

**EXTRACT OF DECISION OF THE PLANNING CONTROL COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD ON 24 JULY 2007
DIGEST 3 PUBLISHED ON 28 AUGUST 2007**

**P.206 SPEAKING RIGHTS AT MEETINGS OF THE PLANNING CONTROL
COMMITTEE**

The Committee considered speaking rights for members of the public in attendance at meetings of the Planning Control Committee as referred to in the current Council's 'Planning Code of Conduct' document. A period of 2 minutes is allowed for applicants and members of the public to give reasons for allowing or objecting to a planning application. The suggestion was made that 3 minutes would be a more appropriate length of time to address the Committee, due to the amount and detail of information in some applications. Reference was also made to speaking rights for Ward Councillors who are not timed, with the suggestion that they be limited to 3 minutes. Discussion ensued regarding the registration by the public to speak prior to a meeting. Members indicated that they did not want to hinder or restrict members of the public from speaking. The present arrangement allowed people to register an intention to speak, up to the start of the meeting.

Officers indicated that a review of the current practice would be undertaken based on new guidance from the Planning Officers Society.

Delegated decision:

1. That approval be given to amend speaking rights of applicants and the public by increasing them to 3 minutes in respect of individual planning applications.
2. That approval be given to limit the speaking time of a Ward Councillor for an application in the ward they represent to 3 minutes.
3. That the Standards Committee be notified of the above proposals for comment.