12th November 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 I Shepherd-Dubey
Councillors: Cllr P Dennis, Cllr N Fox, Cllr T Lack, Cllr K Malvern, Cllr A Tebboth and Cllr M Fumagalli

IN ATTENDANCE
Technical Officer (P&T Officer) – Miles Thorne
Elijah Williams – Student.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda Item 1)
Cllr D Hinton
Cllr A Mather

MEMBERS’ INTERests (Agenda Item 2)
There were no Members’ interests stated.

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

PLANNING & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MINUTES (Agenda Item 4)
It was proposed by the Cllr Dennis and seconded by Cllr Fox and it was that the Minutes of the Planning & Transportation Committee meeting held on 10th October 2019 (pages 15934 to 15938) be received as a true and correct record and that they be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

MONITORING REPORT (Agenda Item 5)
The Monitoring Report dated 06th November 2019 was received and considered.

WOKINGHAM TOWN NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN
At last meeting (October) Cllr Lack was going to investigate Neighbourhood Plans that had been executed and report back to the Committee.

Cllr Lack presented his findings on his investigations into neighbouring Councils and Parishes that have made decisions on creating a neighbourhood plan or not. He has discovered that the Plan can be directed at a particular area within a Town boundary or Parish. The estimated cost varied but in one instance it was equivalent to half an officer’s time for up to two years.

Cllr Fumagalli had investigated the plans and was interested in finding out more regarding our options. It was decided by the Committee that this should be kept on the Monitoring Report and a visit with Stratford Mortimer Council and/or
RESOLVED

Wokingham Without to discuss their approach and plan would be instigated. Cllr Lack will make initial contact and P&T Officer would arrange meetings. These meetings would then be attended by Cllr Lack and Cllr Fumagalli.

ACTION: P&T OFFICER, CLLR LACK AND CLLR FUMAGALLI

ADDING FLOWER DISPLAYS TO OUR BUS SHELTER ROOFS (Agenda Item 6)
For the Committee to discuss whether we can add flower displays to our existing Bus Shelters (documents attached).

Cllr Lack presented his findings on potential costings of applying a seedum blanket to our Bus Shelter Roofs. An estimate for one to include the cost of the seedum blanket, the sides to contain it and the construction cost would be about £450. There would possibly be further costs regarding coning of area and abiding with health and safety regulations.

The P&T officer stated that not all the Bus Shelters were constructed in a way that can have these seedum blankets. There are a maximum of 10 Bus Shelters that could hold a seedum blanket.

The P&T Officer stated that as this has now missed budget for next year it would only be possible to investigate one Bus Shelter having this procedure as a pilot test.

There were also concerns raised that the flowering that was expected was not in the demonstration images presented by Cllr Lack. It was agreed that this would be investigated further along with best time to carry out this activity if agreed.

This will be kept on the Monitoring report and updated for next meeting

ACTION: P&T OFFICER AND CLLR LACK

COMMITTEE’S BUDGET (Agenda Item 7)
A report on the Committee’s budget as of 31st October 2019 was received and noted.

Cllr Malvern raised the question of which street furniture and benches were the responsibility of the P&T Committee and which were the responsibility of the Amenities Committee. It was agreed that an asset list would be produced of Street Furniture and Benches that are the responsibility of the P&T Committee

ACTION: P&T OFFICER

PLANNING APPLICATIONS (Agenda Item 8)
The following applications were received and considered and it was that the Committee would make comment as shown.
192477    Land to rear of 21 Emmbrook Road
Full application for the proposed erection of two 3no. Bedroom semi-detached dwellings.

Objection on grounds of road safety. The proposed junction to the main road has safety implications.

192817    Wokingham Post and Delivery Offices 16 Broad Street
Application for Listed Building consent for the proposed installation of 1 no. non-illuminated Customer Service Point directional sign (arrow pointing right), 1 no. non-illuminated Customer Service Point directional sign (arrow pointing left), 1 no. non-illuminated Registered Address sign, 1 no. non-illuminated Opening Hours sign, and 1 no. non-illuminated CCTV sign. (Part Retrospective).

No comments

192867    Land Adjoining 61a St Pauls Gate RG41 2YR
Full planning application for the proposed erection of one 3 no. bedroom end of terrace dwelling with ancillary areas.

Objections:

2 windows blocked off on 61a St Pauls Gate.
No parking provision.

192852    Sorbus House, Mulberry Business Park Fishponds Road
Outline application with (some matters reserved) for the proposed erection of 38 dwellings to include one and two bedroom dwellings (38no. flats), landscaping, bike store and bin store. Access to be considered.

Objections:

Lack of amenity space on the site.

The proposal of a 4 storey building is too high and not in keeping with other developments.

192211    32 Broad Street Wokingham RG40 1AB
Application for listed building consent for the proposed single storey rear extension to existing dwelling and conversion of existing garage to habitable accommodation.

No Objections.

192419    Land Off Bearwood Road
Full application for change of use from existing private woodland to Suitable Alternative Natural Green Space (SANG) including the provision of access off Bearwood Road, car park and associated works.

The Committee are generally in agreement with the proposal. However have the following concerns:

- The internal fencing will have a detrimental effect on wildlife movement within the area.
- The Car Park should not be included, it also does not include disabled parking. There is a road safety issue on access to highway from and to the Car Park.
- There should be no alterations to current bridleways.

**ACTION: P&T OFFICER**

**INFORMATION ITEMS (Agenda Item 9)**

Cllr Dennis requested that he be able to speak at the Appeal hearing for Application 190286. This is due to take place at week beginning 10th December. The committee agreed that he can present the objections that were stated at the last meeting.

The P&T Officer will investigate if an allocated time can be given to Cllr Dennis to speak at the hearing.

Cllr Malvern raised the issue of meetings with Balfour Beaty regarding developments in Wokingham. There have been correspondence sent to local residents and some Councillors but not to Wokingham Town Council. The Chairman explained that these are initiated by the construction company and are not from Wokingham Borough Council.

**ACTION: P&T OFFICER**