

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

25 January 2018

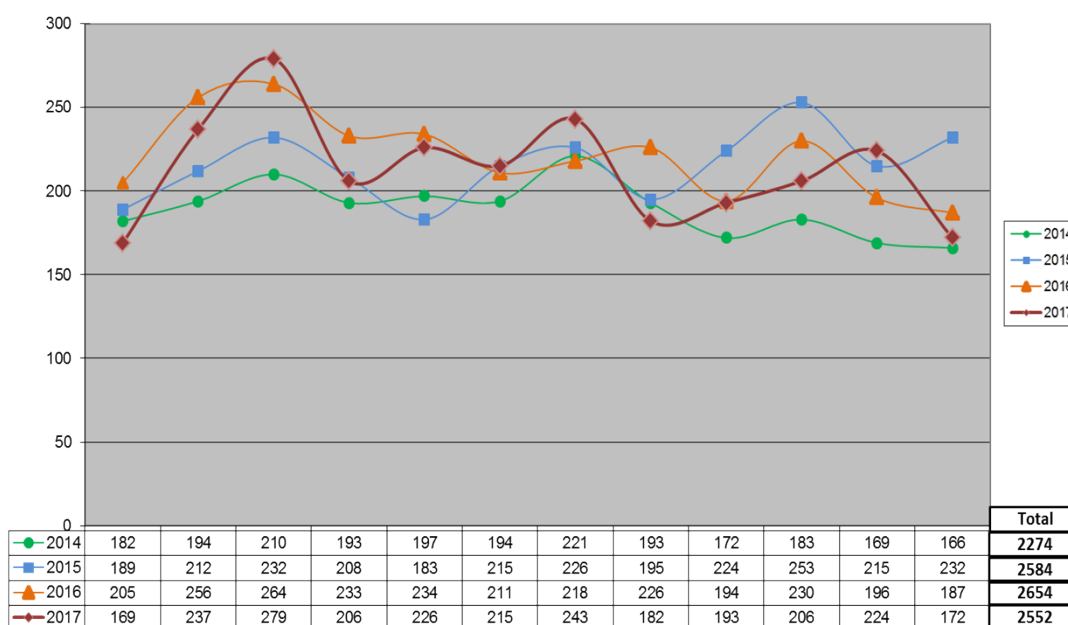
COUNCILLOR RICHARD BLUNT - CABINET MEMBER FOR DEVELOPMENT

For the period 02 November 2017 to 12 January 2018

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

Planning Applications

Planning and discharge of condition applications received



Planning

In the last calendar year, tree work applications increased by nearly 30%, from 275 in 2016, to 355 in 2017. Whilst it is not clear what the reason for this is, it does follow a pattern of increased applications since 2011, and may well be down to better awareness by the general public of the requirements for getting permission when dealing with protected trees.

The Council has received an appeal decision allowing a site for up to 50 dwellings outside of the development boundary for Gayton. It is considered that there are legal issues with the decision that if left unchallenged, could have implications for the rest of the Borough. Whilst it was confirmed that the Council had retained its 5 year supply of housing, the Inspector has

nevertheless allowed up to 50 dwellings outside of the village development boundary, setting aside well-established policy. The Council is therefore currently taking legal advice about challenging the decision through the Courts.

Planning fees are due to increase by 20% on January 17. The extra 20% is ring-fenced for planning, as required by the Government.

Meetings Attended and Meetings Scheduled

Meetings Attended

Cabinet Sifting
Cabinet
CIL Quarterly Update
Various meetings with Officers

Scheduled Meetings

Wisbech Access Steering Group
Local Plan Task Group
CNC