



PLEASE NOTE EARLIER START TIME OF 6 P.M.

Witham
town council

Town Hall | 61 Newland Street | Witham | CM8 2FE
01376 520627
witham.gov.uk

AGENDA

Meeting of: **Planning & Transport Committee**

Date: **Tuesday, 20th February 2024** Time: **6.00 p.m.**

Place: **Town Hall, 61 Newland Street, Witham, Essex**

Members are hereby summoned to attend the above Meeting to transact the following business. Members are respectfully reminded that each item on the Agenda should be carefully examined. If you have any interest, it must be duly declared.

To be present:

P.	Barlow	(Chairman)	T.	Hewitt
J.C.	Coleman	(Vice Chairman)	J.	Martin
E.	Adelaja		R.	Ramage
J.M.	Coleman		A.	Sloma
L.	Headley		E.	Williams

Nikki Smith
Town Clerk
13.2.2024

1. APOLOGIES

To receive and approve apologies for absence.

2. MINUTES

To receive the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning & Transport Committee held 5th February 2024 (previously circulated).

3. INTERESTS

To receive any declarations of interests that Members may wish to give notice of on matters pertaining to any item on this Agenda.

4. QUESTIONS AND REPRESENTATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Members of the press and public will be invited to address the Meeting.

Order Note: A maximum of 30 minutes is designated for public participation time with no individual speaker exceeding three minutes unless otherwise granted an extension by the Chairman under Standing Order 3(F) & 3(G)

5. NORTH ESSEX PARKING PARTNERSHIP PROPOSAL FOR ON-STREET PARKING CHARGES

To discuss the proposals by NEPP to charge for on-street parking in Newland Street (email and additional information [attached](#) at page 3).

6. PLANNING OFFICER'S REPORT

To receive a verbal report from the Planning Officer on any matters arising from previous Meeting.

7. PART 1 APPLICATIONS

To note that there are no Part 1 applications.

8. PART 2 APPLICATIONS

To consider applications in [Part 2](#).

9. REVISED PLANS

To consider any revised plans received by Braintree District Council that have previously been commented upon.

10. DECISIONS

To receive and note decisions on planning applications pertaining to Witham which have been received from Braintree District Council ([attached](#) at page 9).

11. PROPOSED STOPPING UP OF HIGHWAY AT THE VICTORIA PUBLIC HOUSE, POWERS HALL END, WITHAM

To receive the the Notice to rescind the decision to raise objections at the proposal made at Minute 186 on 8th January 2024 and to consider a compromise ([attached](#) at page 11).

12. TACKLING SPEEDING IN WITHAM

To receive a report relating to the tackling of speeding in Witham ([attached](#) at page 13).

13. REPLACEMENT MINERALS LOCAL PLAN REVIEW

To receive details of the public consultation on the above review from 6th February to 19th March 2024 ([attached](#) at page 15).

14. LOCAL HIGHWAYS PANEL MEETING

To receive an extract from the Minutes of the Local Highways Panel Meeting held 18th January 2024 of items relating to Witham ([attached](#) at page 17).

Agenda Item 5

Dear Chairman

You may have read in the local press or on social media recently of the proposals to revoke the current limited waiting restrictions and introduce on-street paid parking (using MiPermit cashless parking only) at four locations in the Braintree District, two of which are in Halstead and one in Witham. The locations are:

Authority Area	Site for Consideration	Current Restriction	Proposed Restriction	No. of bays	Estimated income (£)	Notes
Braintree	7- High Street and The Centre Halstead	Limited waiting max stay 1 hour, 8am – 6pm Mon to Sat (excluding market times in some bays)	Pay and display Mon – Sat 8am – 6pm (with allowances for markets)	50	8,563	Outside retail, allows more efficient turnover of spaces. Tariffs to match those of the Town Council public car parks at Butler Road and Chapel Street
Braintree	8- The Causeway Bocking End	Limited waiting 8am – 6pm Mon to Sat 1 hour no return within 3 hours	Pay and display 8am – 6pm max stay 2 hours	29	1,837	Application T11992100 would need to be considered as it includes same bays
Braintree	9- Newland Street Witham	Limited waiting 8am – 6pm Mon to Sat max stay 1 hour	Pay and display 8am – 6pm	26	6,034	Tariff based on nearby Newland Drive car park with percentage increase

The North Essex Parking Partnership (NEPP), operating on behalf of Essex County Council who has overall responsibility for on-street parking, has proposed these locations as part of a broader plan that includes similar proposals across several other council areas in North Essex. For your information, I have included below a link to the agenda for the NEPP Joint Committee meeting held on 1 February 2024 when this proposal was considered. A copy of the report for this item can be found on pages 53-62 - Agenda Item 10.

