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MINUTES

PLANNING AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Date: **Tuesday, 11th June 2024**

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

Present: Councillors

P.	Barlow	(Chairman)
E.	Adelaja	Arrived 19:05
L.	Headley	
T.	Hewitt	
J.	Martin	
A.	Sloma	
G.	Kennedy	(Planning Officer)
S.	Puckey	(Open Spaces Admin Assist.)

And one member of the public was present.

16. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J.C. Coleman, J.M. Coleman, R Ramage and E Williams.

RESOLVED That the apologies be received and approved.

17. MINUTES

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning and Transport Committee held 28th May 2024 be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

18. INTERESTS

Councillor T. Hewitt declared a non-pecuniary interest at Minute 26 – Tackling Speeding, as he lives in one of the areas included in the speed surveys.

19. QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

The member of the public explained that he attended the meeting as he was concerned about excessive speeding on Hatfield Road and the amount of traffic and subsequent speeding on Maltings Lane eastbound to turn left on to Hatfield Road when Gershwin Boulevard is a better route.

The member of the public was advised that a meeting had been held with County Councillor Derrick Louis to discuss the issue and that an up-to-date speed survey was required.

20. PLANNING OFFICER'S REPORT

The Planning Officer explained that she had received notification from Essex County Council that application ESS/42/23/BTE – Colemans Farm Quarry Processing Plant, for the relocation of plant site which included the use of a field conveyor over Braxted Road, had been refused.

She had confirmed that the petition against the proposal to charge for parking in Newland Street would be taken to the North Essex Parking Partnership Meeting which had now been deferred to July 2024. She suggested that a Member might wish to attend this Meeting once details are confirmed.

Cllr A Sloma left the Chamber at 18:39 and returned at 18:41

RESOLVED That the report be received and noted.

21. PART 1 APPLICATIONS

24/01073/ADV

Colemans Bridge Industrial Estate, Colemans Bridge, Witham
Retention of display of non –illuminated 48 sheet panel advertisement

NO OBJECTION

24/01108/HH

10 Shelley Gardens, Witham
Single storey rear extension

NO OBJECTION

24/00903/HH

38 and 37 Yare Avenue, Witham
Single storey front porches

NO OBJECTION

22. PART 2 APPLICATIONS

24/01060/ADV

Bus Shelter Opposite The Cherry Tree, Cressing Road, Witham
Double-sided digital displays to replace existing double-sided internally illuminated 6 sheet Bus Shelter advertising displays. Digital displays to portray static advertising images that change every 10 seconds

The Planning Officer advised Members that the National Planning Policy Framework 2023 states that there should be no displays where

road safety was an issue. Members were further informed that the site of the proposed bus shelter with digital display was in a layby directly next to an approach to a zebra crossing and could potentially be a distraction to drivers.

RECOMMEND REFUSAL on safety grounds due to the close proximity of a pedestrian crossing.

24/01059/ADV

Bus Shelter Outside Templars School, Cressing Road, Witham

Double-sided digital displays to replace existing double-sided internally illuminated 6 sheet Bus Shelter advertising displays. Digital displays to portray static advertising images that change every 10 seconds

The Planning Officer informed Members that the location was in close proximity to Templars school and suggested that the display should not operate during school times. Members expressed safety concerns at the location and the potential to advertise to children.

Cllr Hewitt left the Chamber at 18:47 and returned at 18:49.

NO OBJECTION Subject to the display not operating during school drop off and pick up times.

24/01061/ADV

Bus Shelter Outside Shortridge Court, Hatfield Road, Witham

Double-sided digital displays to replace existing double-sided internally illuminated 6 sheet Bus Shelter advertising displays. Digital displays to portray static advertising images that change every 10 seconds

The Planning Officer informed Members that the location was near to the end of zig-zag markings to a pedestrian crossing and could be a distraction to drivers. Some Members expressed concerns about safety but on balance it was agreed to offer no objection.

NO OBJECTION

23. REVISED PLANS

There were no revised plans.

24. DECISIONS

The decisions on Planning Applications pertaining to Witham were received.

RESOLVED That the decisions be received and noted.

25. THE GREAT GRID UPDATE

A report was received and the Planning Officer explained that the consultation had been extended to Friday, 26th July 2024 to allow further time to respond and provide feedback after the General Election.

RESOLVED That the matter be deferred until the next meeting when more Members would be present.

26. TACKLING SPEEDING IN WITHAM/20s PLENTY

A report detailing salient points from speed surveys was received.

Members were advised that choosing suitable positions for the movable solar powered speed indicator devices would take time as there were detailed criteria which had to be met and up-to-date speed surveys would be required. Members were further informed that LHP funding may be possible but this would increase the implementation timeframe significantly.

Members were informed that Essex County Council had no objection to the concept of 20s plenty on the proposed housing estates and would check on the level of acceptance required by residence from a consultation process.

Cllr Adelaja entered the Chamber at 7:05pm

RESOLVED That the details be received and noted.

27. BRAINTREE DISTRICT COUNCIL'S LOCAL PLAN

A report was received.

Members stressed the importance of new housing being located so that road connectivity to the A12 avoided Witham town centre which was already constrained by traffic. It was noted that Witham's Neighbourhood Plan would address this.

RESOLVED That the details be received and noted.

28. LOCAL HIGHWAYS PANEL

An extract from the Local Highways Panel Meeting held 29th April 2024 was received.

The Planning Officer drew Members' attention to the item on bus shelters which was on hold until the conclusion of the county-wide survey yet it would appear that a contractor had now been appointed. She had contacted the relevant County Councillor requesting information about the Braintree Road mini-roundabout.

RESOLVED That the details be received and noted.

RESOLVED That further information be obtained about the status of the county-wide bus shelter survey and the reasoning behind the Braintree Road mini-roundabout improvements not progressing.

29. INVITATION TO ATTEND GRID SERVE IN BRAINTREE

An invitation to attend the Grid Serve Electric Forecourt facility in Braintree was received.

Members were interested in the invitation.

RESOLVED That the details be received and noted

RESOLVED That the invitation be accepted and expressions of interest in attending a group visit be sent in writing to the Planning Officer.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the Meeting at 7:18 p.m.

Councillor P. Barlow
Chairman

GK/SP/13.6.2024