

Planning Participation Schemes regarding Planning Applications

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This paper looks at the state of nearby local authorities, mainly because of the connections between councillors, neighbours (both in a local government sense, and a populations sense). This is then to give a more rounded picture of other local authorities, and where West Lindsey stands in relation to nearby local authorities, and how they deal with public participation. This is not a definite search, but it is intended to facilitate a better understanding of what the Planning Committee could allow regarding this most tenable right in this democracy of ours: the right to speak.

A matrix comparing other Lincolnshire local authorities

The Local Authorities	Different Categories of speakers	Length of each category	Maximum Number of Speakers	Registration Aspects	Anything else of note?
West Lindsey District Council	Support/Applicant, Objector, Parish/Meeting Representative, Ward/County Councillors.	5 minutes for each category. Chairman's discretion if someone runs over to allow for additional speeches.	Three in each category (sharing the time). At this level, we heavily advise nominating one, but this is not always followed.	Email/Telephone; By Close of Play on Monday before committee (2 days). Can change to statement up to 4 PM on day.	Can send slides for presentations, but no distribution of materials.
East Lindsey District Council	Applicants/supporters, objectors, representatives of parish/town councils.	3 minutes per speaker; Ward Members and district Cllrs interested – up to 5, but Chairman has discretion for longer.	One speaker in each category. Bar applicant/agent (given priority), first come, first served basis.	Specific email address. Statement needs to be in by 12 noon day before meeting.	Cannot distribute materials during speech (no slides for example).
Lincoln City Council	Agent/applicant, individuals with comments previous submitted during consultation period.	5 minutes (for the members of the public).	Limited to one from either side. If several want to speak, a spokesperson is appointed to represent that side.	Have to register by 4 pm one working day before meeting by letter/email/telephone.	Public can't distribute any photographs or other documentation at the committee or raise any new issues
North Kesteven District Council (NKDC)	Applicants (or supporters), objectors,	3 minutes for each speaker (excluding	One speaker per category is allowed to speak. If more	Email only to register by 12 noon 2 working	"Where an application is on the boundary of one or

	Parish/Town Councillors, Local ward members.	Local ward members).	than one objector/supporter, then NKDC advise to nominate a speaker. If none made, first person to make registration is the speaker.	days before the meeting.	more parishes, then speakers will be allowed from each parish”
South Kesteven District Council	Ward Councillor, Representative for Town/Parish Council, Objector, Supporter, Applicant/agent.	3 minutes for each speaker.	Up to two objectors, 1 supporter. First come, first served basis for slots.	Email demo email by 5 PM two working days before the meeting. You have to provide a written statement.	Asks for supplying a telephone number. Has a reserve list for speakers
Boston Borough Council	Objector, Supporter (separate from agent/applicant), Applicant/agent, Parish Councillor, Ward Member.	5 minutes for each category (bar Ward Member, who seemingly have unlimited time)	Not confirmed, but if the first registered objector does not want to share time, they alone speak (2017, and repeated in the 2021 update).	Application form (2017). With the democratic services team (2021).	There is a condition on the application form to speak that allows for the sharing of details (2017).
South Holland District Council (SHDC)	Supporter (two slots - applicant and someone who consults with SHDC), objectors (two slots – member of public and someone who consults with SHDC). See Appendix 1 for more details.	3 minutes for each speaker, requests that information already given in officers report or letters of objection does not need repeating.	Two for each category.	Must register by telephone or email by 12 noon on the day of the committee meeting.	Microphone is switched off after the 3 minutes by Democratic Services Officer. Speakers are asked to send any <u>new</u> photos or materials to the Planning Manager a few days before the meeting.
Lincolnshire County Council - Planning and Regulation Committee	Applicant/agent, those who have submitted a comment on the application.	3 minute limit for each speaker	A maximum of two speakers, one from each side;	Must register intent by email no later than two full working days in advance of the	A quick read through of the minutes of previous meetings suggests that there

(They have similar control levels over the decision about traffic management, pedestrian crossings, planning development control matters, and public rights of way)				meeting. Objectors have to have submitted a written comment on the application in order to speak.	have been very few objectors to applications, and most of the outside speakers on applications are applicants/agents.
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Summary

In this Officer’s opinion, keep to status quo on most aspects, if not all aspects. Potential to change on number of speakers’ aspect – but this would be a reduction

Keep categories as they are, as we have a lot of access for different organisations and people. Having reviewed previous minutes, it would be hard to justify changing the slots, or limiting it to people with previously submitted concerns (i.e. South Holland, and Lincoln respectively).

The length of speeches/statements is on par with other nearby local authorities (and is better than others).

The registration, and submission of statements made for WLDC public participation is also one of the more generous ones, with different avenues of access, and the ability to change around statements. We also don’t ask for others to provide a copy of their speech.

Also, in the anything of note, we have a rather relaxed policy on slides/presentations. We also follow others in not allowing the public to bring in other materials, such as requests that might have a link towards the main concern of the application.

Holistically, West Lindsey stands with an accessible, open public participation scheme, with a sizeable amount of time available for speeches, many different categories, and the ability to present photos/slides.