

News Release

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Don't drop THE TROP

Campaigners applaud planning committees' decision to consider the Tropicana in full

Campaigners The Trop (WsM) are celebrating today after councillors at last night's South Area Planning Committee unanimously voted to require prior approval of the demolition of the Tropicana.

At the meeting councillors were enraged at the short notice they were given to consider this important site and slated the planning department for failing to provide enough time to properly consider the application and supporting documents.

Councillors resolved to require prior approval of all of the details and specifically requested that the public were consulted. The decision means that full details of the proposal for demolition and reinstatement of the sea wall and beach will be available for the public to comment on and a decision could be made at the next South Area Planning Committee on the 22nd of November. However, the Head of Planning, Richard Kent, has indicated that the Tropicana application may be need to be considered at an earlier meeting of the Committee.

Councillor Ap-Rees accepted criticism from his fellow councillors for the lack of notice of the application, one councillor complaining that the officers were incompetent. Councillor Ap-Rees is the councillor responsible for pushing through the demolition of the building and had to accept that last night's process was flawed.

Comparison was made between the council's application that had been registered and sent to committee in less than 10 days whereas The Trop (WsM) application to retain and refurbish it into a quality Olympic size swimming pool along with leisure and entertainment facilities still has not been registered despite being submitted just one day after the council's application. Head of Planning, Richard Kent, said he would be contacting the group the following day to explain himself.

Amanda Sutherland, Planning Consultant for the group said "We are delighted that the councillors have made it clear that any works at this site should be fully scrutinised by both councillors and the public. We ask for all concerned residents to give their support by objecting to the demolition of the building and supporting our application to provide Weston and North Somerset with a quality swimming complex."

ENDS

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