

Extra-Ordinary Full Council Committee Meeting of Witney Town Council



**Monday, 6th September, 2021 at 7.00 pm or on the rising
Of Parks & Recreation Committee whichever is the later**

To members of the Full Council Committee - J Aitman, L Duncan, L Ashbourne, T Ashby, R Bolger, D Butterfield, O Collins, H Eaglestone, D Enright, V Gwatkin, A D Harvey, M Jones, J King, A McMahon, A Prosser, R Smith and D Temple (and all other Town Councillors for information).

You are hereby summonsed to the above meeting to be held in the **Main Hall, The Corn Exchange, Witney** for the transaction of the business stated in the agenda below.

Admission to Meetings

All Council meetings are open to the public and press unless otherwise stated.

Numbers of the public will be limited, with priority given to those who have registered to speak on an item on the agenda. Any member of the public wishing to attend the meeting should contact the Democratic and Legal Services Officer (democracy@witney-tc.gov.uk) in advance to reserve a seat. We will continue to observe social distancing and hand sanitiser will be available.

For further information or clarification regarding the meeting contact the Democratic and Legal Services Officer at democracy@witney-tc.gov.uk Tel: 01993 226071

Recording of Meetings

Under the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 the council's public meetings may be recorded, which includes filming, audio-recording as well as photography.

As a matter of courtesy, if you intend to record any part of the proceedings please let the Town Clerk or Democratic Services Officer know before the start of the meeting.

Agenda

1. Apologies for Absence

To consider apologies and reasons for absence.

Committee members who are unable to attend the meeting should notify the Deputy Town Clerk (adam.clapton@witney-tc.gov.uk) **prior to the meeting**, stating the reason for absence.

Standing Order 30(a)(v) permits the appointment of substitute Councillors to a Committee whose role is to replace ordinary Councillors at a meeting of a Committee if ordinary Councillors of the Committee have confirmed to the Proper Officer **before** the meeting that they are unable to attend.

2. Declarations of Interest

Members are reminded to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests in any of the items under consideration at this meeting in accordance with the Town Council's code of conduct.

3. **Public Participation**

The meeting will adjourn for this item.

Members of the public may speak for a maximum of **five minutes** each during the period of public participation, in line with Standing Order 42. Matters raised shall relate to the following items on the agenda.

4. **Oxfordshire Bus Service Improvement Plan** (Pages 3 - 6)

To consider a consultation document from Oxfordshire County Council.

5. **Exclusion of Press and Public**

To consider and if appropriate, to pass the following resolution:

That in accordance with section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, and as extended by Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, the public, including the press, be excluded from the meeting because of the confidential nature of the following business to be transacted.

6. **Corn Exchange Working Party Minutes** (Pages 7 - 8)

To receive the minutes of the Corn Exchange Working Party held on 13 August 2021.

7. **Corn Exchange - Phase Two Contracts** (Pages 9 - 12)

To receive & consider the confidential report of the Project Officer.



Town Clerk

EXTRA ORDINARY COUNCIL

Date: 6 September 2021

Title: Consultation – Oxfordshire Bus Service Improvement Plan

Contact Officer: Deputy Town Clerk – Adam Clapton

Background

Oxfordshire County Council is currently consulting on the future of bus services in Oxfordshire <https://letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk/oxfordshire-bus-improvement-plan-2021>

In March 2021, the Government published a new [National Bus Strategy \(External link\)](#) which sets out a framework for how bus services can recover from the Covid-19 pandemic and a vision for future improvements across England.

To meet this challenge, Oxfordshire County Council is working with the bus companies in our area to create a Bus Service Improvement Plan. This will involve developing bold plans for improving Oxfordshire’s bus services and encouraging more people to use them.

Government has pledged £3 billion in funding across the country to help deliver these plans, and Oxfordshire is aiming to secure as much as it can of that funding.

We are excited about the opportunity this presents and want to ensure that our Improvement Plan reflects the views of Oxfordshire residents and those visiting or working in the county. We now want to find out what you think would improve our bus services and what would make you use them more*

*Information from the above link.

Current Situation

The Town Council’s Independent Parish Transport Representative has advised that, while the survey is primarily for individuals, Parish and Town Councils are being encouraged to provide their thoughts on this consultation which runs until 13th September.

As well as understanding what infrastructure improvements would encourage further bus use, the consultation also asks a question on new routes - these will be judged on the strength of the business case and the County Council has been urged to think boldly and consider cross-county services. The key consultation question where any Town Council response should focus on, is:

From the following list, please order the improvements to bus services which might encourage you to use the bus more often (or start using the bus if you don't currently)

Please rank the options in order of importance in making the most difference to your decision to use the bus or not.

1. Better information before you travel (e.g., a website for Oxfordshire bus information, an Oxfordshire bus map, etc.)
2. Better information during your journey (e.g., departure screens at bus stops, "the next stop is" screens in buses, etc.)
3. More reliable buses (e.g., through measures such as a bus priority at traffic lights, more bus lanes, etc.)
4. More frequent buses
5. More buses in the evening and at weekends
6. Simpler and better value fares
7. Accessibility improvements (e.g., better wheelchair access, raised kerbs at bus stops, etc.)
8. Better quality (e.g., cleaner bus shelters, more comfortable buses, etc.)
9. More environmentally friendly buses (e.g., electric buses)
10. New routes (e.g., to places that don't have buses, or direct links between places that don't currently have them).

The Parish Transport Representative has suggested that several new routes may be considered in the future but one key one which would affect Witney is to improve links with Cirencester, and Swindon. This is already on the list of strategic services and looks to represent the best possible opportunity to restore the former 64 service.

Members are also asked to consider any other bus services which should be mentioned, with justification of the requests, as part of a consultation response, should the Town Council wish to enter one. This may be the only opportunity to make requests for these services.

Environmental impact

There should be no environmental impact from the contents of this report.

Risk

There is no perceived risk pertaining to this report.

Financial implications

There are no known financial implications.

Recommendations

Members are invited to note the report and;

1. Consider entering a Town Council response to this consultation based on the above questions and any potential new routes.

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