



EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

PLANNING COMMITTEE SITE VISIT PROTOCOL

- The decision on whether to organise a formal Planning Committee site visit rests with the Head of Planning and Sustainable Development.
- At the formal site visit – which will take place at a date and time fixed by the Head of Planning and Sustainable Development.
 - Members will view the site from the nearest public space. In exceptional circumstances, and only with the consent of the relevant landowner, the Committee may view the site from elsewhere.
- At the site visit, the Chairman may, at his absolute discretion, ask one representative of the applicant, objectors or Parish Council present to point out any particular characteristics of the site and its surroundings they would like to bring to Members' attention. Where this occurs, such questions will be put and the answers given in the presence of the other representatives present.

Additional Guidance:

- For the avoidance of doubt, it should be noted that no decision on the application is taken on the Committee site visit, which is just a further fact finding exercise to allow Members to appreciate the physical context of the site when considering a relevant planning application.
- Members are strongly advised to attend such organised site visits and not to visit sites on their own. Attending the organised site visit allows everyone to hear the answer to Members' questions and prevents Members from being approached by the applicant, objectors, etc.
- Members should not take part in informal site visits with the applicant, objectors or Parish Councils other than in exceptional circumstances and then with an officer present.