



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

AGENDA

Meeting of: **Planning & Transport Committee**

Date: **Monday, 18th September 2023** Time: **6.30 p.m.**

Place: **Town Hall, 61 Newland Street, Witham, Essex**

Members are hereby summoned to attend the above Meeting to transact the following business. Members are respectfully reminded that each item on the Agenda should be carefully examined. If you have any interest, it must be duly declared.

To be present:

P.	Barlow	(Chairman)	T.	Hewitt
J.C.	Coleman	(Vice Chairman)	J.	Martin
E.	Adelaja		R.	Ramage
J.M.	Coleman		A.	Sloma
L.	Headley		E.	Williams

Nikki Smith
Town Clerk

GK/13.9.2023

1. APOLOGIES

To receive and approve apologies for absence.

2. MINUTES

To receive the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning & Transport Committee held (previously circulated).

3. INTERESTS

To receive any declarations of interests that Members may wish to give notice of on matters pertaining to any item on this Agenda.

4. QUESTIONS AND REPRESENTATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Members of the press and public will be invited to address the Meeting.

Order Note: A maximum of 30 minutes is designated for public participation time with no individual speaker exceeding three minutes unless otherwise granted an extension by the Chairman under Standing Order 3(F) & 3(G)

5. PLANNING OFFICER'S REPORT

To receive a verbal report from the Planning Officer on any matters arising from previous Meeting.

6. PART 1 APPLICATIONS

To approve officer 'no objection' recommendations for applications listed under [Part 1](#) without debate. *Applications may be moved to Part 2 where Members are in disagreement with recommendations by giving 24 hours' notice to the Planning Officer.*

7. PART 2 APPLICATIONS

To consider applications in [Part 2](#).

8. REVISED PLANS

To reconsider application 23/01406/HH – 8 Bradshaw Gardens, Witham, and
The revised Design Guide for 23/01288/DAC – Phase 4 Rivenhall Park ([attached](#) at page 11).

9. DECISIONS

To receive and note decisions on planning applications pertaining to Witham which have been received from Braintree District Council ([attached](#) at page 13).

10. ELECTRICITY NETWORK PLANNING

To receive an email from the East Anglia Study Team ([attached](#) at page 15).

11. BUS CONSULTATION

To receive details of a bus consultation and to consider responding in regard to service 40 ([attached](#) at page 18).

**PART 1
APPLICATIONS WITH OFFICER ‘NO OBJECTION’
RECOMMENDATIONS TO BE CONSIDERED “EN BLOC” WITHOUT
DEBATE.**

Applications Received:

The following applications have been made to the District Council for planning permission under the Town & Country Planning Acts and referred to the Town Council as a statutory consultee. Copies of the applications and accompanying plans may be seen at the Planning Department Causeway House, Bocking End, Braintree or online at www.braintree.gov.uk

PLEASE NOTE: Under the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985, representations cannot be treated in confidence. Witham Town Council is not responsible for issuing planning decisions.

APPLICATION_NO	ADDRESS	WARD	PROPOSAL
23/02101/HH	22 Sauls Bridge Close, Witham, Essex	South	Single storey rear extension and amendment to external finishes
23/02195/HH	19 Stainer Close, Witham, Essex	South	Single storey rear extension

PART 2 APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERS' DEBATE

Applications Received:

The following applications have been made to the District Council for planning permission under the Town & Country Planning Acts and referred to the Town Council as a statutory consultee. Copies of the applications and accompanying plans may be seen at the Planning Department Causeway House, Bocking End, Braintree or online at www.braintree.gov.uk

PLEASE NOTE: Under the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985, representations cannot be treated in confidence. Witham Town Council is not responsible for issuing planning decisions.

