



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

PLANNING AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Date: **Monday, 23rd March 2026**

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

Present: Councillors

J.	Robertson	(Chairman)
E.	Adelaja	
J.M.	Coleman	
L.	Headley	
R.	Ramage	
E.	Williams	
G.	Kennedy	(Planning Officer)
S.	Puckey	(Open Spaces Admin)

One member of the public was present.

244. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors P. Barlow, J.C. Coleman and R Playle. Councillor A Sloma was absent.

RESOLVED That the apologies be received and approved.

245. MINUTES

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning and Transport Committee held on 9th March 2026 be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

246. INTERESTS

The Planning Officer drew Members' attention to two applications which held an interest for the Town Council – 26/00513/VAR – Witham Community Centre and 26/00260/FUL – Town Hall, it would be inappropriate to comment on either application and therefore they would just be received and noted.

247. QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

The member of the public had three issues they wanted to raise:

While the Speed Indicator Device (SID) was welcomed, the member of the public wanted clarity around funding and reassurance that speed checks would still be carried out by the police at Augustus Way, particularly as there was likely to be an increase in traffic volumes with the proposed new housing in Hatfield Peverel and Kelvedon. It was confirmed that the cost came from the precept, as the council felt the safety of residents was paramount in particular those children attending local schools who crossed Hatfield Road. It was the council's understanding that speed checks would continue. The member of the public felt strongly that the SID should have been funded by Essex Highways, although he was informed that it was not their policy to do so. In addition, the member of the public wanted to see data from the devices that showed travel above 30 mph on Hatfield Road and not 40 mph as had been shown at a Full Town Council meeting in February. It was explained that this report was already in place and reassurance was given that it would be an agenda item once a month.

Secondly the committee was asked if they were confident that the River Walk footpaths and cycle ways were safe and well maintained with no outstanding defects to repair. It was explained that this was a question for the Environment Committee which was responsible for those paths and it would be necessary for the Deputy Town Clerk to comment. While the member of the public felt strongly this was a transport issue, it was reiterated that it was currently within the scope of the Environment Committee.

Before the third point was raised, in answer to a question the Chairman confirmed that he was an HGV driver who on occasion went to Coleman's Quarry and it was therefore mooted that he could have a conflict of interest. Despite the issue being originally raised in September 2024, the member of the public still had strong safety and environmental concerns about the HGV movements from the quarry on to junction 22 of the A12 as well as surrounding residential roads because debris was still constantly being deposited on roads and pavements. The member of the public felt strongly that this was potentially dangerous, particularly to motorcyclists, and that there was insufficient road sweeping to mitigate the issue. He wanted to see enforcement action to ensure lorries were not overfilled, properly sheeted and were washed before leaving the site as well as increased sweeping in the area. Members agreed that this was an issue of concern and confirmed that it would be brought to the attention of Witham's Essex County Councillor. The member of the public was disappointed that the County Councillor was not present to respond in person.

The member of the public left the Chamber at 7.04pm

248. PLANNING OFFICER'S REPORT

The Planning Officer explained that the next Planning and Transport Committee Meeting on Tuesday, 7th April 2026 would start at 6 p.m. as a representative from National Highways would be attending to give an update on the bridge over the A12 to the south of the town.

Notification had been received from Braintree District Council that a non-material amendment application would be discussed by its Planning Committee on 31st March 2026 relating to the Witham Community Centre to allow for a dropped crossing point as requested by Essex County Highways and amendments to landscaping layout.

249. **PART 1 APPLICATIONS**

26/00455/FUL

29 Hatfield Road, Witham

Replacement appliance bay doors

NO OBJECTION

26/00513/VAR

Land south of Haygreen Road, Witham

Variation of Condition 2 (approved plans) of approved application 23/02329/FUL granted 5.4.2024 for: Proposed new community building, with associated landscaping and car parking. Variation would allow:- Raising the height of the building in three areas and the installation of solar panels, 1 no. air handling unit, 2 no. air source heat pumps and 1 no condenser unit

Because of a conflict of interest, Members did not comment.

RESOLVED That the application be received and noted.

250. **PART 2 APPLICATIONS**

26/00480/TPOCON

Grove House, Newland Street, Witham

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

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

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

26/00260/FUL

Witham Town Council, Town Hall, 61 Newland Street, Witham

Installation of storage shed

Because of a conflict of interest, Members did not comment.

RESOLVED That the application be received and noted.

26/00489/HH

13 Laurence Avenue, Witham

Proposed single storey rear/ side and front/side extensions

NO OBJECTION

251. **REVISED PLANS**

There were no revised plans

252. DECISIONS

The decisions on Planning Applications pertaining to Witham were received.

RESOLVED That the decisions be received and noted.

253. PLANNING AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE BUDGET 2025 – 2026

Members agreed to transfer the remaining £2,025.00 budget into earmarked reserves for reduction in speed and improving road safety measures for 2026 – 2027.

RESOLVED That the remaining £2,025.00 budget be transferred into reserves for reduction in speed and improving road safety measures for 2026 – 2027.

254. BUS STOP MARKINGS – BRAINTREE ROAD

An email was received from Essex County Council regarding complaints about the lack of bus stop markings at the bus stop in Braintree Road.

RESOLVED That the council would support the installation of bus stop markings

255. NOTICE OF APPEAL – 25/02513/FUL – 40 PITT AVENUE, WITHAM

Members noted that an appeal had been made against the decision to refuse retention of change of use of existing mobile home to permanent dwelling with independent access at the above address.

RESOLVED That the information be received and noted.

256. HATFIELD ROAD – TRAFFIC SIGNAL INSTALLATION

Members were informed that works were due to start on the new signalised puffin crossing from Monday 30th March 2026 and continue into early May 2026 with temporary traffic signals during working hours and a small number of overnight closures.

RESOLVED That the information be received and noted.

257. ESSEX SAFER SPEEDS STRATEGY CONSULTATION

Members were informed of a six-week public consultation on safer streets and were urged to complete the survey. It was noted that Witham Town Council were strong supporters of reducing speed limits around Witham and had approached Essex Highways in the past to reduce speed limits in specific areas to 20mph, which had been ignored.

RESOLVED That a response be submitted on behalf of the Town Council with particular emphasis on reducing speed around schools and that Members make individual responses to the consultation.

258. LOCAL PLAN REVIEW

A report was received and Members asked whether they wished for a Town Council response to be made. Although the major housebuilding proposed was in Hatfield Peverel and Kelvedon, Members felt that it would have an impact on Witham and it was agreed that Members would look at the proposal in more detail and discuss it at the next meeting.

RESOLVED To discuss a Town Council response at the next meeting.

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

Councillor J. Robertson
Chairman
GK/SP/24.3.2026