[NEPP-Joint-Committee-Agenda-1-February-2024.pdf \(parkingpartnership.org\)](https://www.parkingpartnership.org/NEPP-Joint-Committee-Agenda-1-February-2024.pdf)

In common with other partner authority representatives at this meeting, Cllr. Butland, who is Braintree District Council’s representative, expressed concerns that proposals had featured in the local press and on social media without first having been shared with Essex County Council Members, local Ward Members and relevant Town and Parish Councils to keep them apprised of the proposals. As is the case with any changes to on-street parking restrictions, the NEPP has a statutory obligation to publicly consult on any proposals prior to implementation. It was therefore agreed at the Joint Committee Meeting, that the NEPP would undertake an enhanced level of consultation, including a leaflet drop to local residents and businesses in each of the localities, in addition to the usual advertising in the local press and on social media etc., to ensure that the proposals are publicised as widely as possible so that everyone who wishes to respond to the consultation has an opportunity to do so.

Kind regards

Paul
Paul Partridge
Head of Operations

A request to the North Essex Parking Partnership for the number of parking tickets issued for Newland Street has resulted in the following data –

Number of Penalty Charge Notices issued in Newland Street, Witham in 2023, by month:

Jan - 43

Feb - 54

March - 73

Apr - 55

May - 63

June - 48

Jul - 35

Aug - 60

Sep - 39

Oct - 44

Nov - 54

Dec - 44

Total - 602

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PART 2 APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERS' DEBATE

Applications Received:

The following applications have been made to the District Council for planning permission under the Town & Country Planning Acts and referred to the Town Council as a statutory consultee. Copies of the applications and accompanying plans may be seen at the Planning Department Causeway House, Bocking End, Braintree or online at www.braintree.gov.uk

PLEASE NOTE: Under the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985, representations cannot be treated in confidence. Witham Town Council is not responsible for issuing planning decisions.

24/00045/FUL	The Grove Garage, Newland Street, Witham	Central	Change of use of car sales office and forecourt to rental vehicle premises (sui generis) including demolition of sales office and forecourt. Proposed modular office building and car wash bay, car parking (including rental vehicle storage) and associated works
24/00247/TPOCON	Croft House, 10 Bridge Street, Witham	Hatfield	Notice of intent to carry out works to trees in a Conservation Area
24/00277/TPO	Communal Area , Whitehall Court, Newland Street, Witham	Central	Notice of intent to carry out works to trees protected by Tree Preservation Order TPO - 26/90 T8

Witham Town Council – Planning Application Report

Application No:- 24/00045/FUL

Address:- The Grove Garage, Newland Street, Witham

Ward:- Central

Proposal:- Change of use of car sales office and forecourt to rental vehicle premises (sui generis) including demolition of sales office and forecourt. Proposed modular office building and car wash bay, car parking (including rental vehicle storage) and associated works

Relevant Site History:-

Representations:- Objection comments from 1 Avenue Road, who complain about the imposing nature of the car wash which would be on their boundary approx. 1.1m from their property, noise generation and raised concern about the boundary wall.

Summary:- The proposal is to create a car hire business on the Markham and Smith site. It is proposed to demolish the existing garage buildings and replace with an office and car wash area. The front of the site will be used for parking of the hire cars. The car wash will be on the back boundary made from black steel. The size of the building will be 10m long and 6m wide with open ends to allow the vehicles to drive through. The height of the building will be 3.9m on the boundary and 4.4m at the front. The Office will also be 10m across and 6.7m in depth. The colour of the office will be buttermilk with silver colour doors and window frames. Both buildings will have flat sloping roofs.

