Witham town council

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MINUTES

PLANNING AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Date: **Monday, 20th March 2023**

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

Present:	Councillors	J.	Goodman	(Chairman)
		A.	Kilmartin	(Vice Chairman)
		K.	Atwill	
		P.	Barlow	
		P.	Heath	
		C.	Lager	
		M.	Lager	
		G.	Kennedy	(Planning Officer)
		S.	Smith	(PA to the Council)

One member of the public was also present.

261. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Hicks, Jay and Pleasance.

RESOLVED That the apologies be received and approved.

262. MINUTES

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning and Transport Committee held 6th March 2023 be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

263. INTERESTS

All members present declared a non-pecuniary interest, in regards to applications 23/00529/TPO and 23/00530/TPOCON, as they all knew the applicants.

Councillor Goodman declared an NPI at application 23/00581/HH, as the applicant was a neighbour and Councillor Kilmartin declared an NPI at application 23/00497/HH, as she knew the applicant.

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264. QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

The member of public present did not wish to speak.

265. PLANNING OFFICER'S REPORT

The Planning Officer explained that officers had met with Andy Goodwin of National Highways to discuss issues relating to the A12 widening. It looked promising that an alternate piece of replacement land would be offered to the Town Council rather than the section to the north, divorced from Whetmead. He also explained that the footbridge over the A12 close to Olivers Drive had been contained in the plans since June 2021 and formed part of the consultations. Unfortunately, it was now too late to change its location and by doing so other residents would be affected. Notes from the Meeting would be available in due course.

The Cycling Development Group had a Teams Meeting last Friday with Braintree District Council and its consultants WSP who would be drawing up a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan.

An application had been made by Bellway regarding the discharge of reserved conditions for boundary treatment at Gimsons. The Planning Officer had asked that the matter of railings be flagged up.

The Town Council had been contacted by Bellway regarding a meeting to discuss major investment in infrastructure and community-wide facilities. The Planning Officer advised that because of the local elections and purdah, this meeting should not form part of a Committee Meeting.

Finally, information had been received that the application to demolish an existing warehouse and the erection of a new one at 9 Stepfield would be considered by the District Council's Planning Committee on 28th March 2023. This Committee had recommended the application for approval so it was thought unnecessary that a Member attend.

266. PART 1 APPLICATIONS

22/00450/HH — **32, Brain Road, Witham**
Single storey rear extension

NO OBJECTION

23/00484/HH — **65, Yare Avenue, Witham**
Single storey rear extension

NO OBJECTION

267. PART 2 APPLICATIONS

23/00447/HH — **56, Gershwin Boulevard, Witham**
Single storey rear extension with lean to roof and 3 velux windows

RECOMMEND REFUSAL on the grounds that this proposal would lead to an overdevelopment of the site that would result in a compromised garden contrary

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to policy LLP36a and the Essex Design Guide.

23/00448/TPOCON **Mill Vale Lodge, Guithavon Street, Witham**

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

The Tree Warden had made a site visit and was in agreement with the planned works except for the sycamore as reduction by six metres would be excessive and he therefore recommended a reduction of three metres.

NO OBJECTION Subject to the sycamore only being reduced by three metres, and the District Council's Landscape Officer being satisfied with the proposed works.

23/00529/TPO **35 Barwell Way, Witham**

Notice of Intent to carry out works to trees protected by Tree Preservation Order 5/75.

All members declared an interest as they knew the applicant.

NO OBJECTION

23/00530/TPOCON **8 The Avenue, Witham**

Notice of Intent to carry out works to trees in a Conservation Area.

All members declared an interest as they knew the applicant.

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

23/00497/HH **12, Turstan Road, Witham**

Single storey front and rear extension and recladding and rendering of external elevations.

Councillor Kilmartin declared a NPI at this application as she knew the applicant.

RECOMMEND REFUSAL Due to the proposed render and roof tiles not being in keeping with the existing street scene contrary to LPP36b. Members were however satisfied with the rest of the proposal.

23/00534/FUL **Flat above 23 The Grove Centre, Newland Street, Witham**

Insertion of 4 no. windows to the side elevation.

NO OBJECTION subject to no representations being received from neighbours.

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23/00581/HH **22 Chippingdell, Witham**
Part-single, part two storey rear extension.

Councillor Goodman declared an NPI at this application as he knew the applicant.

NO OBJECTION

268. REVISED PLANS

22/01955/HH **27 Powers Hall End, Witham**
Two storey side and rear extension with integral garage

NO OBJECTION

269. DECISIONS

The decisions on Planning Applications pertaining to Witham were received.

RESOLVED That the decisions be received and noted.

270. ADOPTION OF HIGHWAY

It was noted that a section of Drury Road leading to Persimmon Homes car park had now been formally adopted as highway.

RESOLVED That the information be received and noted.

271. PUBLIC NOTICE – CRESSING ROAD

Details of parking restrictions in relation to the new pedestrian crossing in Cressing Road were received.

RESOLVED That the details be received and noted.

272. PARKING OUTSIDE HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL

The Planning Officer explained that she had approached the North Essex Parking Partnership but been informed that the cameras had just been allocated to new static sites and would not be moved for about six months. She had asked for additional patrols at Holy Family School and had spoken to Essex County Councillor Louis about the situation. He had driven to not only Holy Family School but Howbridge and Chipping Hill Schools and agreed that the parking and traffic was horrendous. The Planning Officer had asked what further action could be taken to alleviate the situation and Councillor Louis said that a North Essex Parking Partnership representative would be at the next Local Highways Panel Meeting and he would ask that patrols be undertaken by the TruCam vehicle which would photograph those vehicles which were parking on double yellow lines and zig zag markings and fines issued.

RESOLVED That the information be received and the Holy Family School be informed that the cameras were not available.

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273. BUS FARE INCREASES

Members were informed of the bus fare increases on Essex County Council services from 1st April 2023.

RESOLVED That the details be received and noted and that items regarding buses be referred to the Community Committee in future.

274. HGV ROUTING

Members were asked to consider appropriate routing around Witham for HGVs.

Members received a map of example routes and discussed at length potential routes for HGVs in Witham. They reiterated that Chipping Hill bridge should be avoided where possible and that clear concise signage would be required.

RESOLVED That the example map would be sent to members, so that they could send any amendments or recommendations to the office.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the Meeting at 7:29p.m.

Councillor J. Goodman
Chairman

GK/SS/21.3.2023

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