



Town Hall | 61 Newland Street | Witham | CM8 2FE
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MINUTES

PLANNING AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Date: **Monday, 21st August 2023**

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

Present: Councillors

P.	Barlow	(Chairman)
J.C.	Coleman	(Vice Chairman)
J.M.	Coleman	
L.	Headley	
T.	Hewitt	
J.	Martin	
A.	Sloma	
G.	Kennedy	(Planning Officer)
S.	Shannon	(PA to the Council)

And one member of the public.

77. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ramage, Adelaja and Williams.

RESOLVED That the apologies be received and approved.

78. MINUTES

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning and Transport Committee held 7th August 2023 be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

79. INTERESTS

Councillor J.C. Coleman declared a non-pecuniary interest at Minute 81, in regards to the Rivenhall Integrated Waste Management consultation, due to a potential work conflict.

80. QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

No public present wished to speak.

81. PLANNING OFFICER'S REPORT

The Planning Officer explained that there had been the Rivenhall Integrated Waste Management consultation on Friday at Spring Lodge although it was understood that details had not been circulated to residents by Indaver until Sunday.

Councillor J.C. Coleman declared a non-pecuniary interest due to a potential work conflict.

Members agreed that the facility had been built in the wrong place and that the road infrastructure to the site was inadequate, and despite years of campaigning, the site developer had never offered to upgrade the access. It was explained that it had been a longstanding Town Council view to object to applications on these grounds.

Members recognised that there needed to be an alternative to landfill but were concerned about waste being transported in from outside Essex and the subsequent increase in traffic. They also however acknowledged that this consultation was about ancillary electricity generation at the site but were concerned that the developer would increase transport movements at the site and, from that perspective, the Town Council's concerns still applied. Members were also apprised of the District Council's recent statement reiterating its continued engagement and attempts to get the best possible operational solutions for residents.

RESOLVED That whilst Members supported the need for alternatives to landfill and the need for ancillary electricity generation they recognised that the Town Council's previous views with regard to traffic generation on the inadequate road infrastructure were still valid. They further considered that National Government, who had condoned the use of the site, Essex County Council as responsible for Highways infrastructure, and the Developers should consider improvements to the local road network if there was to be further expansion of activity at the site.

The Planning Officer explained that Bellway Homes had agreed to replace the railings in the park. The original spiked railings were considered to be a safety issue so Members were given three options to consider. Members agreed that the second option of railings with a loop over the upright would be safer.

RESOLVED That the District Council be informed that the Town Council would prefer the second option with a loop over the upright.

82. PART 1 APPLICATIONS

There were no Part 1 applications to be considered.

83. PART 2 APPLICATIONS

23/01900/HH

89 Highfields Road, Witham

Proposed single storey rear extension

NO OBJECTION

23/01244/HH

55 Hatfield Road, Witham

Retention of outbuilding to be used as home office/shed

NO OBJECTION Subject to the building being ancillary to the main dwelling.

23/01948/ADV

Colemans Bridge Industrial Estate, Colemans Bridge, Witham

Retention of display of non-illuminated 48 sheet panel advertisement

Members raised concerns over the potential distraction that the sign could cause drivers entering this residential area due to its location. They also voiced their confusion over the fact that the application was for a retention, but the hoarding was not currently there.

RECOMMEND REFUSAL on the grounds of safety concerns that the sign could cause drivers to be distracted and visibility of the traffic lights compromised.

23/02047/TPO

31 Barwell Way, Witham

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

The Tree Warden had made a site visit and said that the tree had been carefully maintained by the applicant over the years. The proposal to remove the four lower branches will probably help the tree maintain its upper canopy.

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

84. REVISED PLANS/CERTIFICATE OF LAWFULNESS

23/01908/ELD

81, St Nicholas Road, Witham

Certificate of Lawfulness

Members agreed that the dwelling had been occupied for the past four years.

NO OBJECTION

85. DECISIONS

The decisions on Planning Applications pertaining to Witham were received.

RESOLVED That the decisions be received and noted.

86. LOCAL HIGHWAYS PANEL

An extract from the Minutes of the Local Highways Panel Meeting held 12th July 2023 of items relating to Witham was received.

Members noted that there was an item about Tru-Cam and wanted to know whether this was equipment that had been spoken about at the Town Council Meeting at Minute 202.

RESOLVED That the extract be received and noted.

RESOLVED That the item be deferred until further information became available¹.

87. ARDENT – ADVANCED UTILITY WORK IN PREPARATION FOR THE WIDENING OF THE A12

Members were asked to note that Ardent wish to undertake advanced utility works on land owned by the Town Council and to discuss any concerns regarding their proposals to carry out works towards the end of 2023, subject to agreement.

RESOLVED That no objection be raised.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the Meeting at 7:17p.m.

Councillor P. Barlow
Chairman

GK/SS/22.8.2023

¹ Information has been received from the Police confirming that the Tru-Cam mentioned in the Local Highways Panel was not the one considered at the Town Council Meeting.