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MINUTES

PLANNING AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Date: **Monday, 19th October 2026**

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

Present: Councillors

P.	Barlow	(Chair)
J.	Robertson	(Vice Chair)(arrived at 6.55p.m)
E.	Adelaja	
J.M.	Coleman	
L.	Headley	
R.	Ramage	
E.	Williams	
G.	Kennedy	(Planning Officer)
H.	Andrews	(Deputy Town Clerk)

And one member of the public.

248. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Playle and from Councillor Robertson who would be late.

RESOLVED That the apologies be received and approved.

249. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning and Transport Committee held on 5th October 2026 be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

250. **INTERESTS**

There were no interests declared.

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

The member of the public wanted to speak about road safety and asked that a Facebook post released last week as part of Tackling Speeding campaign be shown.

The video related to a young man who had been knocked down whilst correctly using the pedestrian controlled crossing in Braintree Road by the Railway Public House. He had serious and life changing injuries. The driver had hit him at 53 mph in the 30 mph zone.

The member of the public said that the driver had driven the wrong side of the islands in Newlands Drive before reaching speeds of up to 63 mph in Collingwood Road. He knew that the Committee had been considering locations for an additional speed indicator device before settling on Rickstones Road. He had met with Essex County Councillor Playle about the dangers of the mini-roundabout at the top of The Avenue and how despite the Rivenhall Park development there have been no safety improvements. He said that traffic flow was increasing with added numbers of HGVs using that roundabout. He was concerned that the A12 widening and the proposed re-routing of the A120 had been cancelled to alleviate traffic problems in the town. He said that a speed indicator device was not the only solution.

The Chair suggested that the item on Tackling Speeding in Witham be brought forward.

Whilst this item was being discussed, Councillor Robertson arrived at the Meeting.

252. TACKLING SPEEDING IN WITHAM/20s PLENTY

The Chair explained that the Committee understood and agreed with the member of the public's concerns and had consistently advocated a number of speed reduction measures and associated safety proposals throughout the town, including 20 mph zones in housing estates but with no real support from the Highways Authority.

The Planning Officer explained that, with regard to the next speed indicator device, police had recommended Rickstones Road on grounds of safety. Two sites on either side of the road had been identified but one had been close to a gas pipe and she had tried to get information from Cadent whether a post would be acceptable, but without success. She had approached Essex County Council for a licence and the officer had recommended one post and the device spun round so it could be used in both directions. Further contact was now awaited.

It was pointed out that average speed cameras were to be installed along the B1018 between Braintree and Witham.

The Chair thanked the member of the public for attending the Meeting and raising his concerns.

253. PLANNING OFFICER'S REPORT

The Planning Officer explained that she had now received the PowerPoint presentation from National Highways regarding the Woodend Farm bridge over the A12. She had prepared a report for the next Meeting when the presentation would be shown.

RESOLVED That the information be received and noted.

254. PART 1 APPLICATIONS

26/02227/HH

31 Collingwood Road, Witham

Proposed single storey rear extension

NO OBJECTION

26/02259/HH

75 Haygreen Road, Witham

Proposed single storey rear extension

NO OBJECTION

26/02284/HH

Jacksons Farm, Maltings Lane, Witham

Proposed curved brickwork walls incorporating post box and a sliding wooden gate to front entrance

NO OBJECTION

26/01955/HH

100 Highfields Road, Witham

Alteration to roof from hip to gable end, rear dormer window & 2 No. front roof lights to enable loft conversion

NO OBJECTION

255. PART 2 APPLICATIONS

26/02279/TPO

Ash Cottage, Maldon Road, Witham

Application to carry out works to trees protected by Tree Preservation Order 30/83 – T2 (2624). Request to fell the Weeping Ash tree

The Tree Warden had confirmed the Planning Officer's advice.

NO OBJECTION subject to a suitable replacement tree being planted and the advice of the District Council's Landscape Officer

26/02322/HH

8 Juvina Close, Witham

Proposed two storey side extension and a single storey rear extension

The Planning Officer explained that the proposed extension would not be subordinate to the main dwelling contrary to LPP36c however Members decided to offer no objections.

NO OBJECTION

**26/02261/FUL &
26/02262/LBC**

9 – 13 Newland Street, Witham

Conversion of first floor and loft space incorporating the insertion of 1 No. roof lights into 8 No. rooms for use as an HMO. Repairs to roof and windows

Members considered that an 8 room HMO would be cramped and were concerned about fire safety issues particularly if residents were to charge electric cycles in their rooms. It was noted that the occupants of room number 2 which was only just above the minimum floor area allowed, had no en-suite facilities, and therefore would have no privacy when accessing the bathroom and wc in the main hallway.

RECOMMEND REFUSAL on the grounds of unacceptably high number of rooms in too small an area providing cramped living space, that one room had no en-suite facilities and therefore no privacy; concern was raised about potential fire safety; and subject to the advice of the Listed Buildings Officer.

256. REVISED PLANS

There were no revised plans to consider.

257. **DECISIONS**

The decisions on Planning Applications pertaining to Witham were received.

RESOLVED That the decisions be received and noted.

258. **BRTA ESSEX FORUM (WITHAM)**

An agenda for the BRTA Essex Forum was received for a meeting to be held on Saturday, 7th November 2026 at Battesford Court. The Chair said that he would attend if he was able.

RESOLVED That the agenda be received and information noted.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.17 p.m.

Councillor P. Barlow
Chair

GK/22.10.2026