Recommendation:- Members will remember that at the last Meeting we considered the ADV application for advertisements. The site has been a garage for a great number of years and the current buildings appear old and of no significance. This is an industrial site. I do have concerns about the boundary wall and the impact on neighbouring amenities. On balance I would object to the bulk and siting of the car wash which is against the boundary.

Witham Town Council – Planning Application Report

Application No:- 24/00247/TPOCON

Address:- Croft House, 10 Bridge Street, Witham

Ward:- Hatfield

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

Relevant Site History:-

Representations:-

Summary:- The applicant wishes to carry out work as follows - Fraxinus Exelsior-Crown reduction of approximately 1.5 to 2.00m, retaining current shape and ensuring safe even growth. They are requesting permission as per last request approved in 2020. The foliage has grown quite robustly since then so they are requesting that a repeat on what was approved last time. There are no tree health issues and no sign of die-back, but proximity to dwellings means that we should keep the branch systems in good shape, particularly in the light of seeming recent increasing incidence of strong winds. Crown reduction of approximately 1.5 to 2.00m, retaining current shape and ensuring safe even growth until next time. The tree surgeon has advised that crown reduction is advisable.

Recommendation:- The Tree Warden has advised that this tree has been well maintained in the past and has recommended no objection subject to the advice of the District Council's Landscape Officer.

Policy References:-

Witham Town Council – Planning Application Report

Application No:- 24/00277/TPO

Address:- Communal Area , Whitehall Court, Newland Street, Witham

Ward:- Central

Proposal:- Notice of intent to carry out works to trees protected by Tree Preservation Order TPO - 26/90 T8

Relevant Site History:-

Representations:-

Summary:- T1 Mulberry - Crown reduce by up to 2m and general tree maintenance to safeguard future life of tree.

Recommendation:- The Tree Warden has made a site visit and considers that a 2m reduction is too much as the previous pruning points are at one metre. He has also said that this is a significant tree. Recommend refusal on the grounds that a two metre reduction would be excessive but no objection to a one metre reduction, subject to the advice of the District Council's Landscape Officer.

Policy References:-

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Application & Address	Proposal	BDC Decision	WTC Decision	Agenda Item 10
23/02937/HH 47 St Nicholas Road Witham Essex CM8 2JE	Two storey rear extension	Application Permitted	Raised no objection	
23/02571/HH Ruskins Lawn Chase Witham Essex CM8 1AZ	Proposed loft conversion and insertion of 11 No. roof lights	Application Permitted	Raised no objection	
23/01244/HH 55 Hatfield Road Witham Essex CM8 1EF	Retention of outbuilding to be used as home office/shed	Application Permitted	Raised no objection	
23/03058/HH Beau Manor Guithavon Valley Witham Essex CM8 1HF	Demolition of an existing greenhouse and the construction of an outbuilding consisting of a cart lodge, garage and gardener's store.	Application Withdrawn	Recommended refusal in line with policy LPP36 c as the scale of the building would impact on the Grade II Listed Building.	
23/03059/LBC Beau Manor Guithavon Valley Witham Essex CM8 1HF	Demolition of an existing greenhouse and the construction of an outbuilding consisting of a cart lodge, garage and gardener's store.	Application Withdrawn	Recommended refusal in line with policy LPP36 c as the scale of the building would impact on the Grade II Listed Building.	
23/02791/FUL 3J Moss Road Witham Essex CM8 3UQ	Change of use of existing premises from (B8) industrial/storage use to Mortuary use (Sui Generis)	Application Permitted	Raised no objection	

23/01840/ADV Land At Conrad Road Witham Essex	Retention of 18 No. Flags on 5.4metre flagpoles, 2 No. Stack Signs, 1 No. Leaderboard Sign	Application Permitted	Raised no objection, subject to these flagpoles and signs being removed once the last property has been sold.
23/03011/HH 1 The Stables Howbridge Hall Road Witham Essex CM8 3HX	Loft conversion with dormer at the rear	Application Refused	Recommended refusal on the grounds of the adverse impact on neighbouring amenity, i.e. privacy contrary to LPP 36d.
22/00385/FUL 95 Newland Street Witham Essex CM8 1YZ	Erection of a terrace of 2 x 2-bedroom two-storey houses and 1 x 3-bed two-storey house, together with 3-bay garage.	Application Permitted	Recommended approval

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ITEM NO: 11

Officer Report: Stopping Up of the Highway at the Victoria Public House

Issue:

Members will remember that this was initially discussed at Minute 186 of the Meeting held 8th January and again at the last Meeting on 5th February 2024.

