

Public Document Pack

CLIMATE, BIODIVERSITY & PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE WITNEY TOWN COUNCIL

Held on Tuesday, 25 January 2022

At 6.00 pm in the Virtual Meeting Room via Zoom

Present:

Councillor R Smith (Chair)

Councillors:	A Prosser	L Duncan
	J Aitman	V Gwatkin
	O Collins	M Jones
Officers:	Claire Green	Administration Support - Planning & Stronger Communities
	Simon Wright	Democratic & Legal Services Officer
Others:	No members of the public.	

As there was no legislation in place for the Town Council to hold virtual meetings, and because of the ongoing Covid-19 Pandemic, the Climate, Biodiversity & Planning Committee formed virtually as an Advisory Committee. Any recommendations outside of the current work programme, budget or policy would require ratification at the Full Council meeting held on 14 February 2022.

P39 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor McMahon

P40 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Collins declared a non-prejudicial interest in Application Nos. 22/00048/HHD & 22/00049/LBC by virtue of knowing the applicant.

Councillor Jones declared a non-prejudicial interest in Application No. 21/01703/HHD by virtue of knowing the applicant. Councillor Jones indicated that she would not participate or vote on the application.

P41 MINUTES

It was noted that the date on the schedule of application responses at the 14 December meeting was wrong and needed amendment.

A verbal update was given on discussions at the 20MPH Speed Limit Working Party held earlier in the day. It was clarified that the minutes of that meeting would be presented to the committee at the next meeting.

Resolved:

The minutes of the meetings of the committee held on 23 November & 14 December 2021 and 4 January 2022 were adopted as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

P42 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There was no public participation.

At the request of the Chair the committee agreed to consider Agenda Item No. 7 – Finance & Budget Report before Agenda Item No. 5

P43 **FINANCE & BUDGET REPORT**

Consideration was given to the report of the Town Clerk seeking a review of budgets allocated to the committee in light of decisions taken by the Council when setting its precept.

In response to a question it was clarified that whilst the committee held an overall responsibility for climate and biodiversity issues a number of the projects were overseen by other committees who had been allocated budgets accordingly.

Members considered options for reducing budgets and it was noted that £15k had been allocated for the Climate Emergency Fund out of which previous years allocations remained unspent. It was acknowledged that this was mainly due to separate budgets being allocated for schemes.

Clarification was given that the recommendations of each committee would be considered by the Policy, Governance & Finance Committee who would make final recommendations to Council.

After discussion it was proposed and agreed that the £15k currently allocated for the Climate Emergency Fund be removed with a proviso that if there was excess funding available when the budget was finalised then this should be allocated to the Climate Emergency fund.

Recommended:

That the £15k currently allocated for the Climate Emergency Fund be removed with a request being made that if there was excess funding available when the budget was finalised then this should be allocated back to the Climate Emergency fund.

P44 **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

The Committee received and considered a schedule of planning applications received from West Oxfordshire District Council.

Resolved:

That the comments, as per the attached schedule, be forwarded to West Oxfordshire District Council.

P45 **PLANNING APPLICATION: R3.0151/21 - A40 HIF2 SMART CORRIDOR ('HIF2 PROJECT') A40 CORRIDOR BETWEEN WITNEY AND WOLVERCOTE, OXFORDSHIRE**

The Committee considered an application received from Oxfordshire County Council. It was noted that the response would be a recommendation to the Council meeting on 14 February.

Members highlighted the need for any scheme to have connectivity in respect of accessing public transport and also cycle provision. In respect of witney it was suggested that any schemes were dependant on the delivery of the improved Shores Green junction and that it would be preferable for a Park & Ride hub to be located in Witney.

Recommended:

That the following response be submitted to Oxfordshire County Council:

Witney Town Council welcomes the opportunity to respond in respect of this application.

Members are keen to see improvements to the A40 corridor and consider that the implementation of the new four-way Shores Green junction should precede any other development. The introduction of a dual carriageway is noted but it is suggested that the route between Eynsham and Witney should include a dedicated bus lane in both directions.

In respect of Park & Ride facilities the Council would question whether drivers from Witney, and further afield, would terminate their journey at Eynsham to access public transport and not just continue their journeys in to Oxford by car. It is requested that the possibility of a Park & Ride hub in or close to Witney could be considered.

Witney Town Council is keen that any scheme has good connectivity to public transport and cycle routes. In particular it would like to see easier access to Oxford Parkway station and the A34 by road and public transport. In respect of cycling it is suggested that existing routes should be easily accessible and potential new routes, such as a safe cycleway between Eynsham and Botley should be explored.

Finally, if development is approved the Council hope that the construction plan would minimise disruption to residents and ensure the reinstatement of land affected by the scheme.

The meeting closed at: 7.25 pm

Chair

This page is intentionally left blank

Witney Town CouncilPlanning Minutes - 25th January 2022

692

692- 1 WTC/007/22 Plot Ref :-21/01703/HHD Type :- HOUSEHOLDE
 Applicant Name :- . Date Received :- 04/01/22
 Location :- 3 PAINSWICK CLOSE Date Returned :- 26/01/22
 PAINSWICK CLOSE
 Proposal : Conversion of garage within a coach house and formation of an additional parking space. (Amended)
 Observations : Witney Town Council objects to this application. Members share the concerns as raised by the Highways Officer, the parking solution as proposed doesn't solve the problem satisfactorily.

