer reports on the planning application, taking into account representations by interested parties and other material made available at the committee meeting. Occasionally Members wish to visit a site where an application for permission is being requested.

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## Why do members need to see the site?

In complex cases, Members of the Planning Committee may need to visit a site, where for example:

- Inspection from the street is insufficient to understand the nature or impact of the proposed development
- Particular views or relationships can only be fully understood by seeing inside the site

Site visits enable committee members to reach an informed decision. To ensure fairness, a protocol based on that of the Planning Inspectorate must be observed during these visits.

Site visits are not intended as an opportunity for objectors, applicants or others to lobby members or argue their case. Members need to remain impartial; they must not appear to favour one or other party and must avoid reaching a final decision until all views have been presented at the subsequent Planning Committee meeting.

## Who can attend the site visit?

The committee will usually have heard representations from all parties before the visit. They know the concerns and will agree who should be included in the visit. Objectors, applicants and others with direct interest in the scheme will normally be invited, with a maximum of two representatives from each group.

The committee clerk will arrange the visit to be held during daytime hours between Monday and Friday. Access to the site will be arranged with the owners or their agents and in some cases arrangements will also be made to enter adjoining premises.

## Procedures on Site

The planning officer will show Members around the area, showing relevant scheme drawings and pointing out significant features. Members may ask the planning officer factual questions but must not otherwise discuss the application. The following procedures apply:

- Members are not permitted to hear arguments about the merits of the applications during the visit
- If the visit gives rise to excessive lobbying or demonstrations, Members may cancel the visit and arrange another in private

After the visit, Members may ask the planning officer for a further report to amplify some aspect or assess some new factor of the development.

## Further Information:

For more information about the Planning Committee or general advice on planning you can contact the Planning & Regeneration Service in any of the following ways:

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| <b>By Post:</b>        | Planning & Regeneration Service<br>639 High Road<br>Tottenham<br>London N17 8BD                |
| <b>By Phone:</b>       | 020 8489 1000  |
| <b>By E-mail:</b>      | <a href="mailto:planningcustomercare@haringey.gov.uk">planningcustomercare@haringey.gov.uk</a> |
| <b>On the website:</b> | <a href="http://www.haringey.gov.uk/planning">www.haringey.gov.uk/planning</a>                 |