

4th February 2025

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 20:28

PRESENT

Councillors: Cllr I Shepherd-Dubey (Chair), Cllr N Nagella (Vice Chair), Cllr A Betteridge, Cllr A Croy, Cllr C Jamthe, Cllr H Richards Cllr L Timlin,

IN ATTENDANCE

Town Clerk

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda Item 1)

Cllr B Alvi
Cllr W Dixon

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 3)

**RESOLVED
31007**

It was proposed by Cllr N Nagella and seconded by Cllr L Timlin, and it was that the minutes of the Planning & Transportation Committee meeting held on 17th December 2024 (pages 17120 to 17124) be received as a true and correct record and that they be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

MONITORING REPORT (Agenda Item 5)

The Monitoring Report dated 29th January was received and considered.

SECURE BICYCLE STORAGE IN WOKINGHAM TOWN

The Town Clerk gave a verbal update on the cycle lockers and noted that the P&T Officer had been liaising with two officers at Wokingham Borough Council to identify a location within the town to move two of the cycle lockers from the Denmark Street carpark.

Cllr A Betteridge requested that a location near Waitrose be considered and will follow up with officers in the My Journey team at WBC.

CHAIRMAN'S INITIALS _____



BUS SHELTERS

The Town Clerk reported that the damaged bus shelter on Wellington Road had been repaired.

ACTION: PT OFFICER

LICENSING ACT 2003 HEARING FOR BURGER KING ATTENDED BY CLLR A CROY 16 DECEMBER 2024 (Agenda Item 6)

Cllr A Croy gave a verbal report on the licensing hearing for Burger King. He thanked the Town Clerk for providing details on the licensing objectives, and noted that the committee should consider these when reviewing future licensing applications.

Members noted that the application for extended operating hours was refused.

ACTION: PT OFFICER

WOKINGHAM PILOT ACCESS AND RIGHTS OF WAY CAMPAIGN (Agenda Item 7)

Members reviewed a consultation from the British Horse Society. The following responses were agreed:

Q1. Recreation, Active Travel and health and wellbeing need to hand in hand to offer increased connectivity and safer off road alternatives to increasing busy and dangerous roads for vulnerable , non motorised road users.

➤ The Committee agreed.

Q2. Wokingham needs to move towards a greener, healthier, safer future that also addresses the inequality in the current Public Rights of Way network.

➤ The Committee agreed.

Q3. The current Public Rights of Way network, for having such a high percentage of footpaths which only allow use by walkers, with limited access by disabled, those with buggies and prams, in an undervalued resource that holds enormous potential. There is potential in the footpath network to provide improved connections throughout the borough for more non-motorised, vulnerable road user groups than are currently unable or not permitted to use it.

➤ The Committee agreed.

Q4. A footpath review is a more attractive and viable option than 'The right to roam'

➤ The Committee disagreed

Q5. Offering more off-road connections between areas of settlement and to places of interest e.g. country parks and schools. Also off road routes for more non-motorised groups is important to my group/organisation/charity

➤ The Committee agreed.

CHAIRMAN'S INITIALS _____



Q6. The criteria set out in the information document, for how the footpath network can be improved, is appropriate and necessary to gain a much-needed facility for the Wokingham Borough community as a whole.

➤ The Committee disagreed.

Other comments:

The Committees main interest would be in improving provision for walking and wheeling users of the network.

The Committee recognises that these improvements will be expensive, and it is currently unclear where funding for such improvements would come from.

The Committee agreed to receive updates on the campaign.

COMMITTEE'S BUDGET (Agenda Item 8)

A report on the Committee's budget as of 31st December 2024 was received and noted. Cllr A Betteridge asked whether the report can be expended to include projected spend to year end. The Town Clerk noted that this was not possible with the current report, as it is a direct download from the finance system, but that a manually created report was being developed for Committee Officers by the RFO and should be in place soon.

ACTION: PT OFFICER

PLANNING APPLICATIONS (Agenda Item 9)

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

**RESOLVED
31008**

242967 Wokingham Theatre Twyford Road RG40 5TU

Full application for the proposed erection of a two-storey extension to form a studio block, plus the erection of a link between the main building and the storage barn (which is to be retained on a permanent basis); closure of the old access and creation of public parking spaces, formation of a new access and installation of hardstanding to form on-site parking.

The Committee support this application.

242957 1-2 Bush Walk Wokingham RG40 1AT

Application for advertisement consent for the proposed installation of 1 no. non-illuminated fascia sign and 18 no. window vinyls.

The Committee support this application.

243132 201 Reading Road Wokingham RG41 1LJ

Full application for the proposed erection of 1 no. detached dwelling and detached double garage with associated landscaping and entrance gate, following demolition of the existing dwelling and garage.

The Committee raise no objection to this application.

CHAIRMAN'S INITIALS _____



250010 71 London Road Wokingham RG40 1YA

Full application for the proposed change of use of the property to supported living accommodation (Use Class C2), plus erection of a two-storey front/side extension and a single storey side/rear extension, associated landscaping, parking, installation of PV panels and bin storage, following demolition of the existing attached garage and single storey rear extension.

The Committee support this application.

INFORMATION ITEMS (AGENDA ITEM 10)

There were no items.

CHAIRMANS SIGNATURE_____

CHAIRMANS INITIALS _____

