Witham town council

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MINUTES

PLANNING AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Date: **Monday, 7th September 2026**

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

Present:	Councillors	P.	Barlow	(Chair)
		J.	Robertson	(Vice Chair)
		L.	Headley	
		R.	Ramage	
		H.	Andrews	(Deputy Town Clerk)
		S.	Puckey	(Open Spaces Admin Officer)

80. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Playle. Councillor Adelaja, J.M Coleman and Williams were absent.

RESOLVED That the apologies be received and approved.

81. MINUTES

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning and Transport Committee held on 24th August 2026 be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

82. INTERESTS

No interests were declared.

83. QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no members of the public present.

84. PLANNING OFFICER'S REPORT

It was explained that the excessive window graphics at the Newland Stores had now been removed and Members were advised that the station upgrade was due to start on 7th September.

RESOLVED That the information be received and noted.

85. PART 1 APPLICATIONS

26/01834/FUL **Aldi Foodstore Ltd, Reid Road, Witham**
Replacement of refrigeration plant equipment, installation of air source heat pumps and replacement enclosures and fencing

NO OBJECTION

26/01916/FUL **Unit 2 and 3 Griggs Way, Witham**
Installation of external seating to pavement area outside of unit

NO OBJECTION

86. PART 2 APPLICATIONS

26/01919/TPOCON **17 The Avenue, Witham**
Notice of intent to carry out works to trees in a Conservation Area – T1 – silver birch – fell to ground level and replace with ginkgo biloba on opposite verge.

Members discussed this at length and were reluctant to remove a healthy tree but understood that, otherwise, the dropped kerb could not be installed. They further noted that a replacement had been offered at an adjacent site and the Tree Warden had suggested that, if the application were to be allowed, the Tree Group, who already water 6 trees on the Avenue, could also maintain this one if the applicant were prepared to pay a small sum towards it.

NO OBJECTION Subject to the advice of the District Council's Landscape Officer and with the suggestion that the applicant approach Witham Tree Group to water the new tree, for a small contribution, who are experienced in maintaining new trees successfully.

26/01941/FUL **6 Crittall Road, Witham**
Retrospective installation of concrete base and the proposed erection of warehouse

NO OBJECTION to the installation of the concrete base and warehouse but Members questioned whether the site should have an Oil Interceptor to prevent any contamination, if it were to be used for oil changes.

26/01886/FUL **Telephone Exchange, 19 Collingwood Road, Witham**
Proposed 2no. dishes to be fixed to the existing headframe on the existing stub tower proposed 3no. antennas to be added on the existing support poles on the existing stub tower, 6no antennas to be removed from the existing stub tower, 12no. RRHs to be removed from the existing stub tower, 6no. combiners to be removed from the existing stub tower, proposed 15no. ancillary equipment to be installed 1no existing cabinet to be upgraded internally.

Members were satisfied that there would be limited visual impact but expressed concern about the noise implication for neighbours for the mechanical ventilation during extreme temperatures.

NO OBJECTION subject to reassurance that there would be no noise nuisance to neighbours from the mechanical ventilation in hot weather

26/01938/TPO **Collingwood Dental Surgery, Lockram Lane, Witham**

Application to carry out works to trees protected by Tree Preservation Order 18/76 -G4.
Members received advice from Witham's Tree Warden that 2 meters would be sufficient.

RECOMMEND REFUSAL to the proposed pruning of up to 3 metres which was considered to be excessive but there would be no objection to a maximum of 2 metres. Subject to the advice of the District Council's Landscape Officer.

87. REVISED PLANS

There were no revised plans.

88. DECISIONS

The decisions on Planning Applications pertaining to Witham were received.

RESOLVED That the decisions be received and noted.

89. TACKLING SPEEDING IN WITHAM/20s PLENTY

It was explained that Cadent Gas had still not responded to our latest enquiry so now a licence from Essex County Council would be sought in the hopes that, if granted, the site would not be affected by adjacent gas mains.

RESOLVED That the information be received and noted.

90. HATFIELD ROAD B1389/MALTINGS LANE JUNCTION, WITHAM CMA 1EE DANGEROUSLY NARROW FOOTPATH

A letter was received from a member of the public regarding the footpath and requesting that a refuge island be installed to allow safer crossing. The resident first raised this in 1998 and a newspaper article in the Essex Chronicle was shown to Members.

Members were sympathetic to the resident's concerns and considered both points. In particular, it was felt that a strong cut of the vegetation would help with the width of the footpath and that it was important to find out who was responsible. Members were advised that discussions were already

under way with Essex County Council and Braintree District Council to understand who was responsible for the area around Witham Lodge and beyond with a view to a permanent solution.

Members agreed that the position of the bus stop close to the Maltings Lane junction was unfortunate, but noted that there was now a speed indicator device on Hatfield Road that had helped to slow traffic, and that there was an island further down Hatfield Road which pedestrians could use. It was felt that an island at this narrow road point, close to a junction, would potentially be more dangerous, but agreed to write to Essex Highways to raise the resident's concerns.

RESOLVED That the resident's letter be received and a letter written to Essex Highways outlining the resident's concerns.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.00 p.m.

Councillor P. Barlow
Chair

SP/HA/8/9/2026