5th February 2019

Minutes of the proceedings of the PLANNING & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE meeting held on this day in the Council Chambers, Town Hall, Wokingham from 19:30 to 21:20.

PRESENT
Chairman: Cllr A Waters
Councillors: Cllr I Shepherd-Dubey, Cllr A Drake, Cllr M Richards, Cllr C George, Cllr N Campbell-White, Cllr K Morgan and Cllr T Lack.

IN ATTENDANCE
Technical Officer – Miles Thorne

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda Item 1)
Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr M Ashwell.

MEMBERS’ INTERESTS (Agenda Item 2)
Cllr M Richards made it known that he would not be voting on Planning matters.

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL OR PUBLIC
(Agenda Item 3)
None received.

PLANNING & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MINUTES (Agenda Item 4)
It was proposed by the Chairman and seconded by Cllr A Drake and it was that the Minutes of the Planning & Transportation Committee meeting held on 11th December 2018 (pages 15721 to 15724) be received as a true and correct record and that they be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

ATTENDANCE (Agenda Item 5)
To receive and consider absence from Cllr A Waters and Cllr M Ashwell from three consecutive meetings.

Cllr Waters apologised for his absence. He stated that this was because of unavoidable work commitments which meant he was out of the country for a period and unable to attend.

Cllr Ashwell was not at the meeting (apologies had been received) but Cllr Waters had spoken to him and Cllr Ashwell had explained that unavoidable work commitments had affected his attendance.

The other members of the P&T Committee accepted both apologies from Cllr Waters and Cllr Ashwell.
MONITORING REPORT (Agenda Item 6)
The Monitoring Report dated 30th January 2019 was received and considered.

Bell Foundry Lane
Surface water issue.

The Chairman stated that he was unable to contact and discuss with Stuart Munro as he is currently out of the country. He will discuss this issue with Group leader Cllr Julian McGhee-Sumner and update the Committee in next meeting.

Taxi Rank in Broad Street
Change of use of Taxi Rank at 22 Broad Street for public parking limited waiting.

Following the latest WBC response that this is not something that would be considered in isolation the Chairman will contact and discuss with Group leader Cllr Julian McGhee-Sumner.

ACTION: CHAIRMAN

TOWN CENTRE REGENERATION (Agenda Item 7)

Councillors would like an update, when available, from Cllr Mirfin on likely dates of occupancy at Peach Place and what businesses these will be, recognising that he did give an update at last full council meeting.

Cllr George raised the issue of poor street lighting on Peach Street since the regeneration. The lights do not seem as bright and make it difficult for pedestrians.

ACTION: P&T OFFICER & TOWN CLERK

HIGHWAYS MANAGEMENT IN TOWN CENTRE (Agenda Item 8)

Cllr George raised the issue of serious traffic congestion in Town Centre with dual road works at Shute End and Rose Street. There is no two way contraflow as there has been previously when similar works have taken place. There doesn’t seem to be any co-ordination of these works. The Chairman has asked that this be taken up with WBC.

Councilors are awaiting the outcome of TRO consultation to hear WBC response to the dropping off zone by Boots regarding time of stay being increased as previously proposed. Also to the request for demarcation of Disabled parking bays and signage for disabled parking.

ACTION: P&T OFFICER & TOWN CLERK

PATH FROM ST PAULS GATE TO JUNCTION WITH MOUNT PLEASANT END WHERE IT EXITS THE RAILWAY FOOTBRIDGE (Agenda Item 9)

Cllr Lack presented a video of the pathway and exit through wall to St Paul's gate. The exit used by pedestrians is dangerous because of a crumbling wall and the width needs to be widened to allow safe passage for Buggies and wheelchair access. It is proposed that these repairs and works are carried out. This will be put forward to WBC highways.
RESOLVED 29882

LOCAL PLAN UPDATE (Agenda Item 10)

The Chairman and Cllr Campbell-white will jointly formulate a proposal as to where the P&T Committee stand on the Local Plan and the proposed development in Wokingham Town. This will reviewed by P&T Committee members before being presented to WBC.

Once this proposal is formulated the Chairman will organize a meeting with group leader, Cllr McGhee-Sumner to discuss and look for a joint proposal between WTC and WBC.

Cllr Campbell-White urged Committee members to complete the online response form to the Local Plan in an individual capacity.

Committee members would send lists of sites where they have objection and the objection reasons to the P&T Officer to collate.

ACTION: CHAIRMAN & CLLR N CAMPBELL-WHITE

PARKING ON PAVEMENTS IN EMBBROOK AREA (Agenda Item 11)

Cllr Morgan stated the issue of cars parking across pavements preventing pedestrian access. This included photographic evidence. This practice is a safety issue and is also breaking the law. This is not just an Emmbrook area issue but across Wokingham Town.

A proposal was for this illegal parking to be monitored and policed by CPE. A CPE officer supplied with vehicle such as a Golf buggy or scooter should be provided to deal with this issue.

WBC will be contacted initially with proposal and evidence.

ACTION: P&T OFFICER

COMMITTEE’S BUDGET (Agenda Item 12)

A report on the Committee’s budget as of 31st December 2018 was received and noted.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS (Agenda Item 13)

The following applications were received and considered and it was that the Committee would make comment as shown.

183527 Mowacre, Southlands Road

Full application for the proposed erection of Two 4 bed dwellings following demolition of existing dwelling.

No Comments
183553 Land to the rear of 39 & 41 Lowther Road

Full planning application for proposed erection of a 1no 4 bedroom dwelling with new access driveway.

Objection on grounds of scale and massing.

183554 Land to the rear of 39 & 41 Lowther Road

Full planning application for proposed erection of a 1no 4 bedroom dwelling with new access driveway.

Objection on grounds of scale and massing.

190102 118 Evendons Lane

Householder application for the proposed erection of a single storey front extension, two storey side extension with part two storey rear and part single storey rear extensions with changes to fenestration and internal walls.

Objection on grounds of scale and massing, overdevelopment.

190205 Mulberry House 2 Carey Road

Application to vary condition 2 of planning consent 181746 dated 16/11/18 for the erection of a 2.5 storey extension to the existing building to create 5no residential units with shared amenity area and refuse store.

No objections but would like comments addressed;

Cannot see pavement (pedestrian access) on plan.
Overall plans are not that clear.

ACTION: P&T OFFICER

INFORMATION ITEMS (Agenda Item 14)

Cllr Shepherd-Dubey requested an Agenda item for next P&T Meeting – Community Bus Stop.

The Chairman requested an Agenda Item for next meeting – Uber Taxis in Wokingham Town.

ACTION: P&T OFFICER