23/02158/TPOCON	1 Scotfield Mews, Witham, Essex	Central	Notice of intent to carry out works to trees in a Conservation Area:6No Silver birch trees - Fell
23/02094/HH	32 Armond Road, Witham, Essex	West	Single storey rear extension
23/02109/FUL	66B Newland Street, Witham, Essex	Central	Change of use from Skin Clinic (Sui Generis) to (Class E)
23/02259/TPOCON	6 Old Magistrates Court, Witham, Essex	Central	Notice of intent to carry out works to trees in a Conservation Area
23/02092/TPO	31 Constantine Road, Witham, Essex	Hatfield	Notice of intent to carry out works to trees protected by Tree Preservation Order TPO: 11/75
23/02296/TPOCON	22 The Avenue, Witham, Essex	Central	Notice of intent to carry out works to trees in a Conservation Area

Witham Town Council – Planning Application Report

Application No:- 23/02158/TPOCON

Address:- 1 Scotfield Mews, Witham, Essex

Ward:- Central

Proposal:- Notice of intent to carry out works to trees in a Conservation Area:6No Silver birch trees - Fell

Relevant Site History:-

Representations:-

Summary:- The applicant wishes to fell six silver birch trees on their property. The applicant is concerned that the tree roots will cause damage to their property. They have also stated that the trees are taller than the property and there has been damage to the roof by a dislodged tile. The applicant states that if all six trees were allowed to be felled they would replace them with two more suitable trees

Recommendation:- These trees, in a conservation area, have been allowed to grow out of control and should have been managed. The Tree Warden has made a site visit and agreed that these trees should not be felled on the grounds of being in a Conservation Area, loss of carbon capture, street scene and loss of shade. Recommend refusal on those grounds subject to the advice of the District Council's Landscape Officer.

Policy References:-

Witham Town Council – Planning Application Report

Application No:- 23/02094/HH

Address:- 32 Armond Road, Witham, Essex

Ward:- West

Proposal:- Single storey rear extension

Relevant Site History:-

Representations:-

Summary:- This is a semi detached bungalow. The proposal is to demolish an existing conservatory and erect a single storey extension and reconfigure the layout.

Recommendation:- This bungalow only has a comparatively small rear garden but the new extension would only encroach less than 1.5m than the conservatory. The Essex Design for a two bedroom property suggests a garden size of 50m² which would be about the size of the garden so suggest no objection.

Policy References:-

Witham Town Council – Planning Application Report

Application No:- 23/02109/FUL

Address:- 66B Newland Street, Witham, Essex

Ward:- Central

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

Relevant Site History:-

Representations:-

Summary:- This property was part of the Hunnabals Undertakers premises. The current consented use is as a skin clinic (sui generis) and the proposal is to change back to Class E a, c, e and g(i).

Recommendation:- Sui Generis means a class of its own when the premises falls outside the defined limits of any other class. Class E(a) would be the retail of goods other than hot food, E(c) would be financial services/commercial services, E(e) would be provision of medical or health services and E(g)(i) to offices carrying out operational or administrative functions. This is a change of use only and would suggest no objections.

Policy References:-

Witham Town Council – Planning Application Report

Application No:- 23/02259/TPOCON

Address:- 6 Old Magistrates Court, Witham, Essex

Ward:- Central

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

Relevant Site History:-

Representations:-

Summary:- The proposal is to reduce the Silver Birch by 1-1.5m and crown lift canopy by 2.5m

Recommendation:- Members will remember that at the last meeting we received the provisional TPO for the trees at the Old Magistrates Court. The work seems reasonable but the Tree Warden was asked to advise and he agrees to offer no objection subject to the advice of the District Council's Landscape Officer.

Policy References:-

Witham Town Council – Planning Application Report

Application No:- 23/02092/TPO

Address:- 31 Constantine Road, Witham, Essex

Ward:- Hatfield

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

Relevant Site History:-

Representations:-

Summary:- Sycamore Tree - Reduce the width to 4m both sides, therefore reducing the width by 2.7m & 3.7m. Then lift the tree from 3.8m to 5m, therefore lifting by 1.2m. Limbs crossing and bearing on each other to be thinned, trim limbs to balance tree spread, and any deadwood removed to prevent further branches falling. Tree needs to be tidied, shaped and thinned

Recommendation:- The work seems reasonable but the advice of the Tree Warden has been sought.

