



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

PLANNING AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Date: **Monday 20th June, 2022**

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

Present: Councillors

J.	Goodman	(Chairman)
K.	Atwill	
P.	Barlow	
C.	Jay	
C.	Lager	
M.	Lager	
H.	Andrews	(Deputy Town Clerk)
S.	Smith	(P.A to the Council)
C.	Strachan	(Assistant RFO)

25. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Kilmartin who was self-isolating and Pleasance who was away. Councillor Hicks gave his apologies after the meeting due to a previous engagement.

RESOLVED That the apologies be received and accepted.

26. MINUTES

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning and Transport Committee held 7th June 2022 be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

27. INTERESTS

No interests were declared at the time but later in the Meeting at Minute 37 – Tree Preservation Order No.03/2022/TPO, Councillor Barlow declared a non-pecuniary interest as he is a member of Witham Housing Association which owns Podsbrook House.

28. QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no members of the public present.

29. PLANNING OFFICER'S REPORT

It was reported that National Grid had confirmed receipt of the Council's feedback from the recent consultation and that there would be another opportunity to comment on proposals next year before their planning application was submitted in 2024.

30. PART 1 APPLICATIONS

There were no Part 1 applications.

31. PART 2 APPLICATIONS

22/01371/FUL

Unit C, 1 Wheaton Road, Witham

Subdivision of existing building to create 5 Class B2 units.

NO OBJECTION

32. REVISED PLANS

There were no revised plans.

33. DECISIONS

Members noted there was no decisions to be received.

34. PLANNING COMMITTEE MEMBERS FORUM

Members received the summary of proposals for consultation from Braintree District Council and agreed this was long overdue and should be supported in principle.

Members discussed concerns with the finer details of the proposals which included –

- Further clarification would be needed on how the engagement will work between the Parish and the District Councils.
- Membership would be weighted in favour of the District Council (18 representatives to 2)
- The reduction in the number of meetings to be held each year
- The discretion to appoint representatives before the meeting.
- Community involvement to be retained alongside the Forum.
- The Town Council would like right to suggest applications or bring contentious issues to the Forum if necessary.
- The Town Council would like more discretionary terms of reference.

RESOLVED That feedback be sent to the District Council by 1st July 2022 confirming that the Town Council would welcome the proposals in principle but have concerns on the following points –

- The discretion to appoint representatives before each meeting.
- Expect community involvement to remain alongside the Forum
- Concerns on the reduction in the number of meetings to be held each year

- To reserve the right to suggest applications to the Forum as necessary.

35. PUBLIC NOTICE – NEWLAND STREET

Members received the Public Notice Order relating to changes in Newland Street to re-order parking arrangements following the extension of the bus stop outside Mama Dells from 15m to 39m.

Members raised concerns with ‘no waiting at any time’ restrictions as did not consider this was necessary during the evening. It was also suggested that the disabled spaces should be clearly marked as two spaces to encourage considerate parking.

RESOLVED To contact Essex Highways to request that the no waiting time be amended to no waiting between 6am-9pm and that the disabled spaces be marked clearly.

36. A12 WIDENING

Notes from the A12 Meeting held 6th June 2022 were received.

A site visit had since taken place on 15th June 2022 with National Highways representatives to discuss proposed routes for slow-moving agricultural vehicles once the A12 widening has been constructed. Each route had its limitations but it was agreed that the route through Newland Street would be the best option. Members discussed the seasonality and frequency of vehicles requiring to use this route and suggested restricted access times.

RESOLVED To provide feedback to National Highways of the preferred route and to request restricting access times for slow-moving vehicles.

37. PRESERVATION ORDER NO 03/2022/TPO PODSBROOK HOUSE

Councillor Barlow had declared an interest.

It was noted that a Tree Preservation Order had been served on the owners of Podsbrook House in relation to a tree in their grounds.

RESOLVED That the information be received and noted.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the Meeting at 7.25 p.m.

Councillor J. Goodman
Chairman

SS/22.06.2022