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MINUTES

PLANNING AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Date: **Monday, 7th July 2025**

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

Present: Councillors

J.	Robertson	(Chairman)
J.C.	Coleman	(Vice Chairman)(arrived at 6.49p.m.)
P.	Barlow	
L.	Headley	
R.	Ramage	
E.	Williams	
G.	Kennedy	(Planning Officer)

44. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Adelaja, J.M. Coleman, Playle and Sloma.

RESOLVED That the apologies be received and approved.

45. MINUTES

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning and Transport Committee held on 23rd June 2025 be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

46. INTERESTS

Councillor Barlow declared a pecuniary interest in application 25/01413/HH – 6 Orchards, Witham, as a near neighbour who could be affected by the proposal. He also commented that he was a near neighbour to the Battersford Court which would be discussed at application 25/01301/LBC.

Councillor J.C. Coleman arrived at the Meeting.

47. QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no members of the press or public present.

48. PLANNING OFFICER'S REPORT

The Planning Officer explained that she had sent a detailed letter to the Head of Planning at Braintree District Council regarding the issues with shop fronts in the town centre who had responded to say that the information had been passed to her team. A response will be provided in due course and if necessary a conducted visit with Members would be arranged.

She said that Essex County Council Highways had responded to our request for the vegetation to be cut back in Hatfield Road by Graham Brown Walk explaining that following inspection had determined that it does not need immediate action. Members were very disappointed with this response.

The Planning Officer said that she had received notification from Braintree District Council that the application for variation of hours of delivery for the premises opposite The Old Pottery Kiln would be considered by its Planning Committee on 15th July 2025. She considered that as the Town Council had raised no objections it would be unnecessary to send a representative to the Meeting.

She had also received notification that on the 15th July 2025 the Planning Committee would be considering objections to a Tree Preservation Order for 78 Maldon Road, Witham. At Minute 259 of the Meeting held 3rd March 2025 it was agreed to send a letter of support strongly agreeing that the TPO should be granted. It was hoped that Councillors P. Barlow and B. Fleet, as the Tree Warden involved in this case, would be able to attend.

The Planning Officer said that she had also just received details of the closure of Little Braxted Bridge for essential repairs from Monday, 21st July to the end of August 2025. She would be forwarding details to Members.

RESOLVED That the report be received and noted.

49. PART 1 APPLICATIONS

25/01388/HH

92 Powers Hall End, Witham

Proposed driveway with permeable surface, including vehicle crossover, retaining wall, EV charging point and dropped kerb

NO OBJECTION

50. PART 2 APPLICATIONS

25/01374/HH

29 Ebenezer Close, Witham

Proposed single storey rear/side and front extension, external render, insertion of 4 no. rooflights and alterations to fenestration

Members whilst offering no objection to the proposed extension, considered that the render would adversely affect the street scene as all the houses were brick.

NO OBJECTION subject to the proposed render on the front wall and porch being brickwork in line with LPP38b – materials should be compatible with the original dwelling and LPP36e – no unacceptable impact on the identity of the street scene.

25/01413/HH

6 Orchards, Witham

Proposed extension to existing first floor balcony

Councillor P. Barlow had declared a pecuniary interest and left the Council Chamber.

Members remembered the previous application and considered that this revised proposal would be acceptable.

NO OBJECTION

Councillor P. Barlow returned to the Council Chamber.

25/01301/LBC

The Battesford Court, 100 Newland Street, Witham

Installation of upgraded wi-fi infrastructure

NO OBJECTION subject to the advice of the Listed Buildings Officer.

Councillor Headley left the Council Chamber.

51. REVISED PLANS

There were no revised plans to consider.

52. DECISIONS

The decisions on Planning Applications pertaining to Witham were received.

RESOLVED That the decisions be received and noted.

53. TACKLING SPEEDING IN WITHAM/20s PLENTY

The Planning Officer explained that quotations have been sought for Vehicular Activated Signs and it was hoped that they could be taken to the next Planning Meeting for consideration.

The issue of 20s Plenty would be discussed with Essex County Council Cabinet Member, Tom Cunningham later this month. Members asked that 20 mph zones outside schools should also be considered.

RESOLVED That the information be received and noted.

Councillor Headley returned to the Council Meeting.

54. ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL TRANSPORT MEETING

Notes from Essex County Council's June Transport Meeting were received.

Councillor P. Barlow said that he had attended one of the face-to-face events organised and had been disappointed that officers had not been prepared to take issues forward.

RESOLVED That the Notes be received and noted.

55. PROPOSED ROADWORKS IN WITHAM

The Planning Officer explained that Essex County Councillor Playle had approached Cadent about the numerous road closures proposed for Witham throughout the summer months. Cadent had responded that this was part of the 30:30 upgrade and they had worked closely with the Highways Authority to ensure least impact to traffic. The Planning Officer had asked whether the works in The Avenue, Avenue Road, Guithavon Valley and Mill Lane would be staggered, whether any temporary traffic lights would be manned during busy periods and if the works would be pulled if the town came to a standstill. She had been assured that the works would be staggered and traffic lights manned at busy times but Cadent were confident that major disruption would not occur.

It was reported that The Avenue and Avenue Road were closed today and there had been long tail backs into the town.

Councillor J.C. Coleman said that he would be seeking a Freedom of Information request regarding the action taken by Essex County Council officers when licences for road closures are requested.

RESOLVED That the information be received and noted.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.17 p.m.

Councillor J. Robertson
Chairman

GK/8.7.2025