



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

## AGENDA

Meeting of: **Planning & Transport Committee**

Date: **Tuesday, 11th June 2024** Time: **6.30 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: Councillors -

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nikki Smith".

Nikki Smith  
Town Clerk  
GK/4.6.2024

**1. APOLOGIES**

To receive and approve apologies for absence.

**2. MINUTES**

To receive the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning & Transport Committee held 28th May 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. PLANNING OFFICER'S REPORT**

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

**6. PART 1 APPLICATIONS**

To approve officer 'no objection' recommendations for applications listed under [Part 1](#) without debate. *Applications may be moved to Part 2 where Members are in disagreement with recommendations by giving 24 hours' notice to the Planning Officer.*

**7. PART 2 APPLICATIONS**

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

**8. REVISED PLANS**

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

**9. DECISIONS**

To receive and note decisions on planning applications pertaining to Witham which have been received from Braintree District Council ([attached](#) at page 8).

**10. THE GREAT GRID UPDATE**

To receive a report and to consider the Town Council's response ([attached](#) at page 10).

**11. TACKLING SPEEDING IN WITHAM/20s PLENTY**

To receive a report regarding the speed surveys received at the last Meeting ([attached](#) at page 12).

**12. BRAINTREE DISTRICT COUNCIL'S LOCAL PLAN**

To receive a report ([attached](#) at page 13).

**13. LOCAL HIGHWAYS PANEL**

To receive an extract from the Local Highways Panel Meeting held 29th April 2024 ([attached](#) at page 14).

**14. INVITATION TO ATTEND GRID SERVE IN BRAINTREE**

To receive an invitation to attend the Grid Serve Electric Forecourt facility in Braintree ([attached](#) at page 16).

**PART 1**  
**APPLICATIONS WITH OFFICER ‘NO OBJECTION’**  
**RECOMMENDATIONS TO BE CONSIDERED “EN BLOC” WITHOUT**  
**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](http://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.

24/01073/ADV	Colemans Bridge Industrial Estate, Colemans Bridge, Witham	Central	Retention of display of non-illuminated 48-sheet panel advertisement
24/01108/HH	10 Shelley Gardens, Witham, Essex	North	Single storey rear conservatory
24/00903/HH	38 And 37 Yare Avenue, Witham, Essex	West	Single storey front porches

## 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](http://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.

24/01060/ADV	Bus Shelter Opposite The Cherry Tree, Cressing Road, Witham	North	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
24/01059/ADV	Bus Shelter Outside Templars School, Cressing Road, Witham	North	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
24/01061/ADV	Bus Shelter 25020052 Outside Shortridge Court, Hatfield Road, Witham	Hatfield	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

## Witham Town Council – Planning Application Report

**Application No:-** 24/01060/ADV

**Address:-** Bus Shelter Opposite The Cherry Tree, Cressing Road, Witham

**Ward:-** North

**Proposal:-** 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

**Relevant Site History:-**

**Representations:-**

**Summary:-** Clear Channel has won the contract for the provision of bus shelters in Essex. New bus shelters do not require planning permission but advertising does. There will be a refurbishment programme for bus shelters not replaced, a comprehensive and fortnightly inspection, cleaning and maintenance for all bus shelters delivered by a locally based team. Every bus shelter, subject to an advertisement application for digital display, will be changed to a new or replacement shelter. The shelter will be 4.3m long, height of 2.7m and 1.6m wide. The display panel will be 1.6m high and 0.9m wide.

**Recommendation:-** The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2023 states inter alia that advertisements should be subject to control only in the interests of amenity and public safety, taking account of cumulative impacts. This bus shelter would not impact on any feature of historic, architectural, cultural or similar interest. It is not in a Conservation Area. Between midnight and 5 a.m. the displays would be turned off. The level of display luminance will adjust automatically to ambient light levels, i.e. in the dark the displays are not so bright. There should be no displays where road safety is likely to be a problem such as junctions, roundabouts, pedestrian crossings, etc. There should be no moving images, animation or full motion images displayed. The advertisements should not change more frequently than every five seconds. From the photograph contained in the application it will be seen that the bus shelter is in a layby on the approach to a zebra crossing and on checking Google Maps it will be seen as very close. I therefore think it would be a distraction to drivers if there would be changing digital displays at this location. I therefore recommend refusal on those grounds.

