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MINUTES

PLANNING AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Date: **Monday 21st September 2026**

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

Present: Councillors

P.	Barlow	(Chair)
J.	Robertson	(Vice Chair)
E.	Adelaja	
J.M.	Coleman	
L.	Headley	
R.	Playle	
G.	Kennedy	(Planning Officer)
J.	Brown	(PA to the Council)
N.	Zaviazun	(Assistant Finance Officer)

223. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ramage and Williams.

RESOLVED That the apologies be received and approved.

224. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning and Transport Committee held on 7th September 2026 be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

225. **INTERESTS**

Councillor Playle declared a non-registerable interest as a Member of Essex County Council.

226. **QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

There were no members of the public present.

227. PLANNING OFFICER'S REPORT

The Planning Officer said that details of the temporary road closure for the 5 mile Boxing Day Run had been received. The race this year would be on 28th December and follow the usual route. She recommended that no objections be made.

She advised that a recommendation to accept that the Draft Local Plan could go to a six week consultation period would be considered by Braintree District Council this evening.

The Chairman said that he had just signed a letter to Essex County Council Cabinet Member regarding a requested crossing point in Hatfield Road.

RESOLVED That the report be received and noted.

228. PART 1 APPLICATIONS

26/01979/LBC

26 Newland Street, Witham

Formation of a new internal doorway within the existing ground-floor wall between the kitchen and lounge/dining room, including installation of a timber panelled door and frame, new lintels, matching architraves and associated making good.

NO OBJECTION

26/01988/FUL

Unit 21 The Grove Centre Newland Street Witham

Proposal for external alterations comprising of 2 rooflights and additional entrance to serve existing commercial ground floor unit.

NO OBJECTION

229. PART 2 APPLICATIONS

26/01996/TPO

99 Lime Tree Place 8 Collingwood Road Witham

Application to carry out works to trees protected by Tree Preservation Order 9/75 T26: T022 - Common lime (*Tilia x vulgaris*): Fell in sections to as close to ground level as practicable. Reason: The tree is in poor structural condition with basal decay, an internal decay column, crown cavities and crown.

The Tree Warden advised that he had been unable to inspect the tree because of security gates but recommended refusal on the grounds that the application proposed to fell a lime tree without replacement resulting in the loss of a significant tree, losing a valuable carbon capture and impacting on the amenity of the area.

RECOMMEND REFUSAL on the grounds that no replacement tree was proposed and that the loss of this significant tree would adversely affect the amenity of the area and reduce its contribution to carbon sequestration and subject to the advice of the District Council's Landscape Officer.

26/01997/TPOCON

99 Lime Tree Place, 8 Collingwood Road, Witham

Notice of intent to carry out works to trees in a Conservation Area: T006 & T007 – Sycamore prune the crown to provide 1 metre clearance of street lamp, T009 – Horse chestnut to fell, T010 – Horse

chestnut prune on building side to provide 3 metres clearance, T011 common ash pollard to a height of 5 metres

The Tree Warden had advised that he had been unable to inspect the trees because of the security gates. He recommended refusal of the felling of the horse chestnut as the applicant had not proposed planting a replacement tree, loss of a significant tree, impact on local amenity and loss of valuable carbon capture.

RECOMMEND REFUSAL of the proposed felling of the horse chestnut tree (T009) as the applicant had not proposed planting a replacement tree, loss of a significant tree, impact on local amenity and loss of valuable carbon capture and subject to the advice of the District Council's Landscape Officer.

NO OBJECTION to the proposed pruning of the sycamores (T006 and T007), horse chestnut (T010) and common ash (T011) and subject to the advice of the District Council's Landscape Officer).

Whilst this application was being discussed Councillor Adelaja was absent from the Council Chamber.

26/01887/HH

Weston Lodge, Hancock Mews, Witham

Installation of 8 roof lights to enable loft conversion

Members noted that the roof lights were already in place.

NO OBJECTION

26/02089/TPO

1 Hewitt Walk, Witham

Application to carry out works to trees protected by Tree Preservation Order 5/75 – A1 T1 – Chestnut tree – to fell due to disease and possibly falling in to a communal area

The Tree Warden had advised that there was no supporting evidence of decay, or arboricultural evidence of disease and no proposal to replace the tree.

RECOMMEND REFUSAL on the grounds that there was no supporting evidence of decay or disease provided and no proposal to plant a replacement tree, and subject to the advice of the District Council's Landscape Officer.

230. REVISED PLANS

There were no revised plans.

231. DECISIONS

The decisions on Planning Applications pertaining to Witham were received.

RESOLVED That the decisions be received and noted.

232. TACKLING SPEEDING IN WITHAM/20s PLENTY

This matter will progress as time allows.

233. STREET NAMING

Notification had been received from Braintree District Council that the developer wished to name a road to the land north east of Gershwin Park, Springwell Gardens.

The Planning Officer explained that a list of names from the War Memorial had been given to the District Council for use on the Maltings Lane development. Members agreed with the officer's recommendation that Braintree District Council be reminded of the policy.

RESOLVED That the District Council be asked for a name from the War Memorial to be used for this road.

234. PROPOSED STOPPING UP OF HIGHWAY AT REID ROAD AND DRURY ROAD

Details of the proposed stopping up at Reid Road and Drury Road were received.

RESOLVED That the details be received and noted.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.19 p.m.

Councillor P. Barlow
Chair
JB/GK/NZ/24.9.2026