

11. SITE INSPECTIONS

- 11.1 Site inspections are subject to an existing Code of Practice which is attached at Appendix 3. Site inspections can cause delay and additional costs and should only be used where the expected benefit is substantial. Reasons should be given where site inspections are requested by Committee and recorded in the minutes. Examples of when site visits might be appropriate would be:-
- where the impact of the proposal is difficult to visualise from the plans and supporting material
 - where there is considerable local concern about the proposal, allied to planning reasons for carrying out a visit (e.g. the physical relationship of the site to other sites in the neighbourhood).
- 11.2 The purpose of a site visit is for Members to gain factual knowledge and make a visual assessment of the development proposal, the application site and its relationship to adjacent sites.
- 11.3 Members should avoid discussion of the merits of the case at such meetings. The appropriate place to do this is at the Planning Committee itself.
- 11.4 It is essential that Members and Officers ensure that ~~those attending~~ anyone who sees them visit the site is are not led to believe that a decision has been taken on the visit, or that conclusive views have been reached.