



Town Hall | 61 Newland Street | Witham | CM8 2FE
01376 520627
witham.gov.uk

MINUTES

PLANNING AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Date: **Tuesday, 7th June 2022**

Place: **Council Chamber, Town Hall, 61 Newland Street, Witham, CM8 2FE**

Present: Councillors

J.	Goodman	(Chairman)
A.	Kilmartin	(Vice Chairman)
S.	Hicks	(arrived 6.36 p.m.)
C.	Jay	
T.	Pleasance	

Also in attendance: Essex County Cllr. R. Playle (Witham Northern)

G.	Kennedy	(Planning Officer)
S.	Smith	(P.A. to the Council)
C.	Strachan	(Assistant RFO)

And 3 members of the public

13. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors K. Atwill who was travelling abroad, P. Barlow who was working, C. Lager and M. Lager who were on holiday.

RESOLVED That the apologies be received and accepted.

14. MINUTES

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning and Transport Committee held 23rd May 2022 be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

15. INTERESTS

No interests were declared at the time but later in the Meeting at application 22/01300/HH and 22/01301/LBC – Howbridge Hall, Councillor Hicks declared a non-pecuniary interest as he lived close by.

16. QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Mr John Palombi representing the Essex Branch of the CPRE spoke about the National Grid consultation. He was concerned that an under-water route had not been considered particularly with off-shore wind farms generating electricity.

Mrs Carol Wilson representing the Witham & Countryside Society, also considered that an off shore option should be considered and an environment investigation undertaken.

Councillors Hicks and Playle arrived at the Meeting.

Councillor Playle said that the National Grid consultation had proved to be contentious. He said that there was insufficient information to rule out an off-shore route. He also referred to Minute 22 – Local Highways Panel – Chipping Hill Bridge, and explained that he and his colleague Councillor Louis had made a Local Highways Panel request for an investigation into safety at the bridge.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their comments.

17. PLANNING OFFICER'S REPORT

The Planning Officer explained that she had received information from Braintree District Council that application 21/0374/FUL – 14 Freebournes Road, Witham would be considered by its Planning Committee on 14th June 2022 as it had been categorised as a major planning application. The Town Council had recommended the application for approval and the District Council's Planning Officer had likewise recommended the application be granted.

RESOLVED That the information be received and noted.

18. PART 1 APPLICATIONS

22/01302/HH

146 Humber Road, Witham

First floor rear extension

NO OBJECTION

22/01326/HH

48 Gershwin Boulevard, Witham

Single storey rear/side extension

NO OBJECTION

19. PART 2 APPLICATIONS

22/01260/TPOCON

48 Avenue Road, Witham

Notice of intent to carry out works to trees in a Conservation Area

The Tree Warden had advised that the proposed work was reasonable.

NO OBJECTION subject to the advice of the District Council's Landscape Officer.

22/01295/HH

15 Guithavon Street Witham

Demolition of a single storey lean-to extension and erection of new single storey rear extension. Conversion of existing bedroom to bathroom, existing kitchen to bedroom and existing bathroom to kitchen. Installation of an SVP and lifting up on floorboards to install new service runs

NO OBJECTION

22/01296/LBC

15 Guithavon Street Witham

Demolition of a single storey lean-to extension and erection of new single storey rear extension. Conversion of existing bedroom to bathroom, existing kitchen to bedroom and existing bathroom to kitchen. Installation of an SVP and lifting up on floorboards to install new service runs

NO OBJECTION subject to the Listed Buildings Officer being satisfied with the proposed materials and internal alterations.

22/01300/HH

Howbridge Hall, Howbridge Road, Witham

Demolition of existing loggia and erection of single storey extension to create link between main dwelling and existing outbuilding. Upgrading and insulation of existing outbuilding along with single storey extension to the courtyard

Councillor Hicks declared an interest as he lived close by.

Some concern was expressed as to whether the proposals would have an adverse impact on the existing building and the internal features but on balance agreed to offer no objection.

NO OBJECTION

22/01301/LBC

Howbridge Hall, Howbridge Road, Witham

Demolition of existing loggia and erection of single storey extension to create link between main dwelling and existing outbuilding. Upgrading and insulation of existing outbuilding along with single storey extension to the courtyard

Councillor Hicks declared an interest as he lived close by.

Some concern was expressed as to whether the proposals would have an adverse impact on the existing building and the internal features but on balance agreed to offer no objection.

NO OBJECTION subject to the advice of the Listed Buildings Officer being satisfied with the proposed materials and internal alterations.

22/01447/TPO

Wakelin Way, Witham

Notice of intent to carry out works to trees protected by Tree Preservation Order 5/75

The Tree Warden had advised that the proposed work was reasonable.

NO OBJECTION subject to the advice of the District Council's Landscape Officer.

20. **REVISED PLANS**

There were no revised plans to consider.

21. **DECISIONS**

The decisions on Planning Applications pertaining to Witham were received.

RESOLVED That the decisions be received and noted.

22. **LOCAL HIGHWAYS PANEL – CHIPPING HILL BRIDGE**

A report was received explaining that Essex County Councillor Louis had recommended that a request for agreed HGV routes would be more likely to be successful than a weight restriction request for Chipping Hill bridge.

Members remembered that the Town Council had for a great many years regularly asked Essex County Council to agree HGV routes for Witham without success.

Members agreed that an approach to the Local Highways Panel would be a good way of achieving the Town Council's aspiration.

RESOLVED That an application be made to the Local Highways Panel seeking agreed HGV routes for Witham.

23. **NATIONAL GRID – NORWICH TO TILBURY**

A letter from Mr Stacey, pointing out that 50m high pylons would go across unspoilt countryside, near people's homes and cause great disruption during construction, was tabled.

Members agreed that a response should be made to the National Grid consultation. It was considered that pylons would cause great environmental impact and affect people's health. It was agreed that a letter be sent detailing the Town Council's concerns and suggesting that an off-shore route should be investigated.

RESOLVED That a letter be sent to National Grid in response to the consultation explaining that the Town Council was totally against the proposal for new pylons across the countryside on the grounds of –

- Environmental impact on the countryside and people's homes
- Impact on people's health¹
- Adverse impact on infrastructure during construction,

¹ <https://hps.org/hpspublications/articles/powerlines.html>
<https://substation-health-risks.co.uk/what-are-the-health-risks-of-living-near-pylons/#:~:text=Liv-ing%20near%20Pylons%20and%20their,and%20numerous%20other%20health%20issues.>
<https://cordis.europa.eu/article/id/15541-research-breakthrough-on-health-effects-of-pylons>

And that an off-shore route should be investigated.

24. PLANNING APPEAL – 20/00808/FUL – 111 – 115 NEWLAND STREET, WITHAM

Notification of the above appeal was received.

Members were informed that the Town Council had recommended the application for refusal on the grounds of over development of site, lack of parking in line with Essex Parking Standards and lack of amenity space, contrary to RLP10.

Members agreed that a letter supporting the District Council’s decision to refuse planning consent be sent to the Planning Inspectorate.

RESOLVED That a letter supporting the District Council’s decision to refuse the planning consent be sent to the Planning Inspector.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the Meeting at 7.17 p.m.

Councillor J. Goodman
Chairman

GK/8.6.2022