



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

### PLANNING AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Date: **Monday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

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

Present: Councillors

P.	Barlow	(Chairman)
J.C.	Coleman	(Vice Chairman)
J.M	Coleman	
E.	Adelaja	
L.	Headley	
T.	Hewitt	
J.	Martin	
R.	Ramage	
A.	Sloma	
E.	Williams	(Arrived 6.33pm)
G.	Kennedy	(Planning Officer)
S.	Smith	(PA to the Council)

And one member of the public.

#### 232. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

No apologies for absence were received.

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

#### 233. **MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning and Transport Committee held 5<sup>th</sup> March 2024 be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

#### 234. **INTERESTS**

Councillor J.C. Coleman declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute 241 – Essex County Council Consultation: On-Street Electrical Vehicle Charging Points, as an EV owner and at Minute 236 – Planning Officer’s Report, he declared a non-pecuniary interest as he knows the developer of the new houses behind what was known as the Spread Eagle Public House.

**235. QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

The member of the public present commented that he was interested in Minute 242 – Tackling Speeding in Witham.

**236. PLANNING OFFICER'S REPORT**

The Planning Officer explained that application 23/02329/FUL for the proposed community centre off Haygreen Road would be considered by the District Council's Planning Committee on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2024. Also, the Committee would be considering 23/00707/FUL – Land north of Conrad Road, erection of six dwellings, which this Committee had considered on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2023 and recommended refusal.

A notification had been received regarding a temporary road closure from Blunts Hall Road to Dancing Dicks Lane for the Witham May Day 5 mile run on Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> May 2024 between 10.15 a.m. to 10.45 a.m. Members agreed not to make any representations.

The deadline for responses to the Minerals Local Plan Review consultation had been extended to Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> April 2024 so Members were encouraged to make personal representations if they had not already done so.

An email had been received from the Integrated Passenger Transport Unit regarding a Passenger Transport Representative. Councillor J.C. Coleman offered to be the representative and asked that an early meeting be arranged.

**RESOLVED** That Councillor J.C. Coleman be the Town Council representative for the Integrated Passenger Transport.

The Planning Officer explained that the developer of the new houses behind the Spread Eagle had suggested the street name of Alexandra Mews but she considered that Spread Eagle Mews would be more appropriate especially since the name and history were being lost.

Councillor J.C. Coleman declared a non-pecuniary interest as he knows the developer and took no part in the discussion or the voting.

Members agreed that the history of the Spread Eagle public house was being lost and as such to name the new development Spread Eagle Mews would keep the name alive.

**RESOLVED** That representations be made against the suggested name and Spread Eagle Mews mooted as the Town Council's preferred name in view of the potential to lose the historic context of the site.

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

**237. PART 1 APPLICATIONS**

**24/00434/HH**

**26 Highfields Road, Witham**

Single storey side and rear extension

**NO OBJECTION**

238. **PART 2 APPLICATIONS**

**24/00404/HH**

**43 Collingwood Road, Witham**

Replacement windows

**NO OBJECTION**

**24/00504/HH**

**54A Church Street, Witham**

Single storey rear extension, raising of existing flat roof by 250mm, re-construction of existing brick wall facing Public Footpath, additional roof light and new boiler flue

**NO OBJECTION**

**24/00505/LBC**

**54A Church Street, Witham**

Single storey rear extension, raising of existing flat roof by 250mm, re-construction of existing brick wall facing Public Footpath, additional roof light and new boiler flue

**NO OBJECTION** Subject to the Listed Buildings Officer being satisfied with the design and materials.

239. **REVISED PLANS**

**23/03067/FUL**

**Sports Ground, Spinks Lane, Witham, Essex**

Creation of a 3G Artificial Grass Pitch (AGP) with perimeter fencing, acoustic fencing, hardstanding areas, storage container, floodlights and an access footpath

The Planning Officer explained that the District Council's Public Health and Housing Team officer considered that there should be controls on the intensity of use particularly at the weekend and bank holidays, that there should be no amplified public announcement or music system used on the site, that the site should not be used by the general public or outside any agreed hours and there should be control of the glare from the lighting. Within the Design and Access statement it stated that to manage noise generated by use of the facility, the club would introduce a Noise Management Plan with procedures to minimise any potential noise impact from users of the facility and this will be considered as a live document which may be revised during the operation stages to create an acceptable balance between the requirements for a successful sports facility and the protection of local residents' amenity. As a consequence of these objections a new planning application will be considered at the next meeting to consider further acoustic fencing at the southern end of the new pitch.

This Committee had recommended no objection in principle but had asked that steps be taken to secure additional parking on match days, that existing fencing be repaired and strengthened, and that any potential adverse effects from the existing floodlights be mitigated.

Members agreed to keep to the original decision.

**NO OBJECTION** in principle but Members asked that steps be taken to secure additional parking on match days, that

existing fencing be repaired and strengthened, and that any potential adverse effects from the existing floodlights be mitigated.

**240. DECISIONS**

The decisions on Planning Applications pertaining to Witham were received.

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

**241. ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL CONSULTATION: ON-STREET ELECTRICAL VEHICLE CHARGING POINTS**

A report was received.

Councillor J.C. Coleman had declared a pecuniary interest.

It was acknowledged that the Planning Officer and Councillor J.C. Coleman had been carrying out a lot of investigation into this matter and a map had been created showing charging points both in public car parks and at supermarkets, as well as opportunities for on-street charging points using lamp columns or hubs.

A variety of potential locations for electric vehicle charging were discussed at length, as well as solutions to mitigate potential issues that may arise. Members commented that Witham would need to be open to infrastructure changes and redevelopment, due to its post war design aspects that do not accommodate electric vehicle charging.

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

**RESOLVED** That all the information gathered form part of the Town Council's response to the Essex County Council's consultation.

**242. TACKLING SPEEDING IN WITHAM**

A report was received from the Chairman regarding the 20's Plenty Campaign.

Members commented that 20 mph zones should be encouraged in areas that pedestrians frequent, such as housing estates and schools, particularly as slower speeds reduced pollution. They discussed how it was important to recognise locations in which this has failed and to also understand human nature. A mixed approach would be necessary.

Members agreed that it was important to see what areas in the district already have a 20 mph limit.

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

**RESOLVED** That further investigation be carried out.

**243. NOTICE OF APPEAL – 23/00995/FUL – LAND REAR OF 95 NEWLAND STREET, WITHAM**

Details of an appeal against the District Council's decision to refuse the above application were received and Members were asked to consider writing in support of the applicant as the Town Council had recommended no objection as Witham is in need of flats in the town centre.

**RESOLVED** That a letter in support of the applicant be sent to the Planning Inspectorate.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the Meeting at 7.29p.m.

Councillor P. Barlow  
Chairman

GK/SS/20.3.2024