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MINUTES

PLANNING AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Date: **Tuesday, 12th December 2023**

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

Present: Councillors

P.	Barlow	(Chairman)
J.M.	Coleman	
L.	Headley	
R.	Ramage	
A.	Sloma	
E.	Williams	

Also in attendance: Cllr.

R.	Playle	
N.	Smith	(Town Clerk)
G.	Kennedy	(Planning Officer)
C.	Strachan	(Assistant RFO)

And one member of the public.

161. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Adelaja, J.C. Coleman, Hewitt and Martin.

RESOLVED That the apologies be received and approved.

162. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning and Transport Committee held 28th November 2023 be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

163. **INTERESTS**

The Planning Officer pointed out that application 23/02816/TPOCON – 33 Bridge Street, Witham had been made by the husband of Councillor Martin. All Members therefore declared a non-pecuniary interest.

164. QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

The member of the public was strongly opposed to application 23/02668/FUL – 47 Hatfield Road, Witham. He said that any potential purchaser of a vehicle would need to park either on the road or on the driveway and then would have to reverse onto the busy road opposite Shortridge Court. He considered that a car sales forecourt in a residential street was totally inappropriate.

165. PLANNING OFFICER'S REPORT

The Planning Officer explained that an application for a street trader's licence had been received for Dejeuner Food to trade on Eastways by the footbridge on weekdays from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. serving fast food, salads, keto and hot and cold drinks.

RESOLVED That no objection be made to the application for a street trader's licence.

The Planning Officer said that complaints had been received from residents that motorists were using the proposed bus gate from the Redrow estate onto Allectus Way. At present the Traffic Regulation Order had not been enacted and the developers had been asked by Braintree District Council to move fencing so that vehicles cannot use this cut through.

RESOLVED That the Planning Officer's report be received and noted.

166. PART 1 APPLICATIONS

There were no Part 1 applications.

167. PART 2 APPLICATIONS

23/02816/TPOCON

33 Bridge Street, Witham

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

All Members had declared a non-pecuniary interest.

The Planning Officer explained that she had now received a hard copy of the application. The applicant stated that the Tree Surgeon on inspection of the trees had advised that the Ash in the rear garden had rust and the Ash in the parking space had larva beetle. The Tree Warden was asked to advise and he considered that rust could be kept under control by clearing away detritus from around the tree and was surprised that larva beetle would affect the tree in such a way that it needed to be felled.

Members decided that on this information they were not in a position to recommend any work to be carried out without the advice of the District Council's Landscape Officer.

RECOMMEND REFUSAL on the grounds that the felling of these ash trees, apparently resistant to ash dieback, would appear to be

unnecessary and subject to the advice of the District Council's Landscape Officer.

23/02668FUL

47 Hatfield Road, Witham

Change of use of land for car sales forecourt (sui-generis)

Members agreed that a car sales forecourt in a residential area was inappropriate and could be a nuisance to the neighbours. They noted the proximity of the bus stops and pedestrian crossings which could cause a danger if prospective buyers parked on the road. There would also be additional traffic movements onto the busy Hatfield Road.

RECOMMEND REFUSAL on the grounds that a car sales forecourt in a residential street would be totally inappropriate, detrimental to neighbouring amenity and would impact on traffic movements and safety on a busy road.

23/02791/FUL

3J Moss Road, Witham

Change of use of existing premises from (B8) industrial/storage use to Mortuary use (sui-generis)

NO OBJECTION

23/02897/TPO

17 Armiger Way, Witham

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

Members were informed that the Tree Warden had made a site visit and recommended no objection subject to the advice of the District Council's Landscape Officer.

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

168. REVISED/URGENT PLANS

23/02865/FUL

29A & 29B Chipping Hill, Witham

Conversion of 2Nos. flats to a two-storey dwelling, including new two-storey extension. Alterations to the existing driveway.

NO OBJECTION

169. DECISIONS

The decisions on Planning Applications pertaining to Witham were received.

RESOLVED That the decisions be received and noted.

170. TACKLING SPEEDING IN WITHAM

A motion was received from Councillor Williams regarding the tackling of speeding in the town and the view put that every authority had a responsibility to try and resolve the issue.

Members were informed that Essex County Council had signed up to Vision Zero, an aim to have zero traffic related deaths and serious injuries by 2040. The suggestion was made that a speed indicator device would encourage motorists to keep within the speed limit and efforts should be redoubled to promote a Community Speed Watch.

It was known that the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex had made Vision Zero a priority so a suggestion was made to go back to Essex County Council and ask for a 20 mph limit on all residential roads but with an emphasis on collaboration and consultation with local residents. In addition the purchase of a Tru-Cam, for exclusive use in Witham, be explored.

RESOLVED That Witham Town Council will –

- Explore the establishment of a volunteer Community Speed Watch team,
- Make provisions to purchase a Speed Indicator Device for Witham, like many other parishes,
- Support the promotion of initiatives such as Extra Eyes and Vision Zero,
- To go back to Essex County Council to ask for a 20 mph limit on residential roads,
- Explore the purchase of a Tru-Cam for the exclusive use in Witham.

171. 2024 – 2025 DRAFT CORPORATE STRATEGY

The draft Budget and Corporate Strategy for 2024 -2025 was received.

Members agreed the Corporate Strategy and agreed that in view of Minute 170 a bid should be made at next week's Estimates Sub-Committee Meeting to purchase a Tru-Cam at a cost of £9,000 and a Speed Indicator Device at £3,000.

The Chairman reminded Members that they could attend the Estimates Sub-Committee Meeting next Monday, 18th December 2023 starting at 8 p.m.

RESOLVED That the Corporate Strategy for the Planning and Transport Committee for 2024 – 2025 be agreed and the draft budget increased by £9,000 for a Tru-Cam and by £3,000 for a Speed Indicator Device.

172. LOCAL CYCLING AND WALKING INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN

Members were informed that Essex County Council is currently consulting on the LCWIP until 17th January 2024.

RESOLVED That the information be received and noted.

173. CANCELLATION OF SCHEDULED NEXT MEETING ON MONDAY, 18TH DECEMBER 2023

It was noted that the next Meeting would be cancelled and any urgent plans would be dealt with under delegated decision procedure in conjunction with the Chairman of Planning and Transport Committee.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the Meeting at 7.25 p.m.

Councillor P. Barlow
Chairman

GK/13.12.2023