

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GIMSONS REVIEW GROUP AT WITHAM TOWN COUNCIL HELD 19TH AUGUST 2021 AT 10:00AM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER.

PRESENT: - Councillors: J Goodman (Interim Chair)
K. Atwill

Committee Members: D. Chignall
J. Palombi
P. Goold

Staff: J Sheehy - Town Clerk

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

Councillor J. Goodman was appointed as interim chair of the committee.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor K. Atwill declared a non-pecuniary interest as a potential prospective purchaser on the future development.

P. Goold declared a non-pecuniary interest as an employee of the Essex County Council Infrastructure Department, and a non-pecuniary interest as a serving member of the local scout group, which shares a land boundary with the development.

3. TERMS OF REFERENCE & GROUP REMIT

Members reviewed the relevant Scheme of Delegation and noted the role of the committee.

4. EXAMINATION OF DECISION NOTICE

Members reviewed the decision notice and current progress of the development, noting that tree work had been halted, whilst several conditions appeared to be outstanding.

Members **AGREED** that key areas of concern should be highlighted with Bellway Homes with a view to seeking a site visit to allay concerns on:

- The protection of trees that form the boundary with the development site and Witham Town Park.
- The proposed removal of the historic Town Park railings.
- Management and felling of trees across the site in general.
- The length of time proposed for the footpath closure and proposed diversion route.
- Agreement of the development boundary adjacent to the River Walk backchannel and Riverview Meadows area.

It was subsequently **AGREED** that urgent correspondence be sent by the Town Clerk to contacts at Bellway Homes to facilitate a site visit.

5. S106 AGREEMENT

Received and noted. It was further noted that a condition for the provision of funding for footpaths on the River Walk had been included in the agreement, but it was unclear as to when the funding would become available and whether such funding would be passed to the Town Council for its approved corporate strategy objective, the "Footpaths & Cycleway Programme".

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS & AREAS OF CONSIDERATION

Members noted the need for timely resolution of agreed action points as the development was now commencing.

There being no further business, the review group concluded at 11:30am.

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Councillor J Goodman
Interim Chairman

JS 23.08.2021