**Policy References:-** Contrary to the National Planning Framework

## Witham Town Council – Planning Application Report

**Application No:-** 24/01059/ADV

**Address:-** Bus Shelter Outside Templars School, Cressing Road, Witham

**Ward:-** North

**Proposal:-** 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.

**Relevant Site History:-**

**Representations:-**

**Summary:-** Clear Channel has won the contract for the provision of bus shelters in Essex. New bus shelters do not require planning permission but advertising does. There will be a refurbishment programme for bus shelters not replaced, a comprehensive and fortnightly inspection, cleaning and maintenance for all bus shelters delivered by a locally based team. Every bus shelter, subject to an advertisement application for digital display, will be changed to a new or replacement shelter. The shelter will be 4.3m long, height of 2.7m and 1.6m wide. The display panel will be 1.6m high and 0.9m wide.

**Recommendation:-** The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2023 states inter alia that advertisements should be subject to control only in the interests of amenity and public safety, taking account of cumulative impacts. This bus shelter would not impact on any feature of historic, architectural, cultural or similar interest. It is not in a Conservation Area. Between midnight and 5 a.m. the displays would be turned off. The level of display luminance will adjust automatically to ambient light levels, i.e. in the dark the displays are not so bright. There should be no displays where road safety is likely to be a problem such as junctions, roundabouts, pedestrian crossings, etc. There should be no moving images, animation or full motion images displayed. The advertisements should not change more frequently than every five seconds. This bus shelter is directly outside Templars School and the display could be a distraction to motorists particularly during school times. There would be technology to switch off the changing display element and therefore I would suggest no objection subject to the changing display element being switched off during school times.

## Witham Town Council – Planning Application Report

**Application No:-** 24/01061/ADV

**Address:-** Bus Shelter 25020052 Outside Shortridge Court, Hatfield Road, Witham

**Ward:-** Hatfield

**Proposal:-** 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

**Relevant Site History:-**

**Representations:-**

**Summary:-** Clear Channel has won the contract for the provision of bus shelters in Essex. New bus shelters do not require planning permission but advertising does. There will be a refurbishment programme for bus shelters not replaced, a comprehensive and fortnightly inspection, cleaning and maintenance for all bus shelters delivered by a locally based team. Every bus shelter subject to an advertisement application for digital display will be changed to a new or replacement shelter. The shelter will be 4.3m long, height of 2.7m and 1.6m wide. The display panel will be 1.6m high and 0.9m wide.

**Recommendation:-** The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2023 states inter alia that advertisements should be subject to control only in the interests of amenity and public safety, taking account of cumulative impacts. This bus shelter would not impact on any feature of historic, architectural, cultural or similar interest. It is not in a Conservation Area. Between midnight and 5 a.m. the displays would be turned off. The level of display luminance will adjust automatically to ambient light levels, i.e. in the dark the displays are not so bright. There should be no displays where road safety is likely to be a problem such as junctions, roundabouts, pedestrian crossings, etc. There should be no moving images, animation or full motion images displayed. The advertisements should not change more frequently than every five seconds. From the photograph contained in the application I noticed the end of zig-zag lines so checked on Google Maps to see the distance involved. I would suggest refusal on the grounds of the close proximity to the pedestrian crossing.

