



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

PLANNING AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Date: **Monday, 14th October 2024**

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

Present: Councillors

P.	Barlow	(Chairman)
J.C.	Coleman	(Vice Chairman)
E.	Adelaja	
J.M.	Coleman	
L.	Headley	
J.	Martin	
E.	Williams	
G.	Kennedy	(Planning Officer)
S.	Puckey	(Open Spaces Admin Asst.)

137. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr J M Coleman. Cllr Ramage was absent.

RESOLVED That the apologies be received and approved.

138. MINUTES

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning and Transport Committee held 7th October 2024 be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

139. INTERESTS

No interests were declared at the time but later in the Meeting Cllr J. Martin declared a non-pecuniary interest in regards to Minute 141, as she was a member of the church and choir at St. Nicolas Church.

140. QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no members of the press or public present.

141. PLANNING OFFICER’S REPORT

The Planning Officer reported that she had informed the Street Naming Officer at Braintree District Council of the possible conflict calling the new road off Eastways, Albert Way, when there is already an Albert Road in Witham but he considered that they were a sufficient distance apart not to cause confusion. Members felt that, as Witham Town Councillors, they were in a better position to make decisions on street naming in Witham and requested that Cllr Martin and Cllr Williams, in their role as District Councillors, express this view to Braintree’s Officers.

The Planning Officer further reported that a letter had been received from Essex County Council asking if Witham Town Council’s objections still stand with regards the de-registering of the common land on Chipping Hill. Members agreed that the objections still stood and that a response should be made to that effect.

RESOLVED That a letter be sent to Essex County Council explaining that the objections still stood.

Cllr J. Martin declared a non-pecuniary interest as she was a member of the church and choir at St. Nicholas Church.

142. PART 1 APPLICATIONS

There were no Part 1 Applications.

143. PART 2 APPLICATIONS

24/02087/LBC

118 Newland Street, Witham

Reinstate damaged ceiling joists, laths and replaster in lime in the living room.

NO OBJECTION Subject to the views of the Listed Buildings Officer

24/02090/FUL

16 – 18 Freebournes Road, Witham

Proposed new commercial unit with a flexible planning use of Class E(g)iii (for any industrial purposes), Class B2 (General Industry) and Class 8 (Storage and Distribution)

Members commented that with the proposals in both the National Planning Policy Framework and the District Council’s Local Plan, it would be appropriate to ask that consideration be given to solar panels being included on the building.

NO OBJECTION but Members felt strongly that solar panels should be included on the building

24/02105/VAR

Trading as Motus Trucks and Vans, Griggs Way, Witham

Application for the removal of condition 10 (Bund Slopes) of permission Application Reference 18/02251/FUL Decision: 12th June 2020 for Proposed commercial vehicle dealership with estate access road and associated infra-structure.

Variation would allow a variation to the treatment of the bund slopes.

Members remembered the concerns of residents opposite this site and the condition that a bund be built. It was noted that the bund was proposed to be reduced by as much as three metres whereas if the bund was, as suggested to be a health and safety risk, the slope could be decreased by widening the base of the bund.

RECOMMEND REFUSAL on the grounds that another solution should be found to retain the bund's height so as not to affect neighbouring amenity.

24/02005/FUL

5 Wheaton Road, Witham

Demolition of existing workshop bay and office and erection of single storey vehicle service building

Members commented that with the proposals in both the National Planning Policy Framework and the District Council's Local Plan, it would be appropriate to ask that consideration be given to solar panels being included on the building.

NO OBJECTION but Members felt strongly that solar panels should be included on the building

144. REVISED PLANS

There were no revised plans.

145. DECISIONS

The decisions on Planning Applications pertaining to Witham were received.

RESOLVED That the decisions be received and noted.

146. TACKLING SPEEDING IN WITHAM/20S PLENTY

A report was received. Members agreed that resolutions should be made to confirm their commitment to reduce speeding in Witham and progress the project to the next level. It was agreed that the speeding reduction proposals would be discussed with Cllr Derrick Louis at the upcoming meeting with Cllr Barlow.

RESOLVED to start the purchasing process of a Speed Indicator Device and obtain the relevant permissions for installation on Hatfield Road and that the feasibility of siting one in Maldon Road would be investigated.

RESOLVED to make a formal resolution to seek 20 mph speed limits on all residential estates where there is one access starting with Allectus Way, The Grove and Humber Road Estates.

RESOLVED to implement 20mph zones outside schools in Witham, where possible.

147. WITHAM TREE GROUP

The Tree Group's response to Braintree District Council relating to planning policy and protection of trees was received.

Members agreed that developers do not take into account the need to properly protect trees during developments.

RESOLVED That the letter be received and noted.

148. MEETING WITH ESSEX COUNTY COUNCILLOR LOUIS

Members were asked whether they had any questions they wished Councillor P. Barlow to ask Essex County Councillor Derrick Louis at a private meeting on Wednesday, 16th October 2024.

Councillor Martin complained that the footpaths in South Ward were poor and that she was worried about school children where footpaths were narrow.

RESOLVED That Cllr Barlow would reiterate the concern about the state of the footpaths in Cllr Louis's ward in particular on Hatfield Road.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the Meeting at 7.20 p.m.

Councillor P. Barlow
Chairman

GK/SP/15.10.2024