



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

### PLANNING AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Date: **Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> February 2023**

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

Present: Councillors

J.	Goodman	(Chairman)
A.	Kilmartin	(Vice Chairman)
K.	Atwill	
P.	Barlow	
S.	Hicks	
C.	Lager	
M.	Lager	
G.	Kennedy	(Planning Officer)

And two members of the public.

#### **236. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Heath, Jay and Pleasance.

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

#### **237. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning and Transport Committee held 6<sup>th</sup> February 2023 be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

#### **238. INTERESTS**

Councillors Barlow, Hicks, Kilmartin, C. Lager and M. Lager all declared non-pecuniary interests in Minute 240 – Parking at Schools – 3PR Scheme, as they knew the members of public present who would be speaking on that item.

Councillors C. Lager and M. Lager declared non-pecuniary interests in Minute 248 – Local Highways Panel, as they live by Chipping Hill Bridge.

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

Mr Bob Wright spoke as a governor of the Holy Family School. He drew Members' attention to the emails contained in the Agenda about the attempts to solve problem parking at the school over the years. Unfortunately a dedicated drop-off area had not been built and now there was nowhere for parents to park. He explained that this was a particular problem for faith schools where pupils could come from a distance. He said that the head teacher continuously tried to stop parents parking inconsiderately or dangerously. He added that the school tried to engage with local residents.

Mrs Anne Wright, Chair of Governors, welcomed the opportunity to work with the Town Council to solve these parking problems.

The Chairman thanked Mr and Mrs Wright for attending the Meeting.

**240. PARKING AT SCHOOLS – 3PR SCHEME**

Councillors Barlow, Hicks, Kilmartin, C. Lager and M. Lager had all declared non-pecuniary interests.

A report was received.

Members then discussed the problem and recognised the frustration of the head teacher and governors. It was agreed that whilst children should be walked to school there were many reasons why this would be impossible. It was agreed that the 3PR scheme would not be a solution but an enforcement camera might particularly if it were possible for the Town Council to fund a camera. Another solution to prevent all but residents and essential vehicles using Maltings Lane at school drop off and pick up times should also be considered.

**RESOLVED** That an urgent meeting be arranged with Essex County Councillor Louis and North Essex Parking Partnership; and Holy Family School should they wish to attend.

**RESOLVED** That further enquiries be made of North Essex Parking Partnership regarding the camera scheme.

**RESOLVED** That details of a similar scheme whereby roads by a school were closed be obtained.

**241. A12 WIDENING**

(a) Members noted that the written Representation Report had been submitted and the Statement of Common Ground signed.

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

(b) The Applicant's Response was received.

The suggestion was made that as the parcel of replacement land distant from Whetmead Nature Reserve was inadequate, photographs should be taken to show the Examiner. Comment was also made on the opportunity to improve Whetmead's habitat and the loss of five mature trees.

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

**242. PLANNING OFFICER'S REPORT**

The Planning Officer had nothing to report.

**243. PART 1 APPLICATIONS**

**23/00195/FUL**

**11A Cypress Road, Witham**

Erection of external bin enclosure

**NO OBJECTION**

**244. PART 2 APPLICATIONS**

**22/03100/TPO**

**11 Hollybank, Witham**

Notice of intent to carry out works to tree protected by Tree Preservation Order – 6/76

The Tree Warden had made a site visit and recommended no objection.

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

**245. REVISED PLANS**

**22/01996/FUL**

**F Byford & Son, 90 - 92 Newland Street, Witham**

Alteration and conversion of retail shop (Class E(a)) with ancillary offices and store to 2 x E(a) retail units to the ground floor and 1 x 1 bedroom and 4 x 2 bedroom residential flats above. Demolition of existing outbuilding and erection of ancillary refuse and cycle store

Members welcomed the decision not to build a bungalow at the back of the site but considered that the lack of parking had not been addressed. It was therefore agreed that the original decision to recommend refusal should stand.

**RECOMMEND REFUSAL** on the grounds that development would adversely affect local residents and the adjacent church, due to the impact on residential amenity. Should the application be permitted then the developer should erect a physical barrier to prevent unauthorised parking and that the condition of the private road be reinstated after building work has been completed. Conditions should also apply regarding construction and that builders' vehicles should not obstruct access to existing residents.

**246. DECISIONS**

The decisions on Planning Applications pertaining to Witham were received.

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

**247. ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE IN EAST ANGLIA**

A letter was received from the Minister of State for Energy and Climate.

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

**248. LOCAL HIGHWAYS PANEL**

Councillors C. Lager and M. Lager had declared interests.

An extract was received from the Local Highways Panel meeting held 12<sup>th</sup> January and the Parking and Highways Report.

The Planning Officer explained that she had asked County Councillor Louis as to why some of the Witham schemes had been removed from the LHP programme and he had explained that they would form part of the HGV routing review.

The proposal to restrict HGVs on Chipping Hill bridge was raised and considered that this should be on amenity grounds and not be part of the HGV routing.<sup>1</sup>

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

**RESOLVED** That the LHP be asked for the HGV restriction on Chipping Hill Bridge to be considered on amenity grounds.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the Meeting at 7.28 p.m.

Councillor J. Goodman  
Chairman

GK/22.2.2023

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<sup>1</sup> This matter was discussed at Minute 137 of the Meeting held 24.10.2022