**Policy References:-** Contrary to the National Planning Framework

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Application & Address	Proposal	BDC Decision	WTC Decision	Agenda Item 9
24/00579/VAR - Unit 7 Cullen Mill 49 Braintree Road Witham Essex CM8 2DD	Variation of condition 2 (Approved plans) of approved application 23/02244/COUPA Date of Decision: 20/10/2023 for: Application to determine if prior approval is required for a proposed: Change of use from Commercial, Business and Service (Use Class E) to 12No. Dwellinghouse (Use Class C3). Variation would allow change to the external walls and roof materials	Application Permitted	No objection	
23/02990/HH - 5 Witham Lodge Witham Essex CM8 1HG	Proposed two storey rear extension, ground floor extension and porch to front elevation, rendered finish to all facades. Resurfacing of drive from loose gravel to block paving, including the widening of access. The installation of solar panels to the south-eastern roof slope. Replacement roof & alterations to pool building.	Application Permitted	No objection	



24/00821/TPOCON - 14 Guithavon Street Witham Essex CM8 1BN	Notice of intent to carry out works to trees in a Conservation Area: 2No. Conifers - Fell	Application Permitted	Recommended refusal to allow felling of the tree but to offer no objection to the trees being cut back to allow headroom of the required height of 2.1m and subject to the advice of the District Council's Landscape Officer.
24/00779/TPOCON - Walnut House Collingwood Road Witham Essex CM8 2DY	Notice of intent to carry out works to trees in a Conservation Area: T1 - Walnut - Crown reduce by 2.5 Metres & shape	Application Permitted	Recommended refusal on the grounds that crown reduction of 2.5m would be excessive but there would be no objection to a reduction of 1.5m and subject to the advice of the District Council's Landscape Officer.
24/00505/LBC - 54A Church Street Witham Essex CM8 2JH	Single storey rear extension, raising of existing flat roof by 250mm , re-construction of existing brick wall facing Public Footpath, additional roof light and new boiler flue	Application Permitted	No objection
24/00504/HH - 54A Church Street Witham Essex CM8 2JH	Single storey rear extension, raising of existing flat roof by 250mm , re-construction of existing brick wall facing Public Footpath, additional roof light and new boiler flue	Application Permitted	No objection subject to the Listed Buildings Officer being satisfied with the design and materials.
24/00277/TPO - Communal Area Whitehall Court Newland Street Witham Essex CM8 2AW	Notice of intent to carry out works to trees protected by Tree Preservation Order TPO - 26/90 T8 T1 Mulberry - Crown reduce by up to 2m and general tree maintenance to safeguard future life of tree	Application Refused	Recommended refusal on the grounds that a two metre reduction would be excessive and a one metre reduction would be appropriate and subject to the advice of the District Council's Landscape Officer.

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Agenda Item 10

**The Great Grid Upgrade – Norwich to Tilbury**

On Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> May 2024 there was a public consultation regarding the above.

The new infrastructure will run north of Witham between Silver End and Rivenhall crossing the Crossing Road and go between White Notley and Faulkbourne. The reason why this new infrastructure will be required by 2030 is that the off-shore wind turbines will be operational and if not NG will have to pay compensation to the power generator.

We took the opportunity to ask a representative a number of pertinent questions.

Rivenhall Incinerator

We asked whether Nation Grid (NG) were aware of the incinerator at Rivenhall and the potential for electricity generation.

Apparently they are aware. It was explained that NG keep abreast of new sources of electricity generation and will need to provide the infrastructure to get the power on line.

It confirmed that they are responsible for taking electricity to where it is needed and not responsible for generation of electricity.

Underground Cables

We asked about underground cables and the swathes of land that would be disrupted when the cables are buried. They would need to be one metre deep and separated from each other hence the wide trench that would be required.

Off-shore Cables

This has been mooted as a compromise but of course it would disrupt the bio-diversity of the sea bed. When asked it was explained that for every on-shore cable, three would be required off shore. Six new 'sub-stations' would be required along the shore line plus pylons to bring the power to its required location.

Existing Network

There are existing cables running to the north of Witham but apparently low wattage on poles rather than pylons. It would appear from maps that these would be decommissioned and new pylons installed.

Traffic generation

When this item first came up for discussion, a member of the public complained about disruption which would be caused by the additional traffic during the construction stage. We were assured that every effort would be taken to reduce disruption. The cabling would be done in sections, rather like the A12 widening, and that local conditions would be taken into consideration. Page 46 and 47 of the Project Background Document gives details of the construction.

