

13<sup>th</sup> December 2022

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

**PRESENT**

Chair: Cllr N Fox

Councillors: Cllr I Shepherd-Dubey, Cllr A Tebboth, Cllr P Dennis, Cllr P Hornsby, & Cllr K Malvern.

**IN ATTENDANCE**

PT Officer.

Katy Hughes.

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda Item 1)**

Cllr M Fumagalli

Cllr D Hinton

The Chair explained to the Committee that Cllr Forbes has decided to leave the Committee. As there are only three more P&T Meetings for this Council year there is unlikely to be a replacement.

**MEMBERS' INTERESTS (Agenda Item 2)**

None.

**QUESTIONS FROM THE COUNCIL OR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC (Agenda Item 3)**

None

**PLANNING & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MINUTES (Agenda Item 4)**

**RESOLVED**

It was proposed by the Chair and seconded by Cllr Dennis, and it was that the minutes of the Planning & Transportation Committee meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2022 (pages 16633 to 16637) be received as a true and correct record and that they be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

**ACTION: PT OFFICER**

**MONITORING REPORT (Agenda Item 5)**

The Monitoring Report dated 28<sup>th</sup> September 2022 was received and considered.

**SECURE BICYCLE STORAGE IN WOKINGHAM TOWN**

The Planning officer updated the Committee on the progress of the project since the last P&T meeting.

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On the 17<sup>th</sup> November 4 of the 8 lockers were opened and in operation in Denmark Street Car Park.

On feedback received it became clear that it would benefit cyclists to have at least 2 locations and the most suited is the Carnival Hub.

A location for 4 Secure Lockers at the Carnival Hub site is currently being discussed with WBC and we are hopeful that a location will be identified shortly.

The Committee asked if there would be any usage statistics for occupancy of the lockers and were informed by the PT Officer that there will be quarterly reports supplied by SpokeSafe. An ad hoc report was supplied for the first 10 days following opening and showed 7 bookings. It is expected with more publicity and warmer weather this will increase so that the lockers will be in demand.

Cllr Shepherd-Dubey asked for clarification on the maintenance for the lockers. The PT Officer confirmed that this is the sole responsibility of SpokeSafe as is the support and booking system.

Cllr Dennis asked if SpokeSafe could be prompted again to look at shorter booking periods for the lockers. Currently the system allows for 24 hour period as the minimum booking period and the Committee had requested that if this could be reduced to part of a day this would increase the appeal to local residents. The PT Officer will follow this up.

Cllr Dennis suggested that a marketing campaign for local shops and businesses near the site of the lockers would be useful in raising awareness to a potential market. The PT Officer will take this up with the Marketing Officer.

Cllr Dennis asked if there was any news on Twyford Parish Council installing secure bike lockers. The PT officer informed him that they had decided not to pursue this with WBC MyJourney and the grant that was on offer.

## BUS SHELTERS

The PT Officer informed the Committee that the repairs took place on 09<sup>th</sup> November.

The PT Officer has arranged to have a condition survey carried out quarterly on the Bus Shelters that are maintained by Wokingham Town Council.

**ACTION: P&T OFFICER**

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**ATTENDANCE (Agenda Item 6)**

To receive and consider absence from Cllr Hinton for three consecutive meetings.

As Cllr Hinton did not attend the meeting he could not respond to any questions regarding his absence.

The Committee were concerned that this is the second time that Cllr Hinton had missed three consecutive meetings.

The Committee would like clarification on the procedures for removing a Councillor from a Committee. The PT Officer will clarify with the Town Clerk and the Standing Orders document.

The Committee felt that it would be the best thing for both the Committee and Cllr Hinton for him to be removed but would like to hear his response if he attends the next P&T meeting.

This will be an item on the next P&T Agenda.

**COMMITTEE'S BUDGET (Agenda Item 7)**

A report on the Committee's budget as of 30<sup>th</sup> November 2022 was received and noted.

**PLANNING APPLICATIONS (Agenda Item 8)**

**RESOLVED**

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

**180711 Amen Corner (South) Binfield Bracknell**

Hybrid planning application for a residential-led mixed-use development comprising: outline planning application for commercial development (Use Classes A2 (financial and professional services)/B1 (business)/B8 (storage or distribution)) on 0.95ha (all matters reserved, except for access); and full planning application for 305 residential dwellings, public open space, spine road, estate roads, landscaping, public right of way diversion, drainage, levels and car parking. [Re-consultation on comprehensively revised plans. The site spans the Wokingham Borough Council / Bracknell Forest Council administrative boundary: an area proposed as public open space to the far west of the application site falls within Wokingham Borough]. **\*\*Updated Application\*\***

Cllr Dennis stated concern regarding the Reptile Mitigation Report.

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In the report 2.4 Reptile Size Population Assessment the data reference from Frog Life states that >10 sightings is exceptional population and >5 is good population.

Out of the 7 surveys taken between July 2020 and August 2020 there were 2 surveys which showed exceptional population and 1 that showed good population yet the conclusion of the survey was Low population. This is not consistent with the data.

Also, there are concerns regarding the bat population present on site that will be disturbed.

The Committee therefore object to this application

CP7 Biodiversity

- B) harm habitats
- C) compromise biodiversity.

**222513 Lawrence Centre Oaklands Park RG41 2FE**

Full application for the proposed erection of 3no. units and additional parking spaces.\*\*Updated Application\*\*

The Committee considered the application and the comments objecting to the application.

The Committee do not object to the application but would like to see solar panels implemented on the roofs of the new buildings if possible.

The Committee trust that the Planning Officer will consider and any impact on light reduction and overbearing on nearby housing.

Any sound mitigation within the development would be welcomed.

**223493 Tan House Footbridge Wokingham**

Prior approval submission for the erection of a single span footbridge following demolition of 2 existing footbridges.

The Committee considered the application and have concerns regarding inclusive access. The current proposal does not have ramp access so excludes wheelchair and buggy access.

Looking at options that could be a possibility has a lift been considered?

To incorporate the most viable solution of a ramp at either end of the bridge this would require the use of WTC land at one end and WBC land at the other. WTC would welcome consultation with Network Rail for a plan for a ramp at their side of the bridge. It is understood that this would possibly require some space currently allocated to Allotments in Ormonde Road.

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There are concerns that there will be demolition of the existing bridge without plans in place for a replacement bridge with adequate ramp access.

The Committee object to this application as follows.

**CP2 - Inclusive communities**

- a) ageing population
- b) Children, young people and families
- c) People with special needs

**CP6 - Managing Travel Demand**

- a) sustainable forms of transport
- c) Improve existing infrastructure network

Cllr Shepherd-Dubey would like to speak on behalf of WTC if this application is called in to be discussed by WBC at their planning meeting.

As this may impact the Allotments at Ormonde Road the PT officer will inform the Amenities Committee about this application.

**ACTION: P&T OFFICER**

**INFORMATION ITEMS (AGENDA ITEM 9)**

None

CHAIRMANS SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

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