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Gavin Grant Wiltshire Councillor for Malmesbury

No formal planning application has been made as yet to Wiltshire Council.

However, it is not unusual for a developer to "consult" before making a formal application. This is known as a "pre app" (pre application). Developers use the information they gather as part of their planning application submission. "Pre apps" are seen as good practice.

It is only after the formal planning application is made that the legally required consultation with the public and "statutory consultees" happens. Malmesbury Town Council is a "statutory consultee" and so are many others like the Highways Authority.

Once the developer makes their planning application, every document, public comment made in response to the planning application and the comments of the "statutory consultees" will appear on the Wiltshire Council planning portal.

Most planning decisions are made by the Council's professionally qualified planning officers. However councillors have the right to call their decision to be debated and decided by the Planning Committee, made up of elected Councillors. That is a public meeting where those supporting or opposing the application are heard before the debate and vote.

We are at the start of this process. But I am clear that should the yet to be appointed planning officer be minded to approve this application, I will be calling it before the Committee for a debate and vote. I hope this helps clarify where we are, what happens next and how matters will progress?

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