Policy References:-

Witham Town Council – Planning Application Report

Application No:- 23/02296/TPOCON

Address:- 22 The Avenue, Witham, Essex

Ward:- Central

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

Relevant Site History:-

Representations:-

Summary:- The proposals are as follows - T1, silver birch, reduce by six feet and shape; T2 - beech, reduce by three feet and shape; T3 - silver birch, reduce by three feet and shape; T4 - cherry, reduce by four feet to previous pruning points; T5 - sycamore, reduce by six feet and by four feet on side to 'face up'; T6 and T7 - apples, crown thin for fruiting; T8 - apple, reduce by four feet and shape; H1 - hazel hedge, reduce by two feet and shape; H2 - viburnum hedge, reduce by three feet and shape; H3 - leylandi hedge, reduce side and top by one foot to shape.

Recommendation:- This application has been made by one of the Town Council's tree wardens. It is major maintenance work to keep the trees healthy and in shape as well as not letting them get out of control. Recommend no objection subject to the advice of the District Council's Landscape Officer

Policy References:-

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Witham Town Council – Planning Application Report

Application No:- 23/01406/HH

Address:- 8 Bradshaw Gardens

Ward:- Hatfield

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

Relevant Site History:-

Representations:- Three neighbours have made representations based mainly on the loss of parking.

Summary:- This application was considered on 10th July and no objections were made subject to the annex being designated as ancillary to the main dwelling in accordance with policy LPP36h. The initial plan designated the existing garage as a garage room and storage. A section was to be partitioned off to create a bathroom. The applicant now wishes to erect a shed adjacent to the garage to create a store and the designation has changed from garage room and storage to no specific use.

Recommendation:- Members need to consider the revised plan. Materially little has changed except to erect a shed for additional storage. Members should therefore be consistent in their decision otherwise a rescission would be required.

Policy References:-

Witham Town Council – Planning Application Report

Application No:- 23/01288/DAC

Address:- Phase 4 Land East of Rectory Lane, Rivenhall

Ward:-

Proposal:- Revised Design Code

Relevant Site History:-

Representations:-

Summary:- We have been asked to comment on the revised Design Code. Looking at the 94 page document it would seem that some of the road/parking widths have been changed slightly.

Recommendation:- Would recommend that we receive and note the revised Design Code and inform Braintree District Council that we have no further comments to be made.

Policy References:-

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Application & Address	Proposal	BDC Decision	WTC Decision	Agenda Item 9
23/01794/TPO - 2 Tudor Close Witham Essex CM8 1AU	Notice of intent to carry out works to trees protected by Tree Preservation Order 8/2000 :- Cut back Ash trees to boundary that are overhanging.	Part Granted Part Refused	RECOMMEND REFUSAL on the grounds that the proposed work would cause the trees to become unbalanced and that the applicant should liaise with the owner of the trees so that crown reduction can be undertaken; and subject to the advice of the District Council's Landscape Officer.	
23/01720/LBC - 19 Home Bridge Court Hatfield Road Witham Essex CM8 1GJ	Proposed replacement of 7no. windows and an entrance door.	Application Withdrawn	No objection subject to the advice of the Listed Buildings Officer	
23/01323/HH - 20 Sauls Avenue Witham Essex CM8 1JP	Single storey front and side extension	Application Refused	No objection	
23/01293/FUL - Mill Lane Stores Mill Lane Witham Essex CM8 1BP	Demolition of single storey retail unit and proposed 1 No. 2 bedroom dwelling.	Application Withdrawn	No objection subject to the advice of the Listed Buildings Officer	
23/00782/FUL - Sports Pavillion Maldon Road Witham Essex CM8 1HN	Construction of a cricket practice facility.	Application Permitted	No objection subject to noise mitigation and selective opening times to avoid disturbance	

23/01547/FUL - Esso Doe Motors Ltd Colchester Rd Witham CM8 3BL	Single storey side extension	Application Permitted	No objection
23/00251/FUL - Land South Of Haygreen Road Witham Essex	Proposed new community building, with associated landscaping and car parking	Application Withdrawn	No objection

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Agenda Item 10

Dear Councillor,

The ESO is [writing](#) to provide communities with an update on our study into electricity network infrastructure in East Anglia.

