



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

PLANNING AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Date: **Monday, 15th November 2021**

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.	Jay	
C.	Lager	
M.	Lager	
C.	Livermore	
S.	Rajeev	

Also in attendance: Cllr

S.	Ager	
J.	Sheehy	(Town Clerk)
G.	Kennedy	(Planning Officer)

150. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence.

151. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning and Transport Committee held 1st November 2021 be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

152. **INTERESTS**

There were no declarations of interest at this time but later in the Meeting at application 21/03138/TPOCON – Noel Pelly House, Councillor Barlow declared a non-pecuniary interest as a shareholder of the Witham Housing Association.

153. QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

No member of the press or public were present.

154. PLANNING OFFICER'S REPORT

The Planning Officer reported that the A12 Widening Supplementary Consultation was now being held until 19th December 2021 and there would be an opportunity to visit a drop-in event at Spring Lodge on Friday, 26th November 2021 between 4 and 6.30 p.m.

Information had been received that works would shortly be undertaken to the radio base station at the Football Ground, Spa Road.

RESOLVED That the report be received and noted.

155. PART 1 APPLICATIONS

21/03296/HH

10 Raven Drive, Witham

Insertion of obscure-glazed first floor flank window

NO OBJECTION

21/03245/HH

28 Claudius Way, Witham

Conversion of existing integral garage to a workshop/room with a separate toilet/shower area and link extension to connect to existing house

NO OBJECTION

156. PART 2 APPLICATIONS

21/03207/TPOCON

19 The Paddocks, Witham

Notice of intent to carry out works to trees in a Conservation Area

Members were informed that 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.

21/03208/TPO

10 Hollybank, Witham

Notice of Intent to carry out works to trees protected by Tree Preservation Order 6/76

Members were informed that the Tree Warden had recommended no objection.

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

21/03138/TPOCON

Noel Pelly House, 15 Collingwood Road, Witham

Notice of intent to carry out works to tree in a Conservation Area

Councillor Barlow declared a non-pecuniary interest as a shareholder of the Witham Housing Association.

Members were informed that the Tree Warden had made a site visit and recommended that the application be refused until there were details available regarding the planting of a replacement tree. Members however considered that the application should be refused because there is no evidence that this healthy tree should be felled.

RECOMMEND REFUSAL as there is no evidence to remove this healthy tree and alternative ways could be achieved of avoiding a trip hazard; and subject to the advice of the District Council's Landscape Officer.

21/03191/FUL

Southview School

Internal remodelling of the existing building and a new teaching block

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

21/03253/TPO

13 The Paddocks, Witham

Notice of Intent to carry out works to tree protected by Tree Preservation Order 6/74 – Horse chestnut

Members were informed that the Tree Warden had advised that it was unnecessary to fell the tree and the branches should be reduced.

RECOMMEND RREFUSAL on the grounds that felling the tree would be unnecessary and subject to the advice of the District Council's Landscape Officer.

21/03292/TPOCON

34 Mill Lane, Witham

Notice of intent to carry out works to trees in a Conservation Area

Members were informed that 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.

21/03265/FUL

Ground Floor Office, Blue Post House, 128 Newland Street, Witham

Change of Use from retail (Use Class E(a)) to a gym (Use Class D2)

Members were pleased to note that there were plans to bring these premises back into use however they were concerned that there were insufficient detail regarding the shop front, materials and signage on this Grade II building in a Conservation Area.

RECOMMEND REFUSAL on the grounds that there were insufficient details regarding the shop front, materials and signage.

21/03266/LBC

Ground Floor Office, Blue Post House, 128 Newland Street, Witham

Change of Use from retail (Use Class E(a)) to a gym (Use Class D2)

RECOMMEND REFUSAL on the grounds that there were insufficient details regarding the shop front, materials and signage; and subject to the views of the Listed Buildings Officer.

21/03288/FUL

Barclays Bank plc, 59 Newland Street, Witham

Removal of existing ATM, section of existing ATM's aperture to be infilled by stonework. Section of existing window in ATM's aperture area to be re-instated to match existing window. Removal of existing night safe's aperture to be infilled by stonework to match existing stonework. Section of existing window in night safe's aperture area to be re-installed to match existing window.

NO OBJECTION

157. REVISED PLANS

There were no revised plans.

158. SAUL'S BRIDGE

A letter was received from a concerned resident regarding the number of HGV's using Saul's Bridge. Information had been obtained from Essex County Council's Highways regarding weight restrictions and enforcement.

Members commented that the builders' lorries for Gimsons were causing problems by queuing in Maldon Road as well as using Saul's Bridge. Members agreed that this was part of a bigger issue in relation to aggregate vehicles using the town.

RESOLVED That the letter be received and a response sent to the resident detailing the County Council's information.

RESOLVED That the matter be referred to the Gimsons Review Group which is due to meet on 30th November 2021.

RESOLVED That Essex County Councillor D Louis, Witham Southern, be made aware of the problems.

159. DECISIONS

The decisions on Planning Applications pertaining to Witham were received.

Comment was made that application 21/02038/FUL – AKA Restaurant, 47 – 49 Newland Street, which was recommended for refusal by the Town Council had been permitted by the Planning Authority but no Planning Officer's report was on file and the matter had not gone to their Planning Committee.

RESOLVED That the Planning Development Manager at Braintree District Council be contacted and asked why there was no Planning Officer's report and the application had not been heard by the Planning Committee.

RESOLVED That the decision be received and noted.

160. LOCAL HIGHWAYS PANEL

An extract of the Minutes was received from the Local Highways Panel Meeting held 30th September 2021.

Members commented that apparently the conclusion of a county-wide audit is still awaited before the redundant bus shelters can be used elsewhere. It was agreed that contact should be made with Cabinet Member Councillor Lee Scott to ask when the audit is expected to be concluded.

RESOLVED That the extract be received and a letter be sent to Councillor Lee Scott asking when the result of the audit of the bus shelters can be expected so that the redundant shelters may be used elsewhere.

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

Councillor J. Goodman
Chairman

GK/16.11.2021