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MINUTES

PLANNING AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Date: **Monday, 17th April 2023**

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

Present: Councillors

J.	Goodman	(Chairman)
A.	Kilmartin	(Vice Chairman)
P.	Barlow	
P.	Heath	
S.	Hicks	Arrived 18:55pm
C.	Lager	
M.	Lager	
T.	Pleasance	
H.	Andrews	(Deputy Town Clerk)
S.	Smith	(P.A to the council)

287. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors C. Jay and K. Atwill

RESOLVED That the apologies be received and approved.

288. MINUTES

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning and Transport Committee held 3.4.2023 be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

289. INTERESTS

Councillor P. Heath declared a non-pecuniary interest in regards to item 67, application 23/00838/HH, as he was one of the neighbouring properties.

290. QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no members of the public present.

291. PLANNING OFFICER'S REPORT

The Planning Officer informed Members that she had received notification from Braintree District Council that Planning Application 23/00152/OUT (Cullen Mill) on which we had previously resolved to recommend 'Refusal' on a number of grounds would be considered at BDC's Planning Committee on 18th April 2023. Accordingly, we would normally invite a WTC Member, preferably from the relevant Ward, to attend the Planning Authority to make representation in support of our refusal but on this occasion, it was considered that the timeframe was too tight in which to advise the Planning Authority of our intentions. However, Members were advised that there would be a live broadcast of the BDC Planning Committee meeting via the Planning Authority's YouTube channel.

The Planning Officer had also been contacted regarding the Hatfield Peverel Neighbourhood Development Plan Reg 14 Consultation, as the Parish Council sought the Town Council's views on the updated Plan. Again, there was a tight deadline to respond on this as the consultation closed on April 14th, so the Chairman helped to formulate a response which could be sent to Members if they wished.

Overall, the general response was that Witham Town Council had no comment bar the slight differences to the map boundaries given in the Neighbourhood Development Plan.

292. PART 1 APPLICATIONS

23/00762/HH

9 Highfields Road, Witham, Essex

Single storey front and side extensions.

NO OBJECTION

23/00838/HH

28 Pitt Avenue, Witham, Essex

Single storey front and side extension.

Councillor P. Heath declared an NPI as he was one of the neighbouring properties.

NO OBJECTION

293. PART 2 APPLICATIONS

23/00397/HH

59 Collingwood Road, Witham, Essex

New dropped kerb and creation of vehicular hardstanding.

NO OBJECTION subject to the Listed Buildings Officer being satisfied with the proposal.

23/00768/TPOCON

Boots The Chemist, 42 Newland Street, Witham

Notice of intent to carry out works to trees in a Conservation Area: 1 x Ash Tree: Crown reduction on building side to provide 3m clearance, removing approx. 3 m of regrowth.

23/00741/FUL

NO OBJECTION

Units 7A - 7B, Perry Road, Witham
Removal of section of canopy (retrospective) and the installation of external cladding, roller shutter door and personnel doors to create an enclosed space.

NO OBJECTION

294. REVISED PLANS

There were no revised plans.

295. DECISIONS

The decisions on Planning Applications pertaining to Witham were received.

RESOLVED That the decisions be received and noted.

296. CONRAD ROAD

A verbal report was received.

Members were informed that numerous complaints had been received from residents regarding the parking and traffic issues at Conrad Road, which had been ongoing since the construction vehicles began accessing the area and was exacerbated by the school traffic. This had led to residents being blocked in and ultimately late for work and school drop offs, and bus services being disrupted due to the road being constricted.

Members were concerned that this was a breach of planning conditions for the housing development, but was also a highways issue that needed to be resolved. They agreed that this should be reported to the Local Planning Authority to establish whether any planning conditions had been breached, and to contact Essex Highways to raise the issue with them. Members agreed it may be beneficial for the Braintree District Councillors for Witham North to also make representations to highlight how serious a problem this was for residents.

RESOLVED That the report be received and noted.

RESOLVED That the issues be reported to the Local Planning Authority to establish whether any planning conditions had been breached, and to contact Essex Highways to raise the traffic and parking issues.

297. A12 WIDENING

A verbal report and a map of the replacement land being offered as part of the A12 widening scheme were received.

Members were informed that officers had been to visit the site with Andy Goodwin and that they were satisfied this was a suitable replacement for the land lost. The site had a lot of potential and could be shaped into the Town Council's vision, with the support of National Highways.

RESOLVED That the report be received and noted.

RESOLVED To accept the replacement land offered as part of the A12 widening scheme.

298. PLANNING APPEAL - CULLEN MILL

Members received notification of an appeal for Cullen Mill.

RESOLVED That the information be received.

299. HGV ROUTING

A verbal report was received.

Members were informed that the office was yet to receive any response from the Essex County Councillors regarding the Town Council's proposed HGV routing, so this item would be brought back to the committee at a later date once there had been any updates.

RESOLVED That the report be received and noted.

300. GIMSONS BOUNDARY

The Gimsons boundary treatment was discussed.

The Deputy Town Clerk notified Members that she had been contacted by Braintree District Council's Planning Officer to confirm whether it was the Town Council's preference to have the railings on the Bellway boundary, or the Town Park boundary. Members agreed that there would be more control over the railings at a local level if they were in the District Council's ownership, so that would be their preference.

RESOLVED That Braintree District Council be contacted to inform them of the Member's decision to preferably have the railings on the Town Park boundary.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the Meeting at 7:03p.m.

Councillor J. Goodman
Chairman

SS/HA