The Victoria Pub is now a private house and the owner wishes to use part of highway land to enclose and use as a car park. Members agreed to raise objections to the proposal due to the adverse impact on residents and motorist amenity as there would be a loss of visibility.

The Department for Transport contacted the Town Council about our decision as it was hoped that agreement could be obtained with the applicant to save a public inquiry. The only grounds to object is visibility.

I have been in contact with the agent acting on behalf of the applicant and, following consultation with the Chairman, said that a compromise might be acceptable to the Council.

The Chairman has suggested that a section of the proposed car park approximately 2m in depth could be preserved as highway to improve visibility on the bend.

At the last Meeting it was agreed to revisit the original decision and a rescission notice has duly been signed by eight Members.

Advice:

To consider a compromise which would be acceptable to the Council.

Rescission Notice

That the decision in Minute 186 – Proposed stopping up of highway at the Victoria Public House, Powers Hall End, Witham,


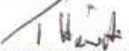
of the Meeting of Planning Applications Committee held on 8th January 2024 -



That the Town Council raises its objections at this ^{proposal} proposed, due to the potential adverse impact on resident and motorist amenity be rescinded.

The Department of Transport has suggested that to save time and public money, an agreement be reached with the applicant. The Town Council would wish to seek a compromise so that part of the land remains public highway on the grounds of visibility.


Signed:-

Councillors


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Officer Report: Tackling Speeding in Witham

Issue:

At Minute 170 on 12th December 2023, the Planning and Transport Committee discussed speeding issues in Witham

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.

The Town Council has reached out again to the community seeking volunteers for Speed Watch via social media and The Voice. To date only one person has come forward. Perhaps it would be better if volunteers are sought by Ward Councillors for particular areas near where residents live, i.e. Hatfield Road or Maldon Road.

Vehicular Activated Signs will require advice from the Local Highways Panel and a licence from Essex County Council before a sign can be installed. It would be useful to get advice from our LHP representative, Councillor Playle as to what would be required before an application can be made. In the meantime, Members should draw up a list of positions where a VAS could be placed.

Extra Eyes uses dash cam footage to track down and prosecute drivers following incidents, accidents, etc. Details on the following link -

<https://saferessexroads.org/extra-eyes/>

Vision Zero is a world-wide initiative supported by Essex County Council to eliminate deaths and injuries on Essex Roads by 2040. Details can be found on the following link -

<https://saferessexroads.org/visionzero/>

A contact has been sought regarding the request for 20 mph but at the moment Essex County Council is reviewing its speed management policy and it is hoped this will make the process easier. (This is part of the 20's Plenty campaign).

Finally Tru-Cam, the Town Clerk has been exploring the purchase with Special Police Sergeant Simon Jesse.

Advice:

To receive and note the information, to try to recruit local community speed watch teams, to detail roads and positions where a VAS can be placed, promote Extra Eyes and Vision Zero through Social Media, await contact details for the 20 mph on residential roads and continue to explore the purchase of a Tru-Cam.

GK/15.2.2024

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Agenda Item 13

County Planning
Essex County Council
County Hall
Chelmsford
CM1 1QH



Our ref: MLP Review
Date: 6th February 2024

Dear Parish/Town Council

**Replacement Minerals Local Plan Review – 2025 to 2040
Public consultation from 6th February to 19th March 2024**

This is to notify you that the next stage of the Replacement Minerals Local Plan Review will be undergoing a six-week public consultation (under Regulation 18 – Issues and Options), during which time we are inviting comments.

Please note that there are one or more sites in your parish/area that have been put forward for consideration for inclusion in the new Minerals Local Plan. For details and maps of these sites please see the [Candidate Site Assessment document](#) AND its accompanying appendices on our website at www.essex.gov.uk/minerals-review

The current Essex Minerals Local Plan (MLP) was adopted in July 2014. The Plan provides planning policies for minerals development in Essex until 2029 and identifies future sites for mineral extraction.