### Compensation

We asked too about whether local authorities would be able to obtain financial assistance to improve facilities for those who will be affected by this scheme and this would be available.

### Health issues

In the past there had been lots of concerns about the possible harm caused by overhead cables. We were assured that whilst there is no evidence to support this, the NG try to route its cables away from the population.

### Need for Electricity

We must remember that in Witham it was necessary to build a gas turbine at Cut Throat Lane to augment electricity supply in the town. We will need this clean electricity which will come from the wind turbines in the North Sea.

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**Officer Report: Witham Speed Survey Summary**

**Flora Road – Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2021 to Monday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2021**

A 7-day automatic traffic count on Flora Rd, Witham, commencing Tue 15 Jun 2021, recorded a total of 53,853 vehicles seasonally adjusted, combined AADT (annual average daily traffic) value is 7,847. The posted speed limit of 30mph was exceeded by 74.6% of vehicles, and the lowest 24hr volumes were recorded on the Sunday, whilst the highest was on the Friday. The peak average north westbound daytime speed was 41mph at 08:30 on Sun 20 Jun, whilst the peak average south eastbound speed was 36.4mph at 08:30 on Sun 20 Jun (based on 15min averages between 0700 & 1900).

**Hatfield Road 1 – Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2022 to Monday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2022**

A 7-day automatic traffic count on B1389 Hatfield Rd (S), Witham, commencing Tue 25 Jan 2022, recorded a total of 134,808 vehicles the seasonally adjusted, combined AADT value is 21,925. The posted speed limit of 40mph was exceeded by 3.0% of vehicles, and the lowest 24hr volumes were recorded on the Sunday, whilst the highest was on the Friday. The peak average north eastbound daytime speed was 36.9mph at 08:00 on Sun 30 Jan, whilst the peak average south westbound speed was 35mph at 07:45 on Sun 30 Jan (based on 15min averages between 0700 & 1900).

**Hatfield Road 1 – Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2022 to Monday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2022**

A 7-day automatic traffic count on B1389 Hatfield Rd (N), Witham, commencing Tue 25 Jan 2022, recorded a total of 108,881 vehicles. The posted speed limit of 30mph was exceeded by 72.8% of vehicles, and the seasonally adjusted, combined AADT value is 17,726. The lowest 24hr volumes were recorded on the Sunday, whilst the highest was on the Friday. The peak average north eastbound daytime speed was 38.2mph at 08:00 on Sun 30 Jan, whilst the peak average south westbound speed was 38.1mph at 07:15 on Sun 30 Jan (based on 15min averages between 0700 & 1900).

**Humber Road – Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2024 to Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2024**

A 7-day automatic traffic count on Humber Rd, Witham, commencing Sat 20 Apr 2024, recorded a total of 10,801 vehicles. The posted speed limit of 30mph was exceeded by 17.3% of vehicles, and the seasonally adjusted, combined AADT value is 1,594. The lowest 24hr volumes were recorded on the Sunday, whilst the highest was on the Friday. The peak eastbound daytime speed was 32.6mph at 15:15 on Thu 25 Apr, whilst the peak westbound speed was 29.2mph at 14:45 on Tue 23 Apr (based on 15min averages between 0700 & 1900).

**Maltings Lane 1 – Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2022 to Friday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

A 7-day automatic traffic count on Maltings Ln (W), Witham, commencing Sat 10 Sep 2022, recorded a total of 49,511 vehicles. The posted speed limit of 30mph was exceeded by 17.9% of vehicles, and the seasonally adjusted, combined AADT value is 7,013. The lowest 24hr volumes were recorded on the Sunday, whilst the highest was on the Friday. The peak average eastbound daytime speed was 29.7mph at 07:45 on Sun 11 Sep, whilst the peak average westbound speed was 30.7mph at 08:00 on Sat 10 Sep (based on 15min averages between 0700 & 1900).

