



Town Hall | 61 Newland Street | Witham | CM8 2FE
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MINUTES

PLANNING AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Date: **Monday, 18th September 2023**

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

Present: Councillors

P.	Barlow	(Chairman)
J.C.	Coleman	(Vice Chairman)
E.	Adelaja	
J.M.	Coleman	
L.	Headley	
T.	Hewitt	
J.	Martin	
R.	Ramage	
A.	Sloma	
S.	Smith	(PA to the Council)
C.	Strachan	(Assistant RFO)

98. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor R. Ramage. Councillor E. Williams was absent.

RESOLVED That the apologies be received and approved.

99. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning and Transport Committee held 5th September 2023 be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

100. **INTERESTS**

Councillor P. Barlow declared a declared a non-pecuniary interest (NPI) in regards to the bus consultation as they lived within the affected route. Members declared an NPI in application 23/02296/TPOCON – 22 The Avenue, Witham, as they knew the applicant. Councillor J.C. Coleman also declared an NPI at Minute 108, Electricity Network Planning, due to a potential work conflict.

101. QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

A resident spoke in reference to Minute 102 – Bus Consultation, as they were unsatisfied with the information provided regarding the details of the proposed change and were concerned that there might as a result be a reduction in services.

They informed Members that they needed clarification on what routes would be retained in the merge of the 90 and 40 bus services and that when they contacted Essex County Council regarding this, they did not receive a sufficient response. They were ultimately concerned residents could not meaningfully comment if the appropriate information was not made available.

Members agreed that as there was a member of the public present this item should be brought forward.

102. BUS CONSULTATION

Details of a bus consultation was received and Members asked if they wished to respond in regard to service 40.

Councillor P. Barlow declared a declared a non-pecuniary interest in regards to the bus consultation as they lived within the affected route

Members reiterated the residents' concerns regarding the insufficient information provided within the consultation and the potential reduction of services. They agreed that the merger of services 40 and 90 could have the potential to be an enhancement to Witham's travelling public if the merged route retains all of the current Witham stops within each of the services.

A single route starting at Forest Road and serving Chalks Road and Church Street then travelling via Gershwin Boulevard before continuing to Maldon would simplify the two services that currently travel through Witham. Members would support this merged route but would oppose any option that withdrew any service stops.

RESOLVED That the details be received and the Planning Officer write a response to the Essex County Council consultation detailing Members concerns.

103. PLANNING OFFICER'S REPORT

The Planning Officer had nothing to report.

104. PART 1 APPLICATIONS

23/02101/HH

22 Sauls Bridge Close, Witham

Single storey rear extension and amendment to external finishes

NO OBJECTION

23/02195/HH

19 Stainer Close, Witham

Single storey rear extension

NO OBJECTION

105. PART 2 APPLICATIONS

23/02158/TPOCON

1 Scotfield Mews, Witham

Notice of intent to carry out works to trees in a Conservation Area : Fell 6 silver birch trees

Members were advised that the Tree Warden had made a site visit and recommended refusal.

RECOMMEND REFUSAL on the grounds that the trees should not be felled as they were in a Conservation Area, loss of carbon capture, detrimental to street scene and loss of shade and subject to the advice of the District Council's Landscape Officer.

23/02094/HH

32 Armond Road, Witham

Single storey rear extension

Members noted the limited garden size but considered that as the Essex Design Guide for a two-bedroom dwelling was 50m², no objection should be offered.

NO OBJECTION

23/02109/FUL

66B Newland Street, Witham

Change of use from Skin Clinic (Sui Generis) to Class E

Members noted that this was a Change of Use application only.

NO OBJECTION

23/02259/TPOCON

6 Old Magistrates Court, Witham

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

Members noted that the proposal was to reduce the silver birch by 1 to 1.5m and to crown lift the canopy by 2.5m. The Tree Warden had made a site visit and recommended no objection as the proposed work was reasonable.

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

23/02092/TPO

31 Constantine Road, Witham

Notice of intent to carry out works to trees protected by Tree Preservation Order TPO:11/75

The Tree Warden had made a site visit and recommended no objection as the proposed work seemed reasonable.

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

23/02296/TPOCON

22 The Avenue, Witham

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

Members had declared a non-pecuniary interest as they knew the applicant.

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

106. REVISED PLANS

23/01406/HH

8 Bradshaw Gardens, Witham

Conversion to existing garage to provide annexe accommodation for use in conjunction with the main dwelling. Extension to garage to provide storage shed.

Members were informed that the plans were the same with the exception of the proposed erection of a storage shed to the side of the garage.

NO OBJECTION

23/01288/DAC

Phase 4, Land East of Rectory Lane, Witham

A revised Design Code was received.

RESOLVED That the Design Code be received and noted.

107. DECISIONS

The decisions on Planning Applications pertaining to Witham were received.

RESOLVED That the decisions be received and noted.

108. ELECTRICITY NETWORK PLANNING

An email was received from the East Anglia Study Team giving an update on their study into the electricity infrastructure in East Anglia.

Councillor J.C. Coleman declared an NPI due to a potential work conflict.

RESOLVED That the email be received and noted.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the Meeting at 7:23 p.m.

Councillor P. Barlow
Chairman

SS/19.9.2023