



APPROVED: The architects' visual of the new proposals for the cattle market site, accepted by the council.

Town says yes to new proposal

by LINDSEY SILL

REVISED plans for 18 homes, parking and public parking space on the former cattle market in Ashburton were accepted unanimously at the town council's planning sub-committee.

After widespread opposition to two earlier applications, Dartmoor Homes Ltd submitted redrawn plans, cutting the numbers from 21 and reducing the height from three to two storeys. The site has outline consent for 16 homes and parking.

Reading from a written statement, mayor Cllr Michael Posner said the new plans addressed residents' concerns and created a structure more in keeping with its neighbours.

About seven residents were present at the town council meeting on Tuesday. Cllr Paul Parker, a director of Dartmoor Homes Ltd, withdrew while the matter was debated.

The plans are for 18 one and two-bed flats in two blocks, with 18 residents' parking spaces and 20 spaces for the public.

A major objection to previous appli-

cations was its proximity to Station Cottages - 800mm (2ft 7½in) in places. The building has been shifted allowing a gap of 11.5m, which Cllr Posner said compared generously with surrounding streets.

An new addition is a flood alleviation scheme to replace the 'inadequate' water culvert under the site, which Cllr Posner said would also benefit Vealenia Terrace.

Another sticking point was a modern lime rubble boundary, which many wanted to see demolished. The new proposals show it reduced in height, improving visibility, and a section removed.

Cllr Posner said that the cladding materials were more in keeping. The bin store, previously deemed inadequate, had been enlarged. Car parking had been moved to the back of the building and the boundary wall alongside Station Cottages removed, which would ease access.

Energy saving systems have been

stipulated throughout. Individual gardens, indicated in previous plans, are to be replaced with a communal grassed space, planted with fruit trees.

Thirteen letters were received. Cllr Posner said he had taken into account objections as well as the many positive comments. Some issues raised, such as flooding, were outside their remit.

'It is my belief that the applicants have gone as far as is feasible towards addressing the concerns initially expressed.'

It was passed unanimously without debate.

The final say will rest with Teignbridge Council Development Control Committee.

● County and district councillor Stuart Barker later told members that Teignbridge Council and the Environment Agency have earmarked £3m for flood alleviation of the Balland stream along its entirety, with work starting in 2009.