

Kinross-shire Civic Trust

Planning Report for the year 2020-21 for the 2021 AGM

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, the Trust's Planning sub committee has not met in person since February 2020. However, we continue to monitor the Kinross-shire ward planning applications that appear on Perth & Kinross Council's weekly list. Application details are circulated by email, comments noted and submissions made to the Council where appropriate.

In the Trust's year 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021, there were 180 Kinross-shire planning applications (almost identical to the previous year's 181). The Trust submitted 15 objections and five letters of general comment.

Of the 15 applications we objected to, PKC approved seven, refused four and a decision is awaited for one. Three of the applications we objected to were withdrawn.

Of the five applications on which we made general comments, four were approved and one withdrawn.

What is heartening is that even where an application that we had objected to has been approved, in a number of cases – probably around a third – we can see that our concerns have been taken into account. This might be in the form of the applicant being required to submit additional information, or a condition being attached to the planning consent.

The dominant planning matter was Lathro Meadows phase 2. Persimmon applied to build 169 houses on phase 2. This would take the total number of dwellings across the whole site to 372. The original consent was for 300 dwellings. The application was considered at a 'virtual' meeting of PKC's Planning and Development Management Committee on 1 July 2020 with council officers recommending approval. I was granted permission to speak as an objector on behalf of the Trust. By majority, the committee refused planning consent. Persimmon then appealed to the Scottish Government. In January 2021 the Reporter indicated that he is minded to grant the appeal. The Trust wrote several times to the Reporter both before and after his interim decision. The appeal has not yet been granted as it is conditional on a legal agreement being registered and there have been delays to this.

In January 2021 the Reporter also granted Springfield's appeal to build at Pitdownies at Milnathort, an application that the PKC Planning committee had refused (and the PKC planning officers had recommended for refusal).

In the past year I have started posting the weekly Kinross-shire planning applications on the Trust's Facebook page for any interested members of the public to see.

Eileen Thomas, Chair, KCT Planning Group
August 2021