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MINUTES

PLANNING AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Date: **Tuesday, 19th August 2025**

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

Present: Councillors

J.	Robertson	(Chairman)
P.	Barlow	
J.M.	Coleman	
L.	Headley	
R.	Playle	
R.	Ramage	
G	Kennedy	(Planning Officer)
J	Brown	(PA to the Council)

85. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J.C. Coleman, Sloma and Williams.

RESOLVED That the apologies be received and approved.

86. MINUTES

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning and Transport Committee held on 4th August 2025 be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

87. INTERESTS

Councillor Playle declared a non-pecuniary interest in application 25/01697/TPOCON - St Nicolas Church, as a member of the congregation and gave a reminder that he was a Member of Essex County Council. Later in the Meeting at application 25/01782/TPO – 30 Powers Hall End, Witham, Councillor R Ramage declared a non-pecuniary interest as he knew the resident.

88. QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no members of the press or public present.

89. PLANNING OFFICER'S REPORT

The Planning Officer advised that there was another bus survey which would be taken to the next Meeting, and that a Flood Resilience Survey had just been received and as a response was required by 29th August 2025 the Open Spaces Officer would complete. Members asked that they see sight of the survey.

RESOLVED That the report be received and noted.

90. PART 1 APPLICATIONS

There were no Part 1 Applications.

91. PART 2 APPLICATIONS

25/01697/TPOCON

St Nicolas Church Witham Essex CM8 2SJ

Notice of intent to carry out works to trees in Conservation area: T1
- Prunus Cerasifera Nigra (Cherry Plum) – Pollard Tree

Councillor R Playle had declared a non-pecuniary interest.

It was confirmed that a replacement tree would be planted should it be necessary to fell.

NO OBJECTION subject to advice of the District Councillor's Landscape Officer although it was accepted that the tree may need to be felled.

25/01549/HH

35 The Paddocks Witham Essex CM8 2DR

Proposed two storey extension to side rear of 35 The Paddocks to form a dining room and master bedroom area at first floor, with pitched roof to the side/rear

NO OBJECTION subject to sufficient garden space remaining in line with Essex Design Guidelines and subject to the Listed Buildings Officer's advice.

25/01432/FUL

144 Honeysuckle Way Witham Essex CM8 2YD

Proposed siting of an InPost parcel locker

Members were unsure whether this parcel locker would cause nuisance to neighbouring residential premises but on balance agreed to offer no objection.

NO OBJECTION

25/01725/HH

32 Avenue Road Witham Essex CM8 2DP

Proposed single storey side/rear extension. Proposed hip to gable roof extension, insertion of rear dormer & 3 front rooflights to enable loft conversion. Alterations to fenestrations

Members considered that the large dormer windows which would have an impact and overlook Station Mews.

RECOMMEND REFUSAL due to the size of the dormer Windows contrary to LPP36d and LPP36e.

25/01782/TPO

30 Powershall End Witham Essex

Notice of intent to carry out works to tree protected by Tree Preservation Order 7a/80

Councillor Ramage declared a non-pecuniary interest as he knew the resident.

Members were unsure exactly as to what work was proposed and the Tree Warden had been unavailable to advise.¹

RECOMMEND REFUSAL on the grounds of lack of information and subject to the District Council's Landscape Officer's advice.

92. REVISED PLANS

There were no revised plans to consider.

93. DELEGATED DECISIONS

25/01612/TPOCON

9 Old Magistrates Court, Witham

Notice of intent to carry out works to trees in a Conservation Area. Remove sycamore tree to ground level.

The Planning Officer advised that a tree application had been discovered on the Planning Portal that required urgent consideration. In consultation with the Chairman and the Tree Warden the following decision was made -

RECOMMEND REFUSAL on the grounds that the tree, which provides screening and combats global warming, could be managed with regular pollarding but if the District Council's Landscape Officer allowed the felling a suitable replacement tree should be planted and be subject to a Tree Preservation Order.

¹ The Tree Warden has now advised that although the beech is not in good condition, it makes a significant amenity contribution to the surrounding area and would be a severe loss. He has therefore suggested pollarding in the first instance; if the tree was allowed to be felled a replacement tree should be planted.

RESOLVED That the decisions be received and noted.

94. DECISIONS

The decisions on Planning Applications pertaining to Witham were received.

RESOLVED That the decisions be received and noted.

95. TACKLING SPEEDING IN WITHAM/20s PLENTY

The Planning Officer advised that a licence had been applied for in regards to the speed indicator device.

A report was received and Members had been asked to check which schools in their wards would benefit from a 20mph zone.

Members discussed whether to continue with this project as most schools either had a scheme or parking was such a problem, vehicles were unable to travel at speed. Councillor Ramage considered that Powers Hall School could benefit and agreed to check the area and locate where signs could be erected.

RESOLVED That Councillor Ramage would undertake to check the area around Powers Hall School and identify where 20mph signs should be located.

96. GREAT GRID UPDATE

A Great Grid Update was received.

RESOLVED That the update be received and noted.

97. LOCAL TRANSPORT SURVEY

The Planning Officer provided an insight to this survey along with her findings. She advised that the survey was based mainly on Braintree with no mention of Witham's poor transport to healthcare facilities. It had also failed to take into account the A12 widening scheme had been dropped.

Members spoke of their disappointment with the document and the survey which gave little opportunity to comment. It was agreed that the Planning Officer's findings be circulated to Members and the matter further discussed at the next Meeting.

RESOLVED That the report be circulated to Members and the matter discussed at the next Meeting.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.22 p.m.

Councillor J. Robertson
Chairman

GK/JB 20.08.2025