This study will begin shortly, after a government decision on funding the continued development of offshore coordination between certain offshore wind farms and interconnectors is made. This is because any new offshore coordination may change the underlying needs case for planned onshore electricity network infrastructure in the region.

We will independently assess the different ways the electricity being generated can be transported, once it has landed, to where it is needed. Central to this is ensuring there are opportunities for local representatives to input their views. We are planning on hosting series of discussions across the region to (1) allow the ESO to provide more information on our assessment; and (2) allow for attendees to provide the views and thoughts of those they represent.

We very much look forward to hearing these views and ensuring that our assessment provides clear and independently prepared options of how this much needed renewable energy can connect to, and be transported along, the electricity system in the most cost-effective and holistic way.

Who is the Electricity System Operator and what do they do?

As the Electricity System Operator for Great Britain, it's our job to move high-voltage electricity around the electricity grid. Our control room does this second by second to ensure that the right amount of electricity is where it's needed, when it's needed, across Great Britain 24/7, 365 days a year.

We are a legally separate organisation within the National Grid group. In 2024, we will transition into the [Independent System Operator and Planner](#) – a new organisation which will be owned by Government and wholly independent. The ESO will be at the heart of this new organisation and will take on a strategic network planning role across electricity and gas.

Our role in electricity network planning

We don't generate or sell electricity – that's down to other companies. We also do not own or develop the infrastructure the electricity travels through. One of our key responsibilities is to produce high level network options assessments and put forward reinforcement recommendations for other companies to take forward and build. We currently do this GB wide for onshore and offshore electricity transmission infrastructure.

We work closely with a wide variety of stakeholders and bodies to examine a whole range of different technical and engineering solutions to ensure electricity can get where it is needed when it is needed. This is all with the aim of ensuring our energy system can fully decarbonise by 2035 in a way that is reliable, affordable, and fair to all.

Currently, it is up to GB's Transmission Owners (TOs), offshore wind and interconnector developers to work through the exact specifications of required network infrastructure, consult with local communities and make decisions on what to build.

The study into electricity network infrastructure in East Anglia that the ESO will shortly be conducting will be taken into consideration by National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET, the Transmission Owner) when deciding how best to deliver the required reinforcement and increased transmission capacity in the region.

Offshore Transmission Network Review and voluntary offshore coordination

The Offshore Transmission Network Review was launched by the Government in July 2020. The review is designed to ensure transmission connections for offshore wind generation are designed and delivered in the most appropriate way. The review considers the United Kingdom's targets for offshore wind necessary to achieve net zero whilst balancing environmental, social and economic costs.

The UK Government announced in July 2022¹ that five projects in East Anglia: Sea Link (National Grid Electricity Transmission), EuroLink and Nautilus interconnectors (National Grid Ventures) and the North Falls and Five Estuaries offshore windfarms, had confirmed their commitment to exploring coordinated network designs.

To support this review, the government may issue grant payments for certain projects² to develop voluntary offshore coordination options alongside their current network connections, through the Offshore Coordination Support Scheme (OCSS)³. The decision on whether to provide grant payments to relevant developers is currently with the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero⁴.

It is important to note that a decision from government to grant OCSS funding will not result in immediate or automatic changes to existing, signed connection agreements between ESO and offshore wind projects. If an option is progressed, in scope developers will take approximately 18 months to two years to explore this coordination further, alongside their existing connection agreements.

Why is the ESO conducting this study in East Anglia?

Any new options (coordination of connections) being considered by developers within the OCSS scheme may change some of the underlying power flows and therefore the need for transmission reinforcements in East Anglia. Our study will examine whether the needs case has changed, after the outcome of the Government's OCSS is known.

Scope and method of the assessment

For the avoidance of doubt, the study will not re-assess the OCSS outcome. Our study will assess ways electricity can be transported from where it lands (from the relevant in scope windfarms and interconnectors) to where it is needed. Please see our terms of reference for further information on this.