692- 2 WTC/008/22 Plot Ref :-21/04086/LBC Type :- LISTED BUI
 Applicant Name :- . Date Received :- 10/01/22
 Location :- 114 HIGH STREET Date Returned :- 26/01/22
 HIGH STREET
 Proposal : Replacement of windows.
 Observations : Witney Town Council has no objections regarding this application.

692- 3 WTC/009/22 Plot Ref :-21/04001/HHD Type :- HOUSEHOLDE
 Applicant Name :- . Date Received :- 10/01/22
 Location :- 38 LANGDALE GATE Date Returned :- 26/01/22
 LANGDALE GATE
 Proposal : Erection of a two storey extension.
 Observations : While Witney Town Council does not object to this application, members have shown concern for the scale of the proposed development in contrast to the host dwelling in its present form. Members ask that Officers ensure compliance with the General Principles of policy OS2 of the West Oxfordshire Local Plan 2031 in terms of the proposed development being of a proportionate and appropriate scale to its context.

Further, given the scale of the increased building size and subsequent loss of permeable drainage, members strongly recommend an active SUDS plan be approved ahead of consent being granted. Although the site is not in an area at risk of flooding, it is close to areas which are sensitive to flooding, members ask that mitigating measures are considered to help decrease the possibility of surface water flooding in this area, in accordance with policy EH7 of the West Oxfordshire Local Plan 2031.

692- 4 WTC/010/22 Plot Ref :-21/04096/HHD Type :- HOUSEHOLDE
 Applicant Name :- . Date Received :- 10/01/22
 Location :- 9 HERON DRIVE Date Returned :- 26/01/22
 HERON DRIVE
 Proposal : Erection of a detached single storey sunroom/store (retrospective).

Observations : While Witney Town Council does not object to this application, members have shown concern for the size and height of the development particularly in relation to the proximity of the boundary and the challenging topography of this site. The development appears large and is in a dominant position on the hill, and therefore members ask that Officers give careful consideration to the general principles of development as outlined in Policy OS2 of the West Oxfordshire Local Plan 2031.

692- 5 WTC/011/22 Plot Ref :-21/04120/HHD Type :- HOUSEHOLDE
Applicant Name :- . Date Received :- 10/01/22
Location :- 2 CHEDWORTH DRIVE Date Returned :- 26/01/22
CHEDWORTH DRIVE
Proposal : Convert existing garage into room, extend entrance hall.
Observations : Witney Town Council has no objections regarding this application.

692- 6 WTC/012/22 Plot Ref :-21/04091/HHD Type :- HOUSEHOLDE
Applicant Name :- . Date Received :- 10/01/22
Location :- 11 PAINSWICK CLOSE Date Returned :- 26/01/22
PAINSWICK CLOSE
Proposal : Erection of a single storey extension along with the partial conversion of garage to living space. Conversion of attic space with the construction of a rear dormer.
Observations : While Witney Town Council does not object to this application in terms of material concerns, it notes the loss of permeable drainage and would ask that mitigating measures are considered to help decrease the possibility of surface water flooding in this area, in accordance with policy EH7 of the West Oxfordshire Local Plan 2031.

692- 7 WTC/013/22 Plot Ref :-21/04075/FUL Type :- FULL
Applicant Name :- . Date Received :- 17/01/22
Location :- 39 HIGH STREET Date Returned :- 26/01/22
HIGH STREET
Proposal : Sub-division of commercial unit into two separate units, alterations to front glazing to create new entrance door to Unit A and new external signage.
Observations : Witney Town Council has no objections regarding this application.

692- 8 WTC/014/22 Plot Ref :-22/00048/HHD Type :- HOUSEHOLDE
Applicant Name :- . Date Received :- 18/01/22
Location :- 16 CHURCH GREEN Date Returned :- 26/01/22
CHURCH GREEN
Proposal : Alterations to rear roof.
Observations : Witney Town Council has no objections regarding this application.

692- 9 WTC/015/22 Plot Ref :-22/00049/LBC Type :- LISTED BUI
Applicant Name :- . Date Received :- 18/01/22
Location :- 16 CHURCH GREEN Date Returned :- 26/01/22
CHURCH GREEN
Proposal : Alterations to rear roof.
Observations : Witney Town Council has no objections regarding this application.

692- 10 WTC/016/22 Plot Ref :-22/00025/HHD Type :- HOUSEHOLDE
Applicant Name :- . Date Received :- 18/01/22
Location :- 29 SNOWSHILL DRIVE Date Returned :- 26/01/22
SNOWSHILL DRIVE
Proposal : Single storey rear extension.
Observations : While Witney Town Council does not object to this application in terms of material concerns, it notes the loss of permeable drainage and would ask that mitigating measures are considered to help decrease the possibility of surface water flooding in this area, in accordance with policy EH7 of the West Oxfordshire Local Plan 2031.

692- 11 WTC/017/22 Plot Ref :-21/03814/FUL Type :- FULL
Applicant Name :- . Date Received :- 18/01/22
Location :- LAND AT WEST WITNEY Date Returned :- 26/01/22
DOWNS ROAD
CURBRIDGE
Proposal : Erection of a dwelling (Installation of an aerial to the side elevation).
Observations : Witney Town Council has no objections regarding this application.

The Meeting closed at : 7:20pm

Signed : _____ Chairman Date: _____

On behalf of :- Witney Town Council

This page is intentionally left blank