Every five years the council is required to review the effectiveness of its MLP. Since 2020 the review of the Plan has undergone several phases of consultation and two call for sites resulting in 52 candidate sites being put forward for consideration for inclusion in a new Plan.

We are now proposing to extend the Plan to 2040 covering a 15-year period from 2025. New sites will be needed to meet the forecasted demand for aggregates (sand and gravel) over this period. Doing so will ensure that the Plan is robust and can help maintain a 'steady and adequate' supply of aggregates and meet the relevant 'tests of soundness' as set out in the National Planning Policy Framework.

There are two main parts of this consultation on which you are invited to comment: the first are the revised Plan policies, their supporting text and the wider Plan evidence base in the draft Replacement Minerals Local Plan. The second is the site assessment report which contains the 52 candidate sites. The suitability of each has been assessed by independent consultants.

At this stage we have not identified what sites we want to see included in the final Plan. 'Preferred Sites' for allocation will be chosen once the comments received from this consultation have been fully considered.

EPF-MailMerge-DMT

Full details of this consultation, all related documents and how to respond can be found on the Essex County Council website at www.essex.gov.uk/minerals-review
Free internet access is available at Essex libraries.

Responses to this consultation should be made by 5pm on 19 March 2024.

We would be grateful if you could print the attached poster and include on your parish /town noticeboard(s) to publicise the consultation to your local residents.

All comments submitted to this consultation will be available to view online on our consultation portal, including those submitted through non-electronic means.
Please note that there will likely be a delay in being able to view consultation responses submitted which, depending on the timing and volume of submissions, may extend to after the consultation period has closed.

Information will be published in accordance with the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act, The General Data Protection Regulation and ECC's own privacy notice.

If you have any queries, please contact us via the email below.

Yours sincerely



Richard Greaves
Chief Planning Officer, County Planning
Email: mandwpolicy@essex.gov.uk

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Agenda item 14

BRAINTREE LOCAL HIGHWAYS PANEL MINUTES – 18th January 2024 at 5.00pm

Schemes Awaiting Funding: Consideration was given to a ‘Schemes Awaiting Funding’ report, which included details of requests received for funding from the Panel’s budget. The value of the proposed schemes amounted to £448,500. In considering this Item, Members of the Panel were advised that Councillor T Cunningham, Essex County Council’s newly appointed Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure and Sustainable Transport, was introducing a new system for the way in which Local Highways Panels across the County would operate in future. This would require larger scale schemes to be considered by a new Group comprising the Cabinet Member and the Chairmen of the Local Highways Panels. These schemes would not be considered by individual Highways’ Panels. Braintree Local Highways Panel’s representative on the new Group would be Councillor C Siddall, but it was suggested that Councillor R Playle, the Vice-Chairman of the Panel, should be appointed to attend any meeting between the Cabinet Member and the Chairmen should Councillor Siddall be unable to. It was agreed that D Maclean should raise this suggestion with Councillor T Cunningham.

It was suggested that Members of the Panel should not recommend any schemes for approval at this time. However, it was proposed that Members should endorse the removal from the list of potential schemes those schemes which had been categorised as ‘red’ as they did not meet Essex County Council’s criteria. It was also proposed that Parish/Town Councils should be advised in writing if their scheme had been unsuccessful and removed from the list. D Maclean agreed to introduce this process. In discussing this Item, reference was made to some individual schemes for which action points were agreed and these are recorded below.

DECISION: (1) That it be recommended that the following schemes, the status of which has been assessed as ‘red’ as they do not meet the criteria, are removed from the list of potential schemes:-

LBRA222046 – Speed limit reduction, Maldon Road, Witham Estimated Cost:- Not applicable

(2) That the following schemes be subject to the specific comments denoted:-

LBRA222049 – Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS), safety measures and speed reduction, Rickstones Road, Witham Estimated Cost:- Not known (Note:- (Classified as ‘in validation’). Councillor R Playle, Essex County Councillor for Witham Northern Division, reported that Witham Town Council had funded the purchase of a VAS and that this scheme could be withdrawn. D Maclean to remove this scheme from the Schedule of ‘Schemes Awaiting Funding’).

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