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MINUTES

PLANNING AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Date: **Monday, 29th November 2021**

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

Present: Councillors

J.	Goodman	(Chairman)
A.	Kilmartin	(Vice Chairman)
K.	Atwill	
C.	Jay	
C.	Lager	
M.	Lager	
S.	Rajeev	

Also in attendance: Cllr.

S.	Ager	
J.	Sheehy	(Town Clerk)
G.	Kennedy	(Committee Clerk)

And three members of the public.

161. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Hicks and Livermore who were unwell and Barlow who had a previous engagement.

RESOLVED That the apologies be received and accepted.

162. MINUTES

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning and Transport Committee held 15th November 2021 be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

163. INTERESTS

Councillors Atwill, Goodman, Kilmartin, C. Lager and M. Lager all declared non-pecuniary interests in application 21/03406/TPOCON – 22 The Avenue, Witham, as they knew the applicant.

164. QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Sue Warrior spoke about application 21/03345/HH – 8 Juniper Crescent, Witham. She explained that she lived next door and was concerned about potential overlooking from an upstairs window in the proposed extension. She said that the extension was also set at the same height of the existing roof line and front of the building giving a terraced effect.

The Chairman thanked Ms Warrior for her comments which would be considered by the Committee.

Councillor Ager explained that over a year ago she had reported to the Enforcement Team at Braintree District Council that a single storey extension had been built without planning consent at 111 Chelmer Road, Witham. The application was only now being considered and she believed it disgraceful that the Planning Authority had taken a year to take enforcement.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Ager for her comments.

165. PLANNING OFFICER'S REPORT

The Planning Officer drew Members' attention to a bus driver shortage and as a consequence some of the Stephensons services may be affected.

She explained that whilst a Planning and Transport Committee Meeting had been scheduled for Monday, 20th December 2021 she was hopeful that all applications needing a response before the New Year could be considered at the next Meeting on Tuesday, 14th December 2021.

RESOLVED That the information be received and noted.

166. PART 1 APPLICATIONS

21/03345/HH

8 Juniper Crescent

Two-storey side, single storey rear and front porch extensions

Members were mindful of the potential for overlooking into the adjacent conservatory but were divided regarding a decision.

NO OBJECTION subject to changes in the window layout to prevent overlooking from the rear window and for mitigation to reduce the terraced effect by setting back the extension and reducing the roof line.

21/03128/HH

111 Chelmer Road, Witham

Single storey rear extension

NO OBJECTION

21/03346/HH

9 Armond Road, Witham

Single storey rear extension

NO OBJECTION

21/03362/HH

68 Juniper Crescent, Witham

Single storey side extension

NO OBJECTION

167. PART 2 APPLICATIONS

21/03283/TPOCON

38 The Avenue, Witham

Carry out works to trees in a Conservation Area

The Tree Warden has advised that as there were no details about planting replacement trees this application should be refused.

RECOMMEND REFUSAL on the grounds that there were no details about planting replacement trees and the advice of the District Council's Landscape Officer.

21/03406/TPOCON

22 The Avenue, Witham

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

Councillors Atwill, Goodman, Kilmartin, C. Lager and M. Lager had declared interests.

The Planning Officer explained that the proposed work was general tree maintenance.

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

21/02843/FUL

Elmbeck Logistics Centre, Crittall Road, Witham

Erection of a temporary warehouse (Use Class B8) building for a period of 2 – 4 years

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

168. REVISED PLANS

There were no revised plans to consider.

169. 21/00059/VAR – Morrisons Supermarket, Braintree Road, Witham

An email was received from Peacock and Smith in relation to the above planning application seeking consent not to provide a vehicular access from the mini roundabout by Morrisons to Cut Throat Lane as required by the Planning Inspector.

Members felt strongly that despite the support given by the Town Council when this application went to Appeal, Morrisons wanted to renege on its obligations under Section 106 and the emerging Local Plan. It was agreed to strongly object to the proposal.

RESOLVED That the email be received and a response be made explaining that the suggestion not to provide a vehicular access was totally unacceptable and would be strongly opposed by the Town Council.

170. DECISIONS

The decisions on Planning Applications pertaining to Witham were received.

RESOLVED That the decisions be received and noted.

171. STREET NAMING

Members were asked to consider naming the access road to the Churchill development after the late Paul Ryland.

Members were informed that Paul's family were in agreement to the suggestion.

RESOLVED That the access road to the Churchill development be named after Paul Ryland.

172. IVY CHIMNEYS DEVELOPMENT

An email was received from a resident expressing concern on the removal of the hedge between the Ivy Chimneys development and Augustus Way.

The Planning Officer had tried to contact the resident to ascertain further information and it was agreed to wait until a response had been received.

RESOLVED That a response be awaited.

173. DRAFT BUDGET AND CORPORATE STRATEGY

Members were asked to consider the Corporate Strategy and the draft budget for 2022/2023.

Members understood that grants would be available as the Neighbourhood Plan progressed and that a budget might be required for Vehicle Activated Signs in due course.

RESOLVED That the Corporate Strategy and draft Budget be received and noted.

174. VEHICULAR ACTIVATED SIGNS

(a) Details of the new Essex County Council scheme for the introduction of VAS by Town and Parish Councils were received.

Members suggested that it would be important to identify the problem first but were supportive of VAS being installed. The suggestion was made that the public should be consulted through social media and The Voice.

RESOLVED That the problem areas be identified and public consultation be carried out.

RESOLVED That a decision on the installation of VAS be taken by Town Council.

(b) Members noted that despite several enquiries and the assistance of Essex County Councillor Louis, recent speed surveys had still not been received.

RESOLVED That the information be received and the Local Highways Panel contacted to ascertain recent results of speed surveys.

- (c) It was noted that following a complaint by a member of the public information was sought regarding the results of a speed survey in Collingwood Road.

RESOLVED That the information be received and noted.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the Meeting at 7.30 p.m.

Councillor J. Goodman
Chairman

30.11.2021