The ESO will confirm the scope of the study once the outcome of the OCSS is known. If any new coordination of connections arises from the OCSS, then we will assess options for the reinforcement of the transmission network, including a Norwich to Tilbury circuit (formerly known as East Anglia Green) and potential alternate options (including options routed offshore).

We will assess different options, onshore and offshore, utilising the same criteria as the Holistic Network Design⁵. These metrics are:

- cost to the consumer,
- deliverability and operability,
- impact on the environment and
- impact on local communities.

Similar to previous studies we have conducted such as the Holistic Network Design, we will be working closely with two independent specialist consultancies on this assessment.

Engagement plan

We will be running a series of discussions with elected representatives and amenity groups across East Anglia once our study has begun - we very much look forward to hearing insights from these representatives.

These meetings will be an opportunity to understand our scope of work, assessment criteria and to hear attendees' thoughts and views on the different options we are assessing.

This assessment is not part of a statutory consultation. It is also separate to National Grid Electricity Transmission's (NGET's) ongoing consultation on Norwich to Tilbury (formally known as East Anglia Green).

How does the outcome of this study align with National Grid Electricity Transmission's ongoing consultation for their proposed Norwich to Tilbury Project?

The ESO will produce a final report that will be made publicly available for interested parties. This report will then be considered by National Grid Electricity Transmission as part of their ongoing development of the Norwich to Tilbury project ahead of the statutory consultation scheduled for 2024.

We would like to finish by thanking all of those who have taken an interest in this critical work. If you would like more information on this assessment, please visit the [Electricity System Operator website](#).

Kind regards,

East Anglia Study Team
ESO

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Agenda Item 11

Braintree District

There are 4 at risk services in this district. These are all being continued for 2 years, during which time the contracts will be reviewed, and consideration may be given to re-design them. For example, reducing frequency of days or times of operation, changing of routes, merging of services, replacing with an alternative service, implementing a devolution pilot, or withdrawing them.

To view full timetable and map of each service, please click on the service number in the table below:

Service number	Origin	Destination	Days of operation	District	Current Operator	Proposed changes
40	Witham, Ebenezer Way	Witham, Town service	Monday, Wednesday, Saturday	Braintree	First Essex Buses Ltd	Combine with Service 90
345	Fuller Street	Braintree	Wednesday only	Braintree	First Essex Buses Ltd	Withdraw service Extend DigiGo to cover area *
SB21	Fuller Street	Braintree	Monday only	Braintree	Arrow Taxi's	Withdraw service Extend DigiGo to cover area *
SB28	Stisted	Braintree Freeport	Wednesday only	Braintree	Braintree Community Transport	No Change

*Please click the following link to find out more about the current DigiGo service: [DigiGo - Transport on demand | Essex County Council \(essexhighways.org\)](#)

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Gershwin Boulevard - Ebenezer Close First Essex

Monday To Fridays

Valid from: 7th January 2023

Notes	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW
Witham, Owers Road, Adj	-	1050	1150	1250	1350	-	1708
Witham, Howbridge Estate, Adj	-	1054	1154	1254	1354	-	1712
Witham Town Centre, Newland Street, Ne-bound	1001	1057	1157	1257	1357	1619	1715
Witham Town Centre, Collingwood Road, Nw-bound	1002	1102	1202	1302	1402	1620	1720
Witham, Railway Station, Opp	1004	1104	1204	1304	1404	1622	1722
Witham, Morrisons Store, Adj	1006	1106	1206	1306	1406	1624	1724
Witham, Ebenezer Close, Opp	1010	1110	1210	1310	1410	1628	1728

