

Public Speaking at Planning and Development Control Committee - Protocol

Members of the public are welcome to attend the Planning and Development Control Committee meeting.

Who can speak?

Only the applicant or their agent and people who have commented on the application as part of the planning department consultation process in support or against will be permitted to speak at the meeting. They must have been registered to speak before addressing the Committee. Ward Councillors may sometimes wish to speak at meetings even though they are not part of the Committee. They can represent the views of their constituents. The Chair will not normally allow comments to be made by other people attending the meeting or for substitutes to be made at the meeting.

Do I need to register to speak?

All speakers except Ward Councillor must register at least two working days before the meeting. For example, if the Committee is on Wednesday, requests to speak must be made by 4pm on the preceding Friday. Requests received after this time will not be allowed. Registration will be by e-mail only. Requests are to be sent to speakingatplanning@lbhf.gov.uk with your name, address and telephone number and the application you wish to speak to as well as the capacity in which you are attending.

How long is provided for speakers?

Those speaking in support or against an application will be allowed three minutes each. Where more than one person wishes to speak for or against an application, a total of five minutes will be allocated to those speaking for and those speaking against. The speakers will need to decide whether to appoint a spokesperson or split the time between them. The Chair will say when the speaking time is almost finished to allow time to round up. The speakers cannot question councillors, officers or other speakers and must limit their comments to planning related issues.

At the Meeting - please arrive 15 minutes before the meeting starts and make yourself known to the Committee Co-ordinator who will explain the procedure.

What materials can be presented to committee?

To enable speakers to best use the time allocated to them in presenting the key issues they want the committee to consider, no new materials or letters or computer presentations will be permitted to be presented to the committee.

What happens to my petition or deputation?

Written petitions made on a planning application are incorporated into the officer report to the Committee. Petitioners, as members of the public, are welcome to attend meetings but are not permitted to speak unless registered as a supporter or objector to an application. Deputation requests are not accepted on applications for planning permission.