



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

### PLANNING AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Date: **Monday, 26<sup>th</sup> June 2023**

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

Present: Councillors

P.	Barlow	(Chairman)
J.C.	Coleman	(Vice Chairman) Arrived 18:35pm
J.M.	Coleman	Arrived 18:35pm
L.	Headley	Arrived 18:35pm
J.	Martin	
R.	Ramage	
N.	Smith	(Town Clerk)
S.	Shannon	(PA to the Council)

Councillor P. Heath, and one member of the public were also present.

#### **25. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A. Sloma and E. Adelaja. Councillor E. Williams was absent.

**RESOLVED** That the apologies be received and approved.

#### **26. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning and Transport Committee held 12<sup>th</sup> June 2023 be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

#### **27. INTERESTS**

Councillors R. Ramage and J. Martin declared a Non-Pecuniary Interest in regards to minute 29, request for a taxi rank in the town centre, as they are members of the District Council's licensing committee.

## **28. QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

A member of the public addressed the meeting regarding minute 29, request for a taxi rank in the town centre, as a representative of the Hackney Carriage cab drivers of Witham and Braintree. He proposed that a taxi rank in the town centre would be a valuable asset to local residents and businesses, as current minicab firms cannot meet the local demand.

He explained to members that many people were having to walk from the town centre to the train station to get a cab and this was a safety concern, as many vulnerable residents were struggling to access this service as a result.

Members were informed that there was previously a rank in the town that was deemed unsuccessful, predominately due to unauthorised vehicles using the spaces, meaning the cabs could not use them. Therefore, if the creation of a new rank was approved these restrictions would need to be suitably enforced.

Members thanked the member of the public for his comments and decided it would be appropriate to bring the item he referred to forward.

## **29. REQUEST FOR A TAXI RANK IN THE TOWN CENTRE**

A report was received regarding a request for a taxi rank in the town centre.

Members agreed that with the increase of housing in Witham there was more activity in the town in the evening causing a need for regular, available taxis, which were not easily obtainable currently.

Members proposed that Mr Cenci should pursue further investigation regarding which businesses would support this proposal to use as supporting evidence.

Overall, members agreed that a rank within the town centre would be a way to improve accessibility in and around the town, and promote equal opportunities by supporting residents who were currently struggling due to this issue.

**RESOLVED** That the Town Council support the proposal to reinstate a taxi rank within the town centre.

## **30. PLANNING OFFICER'S REPORT**

The P.A to the Council explained that the application to consider the installation of a Changing Places toilet facility at the Town Hall would be discussed at the Braintree District Council planning meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2023.

**RESOLVED** That the information be received and noted.

## **31. PART 1 APPLICATIONS**

**23/01265/FUL**

**2 Perry Road, Witham**

Retention of 2-storey temporary building (Class E (iii))

**NO OBJECTION**

**23/01408/HH**

**74 Powers Hall End, Witham**

Proposed rear roof dormer

**NO OBJECTION**

**32. PART 2 APPLICATIONS**

**23/01267/FUL**

**1 Wheaton Road, Witham**

Alterations to elevations, internal layout and parking layout (Phase 3 Units 10 – 18)

Members agreed that any proposals that upgrade properties on the industrial estate to provide more usable spaces in line with today's economy should be supported where possible.

**RECOMMEND APPROVAL**

**23/01400/TPOCON**

**43 Collingwood Road, Witham**

Notice of intent to carry out works to trees in a Conservation Area: Conifer tree – Fell

The Tree Warden had made a site visit and recommended no objection subject to a replacement tree being planted.

**NO OBJECTION** Subject to a replacement tree being planted and the advice of the District Council's Landscape Officer.

**23/01372/FUL**

**1 Croft Way, Witham**

Erection of single-storey side extension

It was explained that the industrial building was partially fire damaged and the proposal was to rebuild on the same footprint. Due to the works being essentially 'like for like' members agreed that they could not see any issue with the proposal.

**RECOMMEND APPROVAL**

**33. REVISED PLANS**

**23/00737/REM**

**Land North of Woodend Farm, Witham**

Application for the approval of Reserved Matters (Infrastructure) (Access, Appearance, Landscaping, layout and scale) for the installation of the Spine Road with associated footpaths, cycleways and bus turning head, linking into the approved access works.

Members were informed that The Town Council had considered this application earlier in the year and recommended no objection subject to the trees on the site being actively nurtured for ten years and failing trees replaced on an annual basis. Members also asked that a full independent tree and hedge survey be undertaken to the satisfaction of both the Town Council and Witham Tree Group.

Members felt that it would also be an opportune time to repeat the Town Council's concerns regarding the proposal to try and move the veteran elm tree in the middle of Hatfield Road.

**NO OBJECTION** As per the original recommendation, subject to grass verges being kept where possible, the trees on the site being actively nurtured for ten years and failing trees replaced on an annual basis. Also that a full independent tree and hedge survey be undertaken to the satisfaction of both the Town Council and Witham Tree Group.

**34. DECISIONS**

The decisions on Planning Applications pertaining to Witham were received.

**RESOLVED** That the decisions be received and noted.

**35. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP**

The Notes from the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Meeting held 25<sup>th</sup> May 2023 were received.

**RESOLVED** That the Notes be received and noted.

**36. PUBLIC NOTICE – EVANS WAY, FLEMING WAY AND DRIVERS WAY**

Details of the Public Notice to introduce no parking in sections of the above roads were received.

**RESOLVED** That the details be received and noted.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the Meeting at 7:20 p.m.

Councillor P. Barlow  
Chairman

SS/27.6.2023