**Maltings Lane 1 – Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2022 to Friday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

A 7-day automatic traffic count on Maltings Ln (E), Witham, commencing Sat 10 Sep 2022, recorded a total of 47,050 vehicles. The posted speed limit of 30mph was exceeded by 18.1% of vehicles, and the seasonally adjusted, combined AADT value is 6,675. The lowest 24hr volumes were recorded on the Sunday, whilst the highest was on the Friday. The peak average eastbound daytime speed was 31.5mph at 07:00 on Sat 10 Sep, whilst the peak average westbound speed was 29.3mph at 07:00 on Sat 10 Sep (based on 15min averages between 0700 & 1900).

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Agenda Item 12

Review of Adopted Local Plan – Minute 275 from Meeting held 29<sup>th</sup> April 2024.

A letter was received from Braintree District Council with a ‘call for sites’. In receiving the details Members discussed what they would wish to see for the town in the future as it was recognised that no growth was not an option. At this stage it would not be appropriate to comment to the District Council but comments could be incorporated into the Neighbourhood Plan (NP).

The importance of infrastructure was stressed. Members were aware that ‘tacking’ on housing estates would affect highways and the suggestion was made that a purposely built area would be better and this could be developed through the NP.

Members thought that there was scope to build new housing once the A12 widening scheme was completed.

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Agenda Item 13

**Extract from the Braintree Local Highways Panel Minutes held 29<sup>th</sup> April 2024**

Outstanding Funded Schemes 2023 – 2024

Hatfield Road – to upgrade the existing pedestrian refuge to a signalised crossing – design is almost finalised – awaiting updated cost. Allocated budget - £32,500.

Rickstones Road – Zebra crossing – Design complete awaiting target costing for delivery.

Chipping Hill Bridge – replace old signage with illuminated ones and reposition to make them more visible – scheme has been designed but could not be delivered due to late commission. Estimated cost £8,000 recommended for approval.

Braintree Road – bus stop improvements – Design complete – implementation estimate £15,000 – now awaiting Chairman’s Panel for consideration.

Schemes awaiting funding

Guithavon Street – requested contraflow route and signage for cyclists – a feasibility study should be carried out as to whether the road is suitable for an advisory cycle lane. Estimated cost £10,000 – recommended to Chairman’s Panel.

Maldon Road – Speed reduction – no indication of speeding vehicles – no speed limit reduction proposed.

HGV routes in Witham – on hold.

Rickstones Road – safety measures – speed reduction – good compliance no scheme recommended.

Cut Throat Lane – awaiting speed survey.

Hatfield Road – Speeding – awaiting speed survey.

Colchester Road – 30 mph reminder – speed survey scheduled

Conrad Road – parking restrictions – Feasibility recommends no waiting at any time restrictions throughout Conrad Road. Estimated cost £7,500 – awaiting Chairman’s Panel.

Flora Road – Speed reduction measures – speed survey shows good compliance – scheme not to progress.

Bus shelters – Newland Street, Spa Road, Maldon Road and Hatfield Road – all on hold until the conclusion of county-wide survey.

Funded Schemes

LBRA 192062 – Improvements to mini-roundabout – Braintree Road – Councillor Playle did not support this scheme particularly regarding costs – agreed not to progress.

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Agenda Item 14

Hi,

I work at the GRIDSERVE Electric Forecourt® in Braintree, we are a world first facility where the general public can not only charge electric vehicles but learn about the future of transport too. For the last few years we have offered free site tours and test drives to the public and educational visits for local schools / groups, something we take great pride in doing.

Now we are on a mission to reach out into our local community more to connect with people who might not have been here before and also enable them to experience what we do and the world of electric first hand. We'd love to invite your parish council to site for a personal site tour with our experts and even try out a few EVs as well!

If this is something you'd be interested in, let me know and I would be happy to book you in. I look forward to hearing from you!

Kind Regards

Declan McLaughlin | [Gridserve Guru, Braintree Electric Forecourt®](#) | GRIDSERVE®

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