



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

PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Date: **Monday, 20th September 2021**

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

Present: Councillors

J.	Goodman	(Chairman)
A.	Kilmartin	(Vice Chairman)
P.	Barlow	
C.	Jay	
C.	Lager	
M.	Lager	
C.	Livermore	
S.	Rajeev	

Also in attendance: Cllr.

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

And two members of the public.

107. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Atwill due to travel abroad and Councillor Hicks who had a District Council Meeting.

RESOLVED That the apologies be received and accepted.

108. MINUTES

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning Applications and Transport Committee held 6th September 2021 be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

109. INTERESTS

Councillors C and M Lager declared non-pecuniary interests in application 21/02571/HH – Littlefields, 41 Chipping Hill, Witham as they are neighbours to the applicant.

Councillor Kilmartin declared a non-pecuniary interest in application 21/02450/FUL – Old Ivy Chimneys, Witham as a constituent had contacted her in relation to adverse land possession.

Councillor Jay declared a non-pecuniary interest in application 21/02522/FUL – 26 Evans Way, Witham as she lives in the neighbouring property.

110. QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Mr Green wished to speak about application 21/02450/FUL – Old Ivy Chimneys, Witham. He said that he hoped the hawthorn hedge bordering Hatfield Road would be retained as detailed in the previous application. He was concerned about trees on the site and the extra traffic that would be generated in this area with too many junctions onto Hatfield Road.

Mr Palombi also spoke about application 21/02450/FUL – Old Ivy Chimneys, Witham. He was concerned about the loss of affordable housing element on the development. He considered a Freedom of Information request should be made of Braintree District Council concerning the number of houses built and people on the waiting list for homes. He was also concerned about the removal of the sycamore tree just because of over-shadowing of gardens.

The Chairman thanked Mr Green and Mr Palombi for their comments. He explained that the Council could not institute FOI requests and Mr Palombi said that he would do this himself.

111. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

There was nothing to report.

112. PART 1 APPLICATIONS

21/02730/HH

97, Chelmer Road, Witham
Single Storey side extension

NO OBJECTION

21/02724/HH

8 Lifchild Close, Witham
Single storey rear extension and single storey front extension

NO OBJECTION

113. PART 2 APPLICATIONS

21/02571/HH

Littlefields, 41 Chipping Hill, Witham
Replacement porch and repairs to exterior render

Councillors C. and M. Lager had declared interests.

It was explained that this application had been considered in Part 1 of the previous Meeting and had been inadvertently included in the Agenda for this Meeting.

Members agreed that as this dwelling was in a Conservation Area the decision to offer no objection should be expanded to include subject to the views of the Historic Buildings Officer.

NO OBJECTION subject to the advice of the Historic Buildings Officer being satisfied with materials.

21/02493/HH

17 Armiger Way, Witham

Erection of boundary fence

Concern was expressed that the removal of the hedge would affect both amenity and street scene.

Members discussed the overgrown nature of Chess Lane which was adjacent to the boundary and were informed that the Operations Team would carry out works as part of the devolution scheme. Members considered that Essex County Council should also be asked to make contact with the householder to ensure that overhanging branches and vegetation from their property was removed.

RECOMMEND REFUSAL on the grounds of adverse impact on amenity and street scene contrary to LPP29g.

RESOLVED That Essex County Council be asked to contact the householder to ensure that all overhanging branches and vegetation from their property which encroached on Chess Lane was removed, and Essex County Councillor Playle be informed.

21/02450/FUL

Old Ivy Chimneys, Witham

Erection of 11 dwelling houses and associated development

Councillor Kilmartin had declared an interest.

Members considered this to be a poor application with no details in regard to compliance with parking standards, garden size, refuse storage and collection, street lighting and treatment of trees. All new homes should now comply with SP6d in relation to digital connectivity. Members considered that the mature sycamore should be retained and the replacement trees should be mature and properly maintained.

RECOMMEND REFUSAL on the grounds of lack of information regarding parking standards, garden size, refuse storage/collection and street lighting contrary to LPP 46 of the emerging Local Plan; the need to comply with SP6d, digital connectivity; and treatment of trees/hedges, that the mature sycamore tree should be retained and replacement trees be mature and properly maintained.

RESOLVED That information be sought regarding current affordable housing provision.

21/02511/FUL

26 Evans Way, Witham

Retrospective change of use to C3 residential curtilage, demolition of brick wall and erection of fence

Councillor Jay had declared an interest.

Members considered that in this instance, the application should be allowed.

NO OBJECTION

21/02368/HH

93 Holst Avenue, Witham

Installation of garage doors for 2 car ports

Members agreed that garage doors would improve the street scene.

NO OBJECTION

114. REVISED PLANS

21/00249/REM

Land adjacent to Lodge Farm

Members spoke about the need to encourage cycling and that there should be connectivity with the adjacent Woodend Farm development so residents could cycle into the town centre and to the railway station. This matter had been discussed previously and the Town Clerk explained that necessary, lengthy steps had to be taken first before the District Council could be asked to compulsorily purchase the ransom strip between the two estates.

RECOMMEND REFUSAL until there is an assurance from Braintree District Council that rubbish and recycling would be collected from adjacent to all homes, that there would be an adequate cycle path connection to Woodend Farm and an assurance that LPP77 would be applied with regard to renewable energy.

115. DECISIONS

The decisions on Planning Applications pertaining to Witham were received.

RESOLVED That the decisions be received and noted.

116. STREET NAMING

Members were asked to consider appropriate street names for the new development off Conrad Road. It was agreed that as there had been a community orchard near this development it would be appropriate to name the streets after types of English apples and pears.

RESOLVED That the streets be named after English apples and pears.

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

Councillor J Goodman
Chairman

GK/21.9.2021