MW - Only runs on Mondays and Wednesdays

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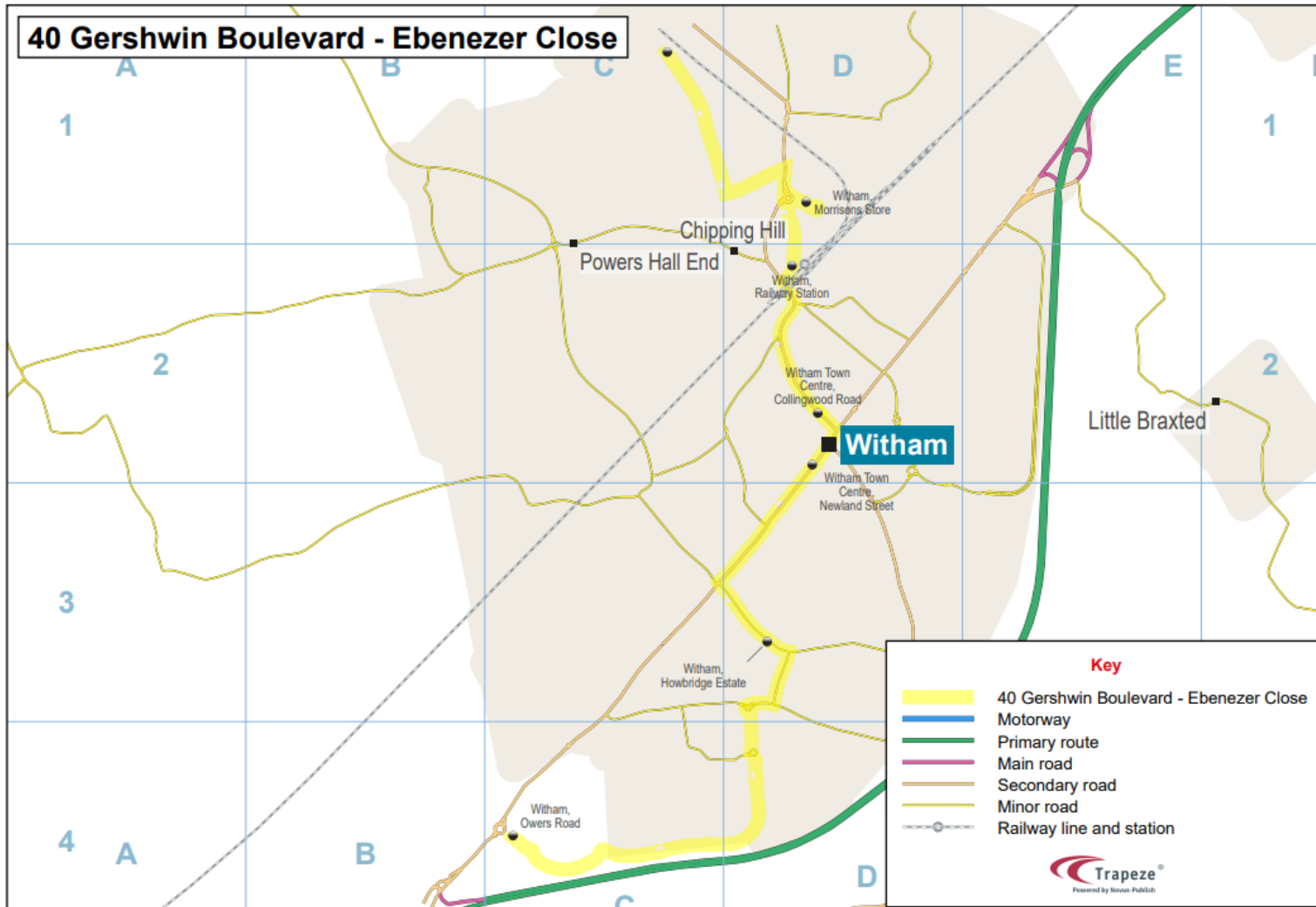
Gershwin Boulevard - Ebenezer Close First Essex

Saturdays

Valid from: 7th January 2023

Witham Town Centre, Newland Street, Ne-bound	0901	-	-
Witham Town Centre, Collingwood Road, Nw-bound	0902	1002	1602
Witham, Railway Station, Opp	0904	1004	1604
Witham, Morrisons Store, Adj	0906	1006	1606
Witham, Ebenezer Close, Opp	0910	1010	1610

Then every hour until



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