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

Held on Tuesday, 2 August 2022

At 6.00 pm in the Virtual Meeting Room via Zoom

Present:

Councillor R Smith (Chair)

Councillors:	A Prosser T Ashby J Aitman	L Duncan V Gwatkin P Hiles
Officers:	Adam Clapton Claire Green Derek Mackenzie	Deputy Town Clerk Administration Support - Planning & Stronger Communities Senior Administrative Officer & Committee Clerk
Others:	1 member of the public.	

P425 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

All members were present for the meeting.

P426 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations by members at this point in the meeting. Councillor R Smith later declared a personal non prejudicial interest in Agenda item 6.

Councillor A Prosser joined the meeting at 18:06pm

P427 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Committee adjourned for this item.

Samuel Lamb addressed the Committee on agenda item 6 – Request to install bollards – Woodstock Road. Questions followed from Committee members.

The meeting reconvened for planning applications to be considered.

P428 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

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

Resolved:

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

P429 APPLICATION FOR A PREMISES LICENCE - BLIND TIGER BARS, 8 MARKET SQUARE

The Committee received and considered a premises licence application for Blind Tiger Bars, 8 Market Square.

Members welcomed a new music venue in the town but were concerned about the proximity to residential properties, so asked that the following response be issued to West Oxfordshire District Council.

Resolved:

That, While Witney Town Council welcome a new live music venue for the Town, Councillors expressed some concerns regarding the potential noise levels and how this might negatively affect residential properties immediately neighbouring the venue. Due to the proximity of residential units, Witney Town Council ask that the Licensing Officer ensure that residential neighbours are contacted directly and advised of the application and the relevant neighbour consultation process, rather than relying solely on-site notices.

Further, should the application be approved, Witney Town Council ask that conditions are applied to the licence that allow for monitoring and control of noise levels at the venue.

P430 REQUEST TO INSTALL BOLLARDS - WOODSTOCK ROAD, WITNEY

The committee received and considered the report of the Deputy Town Clerk and the associated correspondence from the resident of 89 Woodstock Road.

Members were advised that installation costs would be met by the resident and were happy with the proposed design and size of the wooden posts to be used. Future maintenance of the posts was unclear, but they would not be the responsibility of the Town Council.

Resolved:

1. That, the report be noted and,
2. That, the request for bollards to be installed adjacent to 89 Woodstock Road be approved and,
3. That, the Town Council takes no liability for the bollards, including their future maintenance, repair, or replacement.

P431 SCHOOL STREETS EXPERIMENTAL TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER

The Committee received an update from Oxfordshire County Council on the Safer Streets Experimental Traffic Regulation Order (ETRO) which included Tower Hill Community Primary School.

Members were disappointed the scheme would not be continued in Witney. The committee had suggestions for future such projects, which should be included in the response to the County Council consultation.

Resolved:

That, Witney Town Council is disappointed that the Safer Streets scheme at Tower Hill Community Primary School is not being progressed following this Experimental Traffic Regulation Order (ETRO).

The Council is aware that schools and parents still covet Safer Street schemes to facilitate safer and active travel for schoolchildren. It would like to suggest that any future projects include the provision of enforcement infrastructure from the outset, such as ANPR and/or flashing speeds figures, as these would greatly benefit its viability and success.

P432 **20MPH SPEED RESTRICTIONS**

The Committee received a verbal update from the Deputy Town Clerk on 20mph speed restrictions.

As members were aware, a public consultation had been held by Oxfordshire County Council on the proposals formed by the 20mph Working Party which had been agreed at their recent cabinet meeting.

Correspondence from County Council officers had been received advising all proposals had been accepted and they would be working on implementing the scheme in the coming weeks. At this point there was no confirmed timeframe or communications strategy. Officers would continue to work with the County Council on these when they were forthcoming.

Resolved:

That, the verbal update be noted.

The meeting closed at: 7.03 pm

Chair

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WTC Planning Responses – Climate, Biodiversity & Planning 2nd August 2022

WTC Ref	WODC Ref	Address	Comments
094	22/01731/HHD	29 LARCH LANE	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.
095	22/01527/HHD	43 VALENCE CRESCENT	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.
096	22/01920/PN42	34 VANNER ROAD	Subsequent to the Climate, Biodiversity & Planning Committee Meeting held on 2nd August 2022, Witney Town Council were advised by the Local Planning Authority that the Parish Council are not a statutory consultee on PN42 applications. Therefore, no response has been submitted to the District Council online portal.
097	22/01150/HHD	129A CORN STREET	Witney Town Council has no objections regarding this application.
098	22/01876/LBC	92 CORN STREET	Witney Town Council are unable to comment on this application as there are no plans, drawings or proposal details available to view on the portal.
099	22/01844/ADV	1 EDINGTON SQUARE	While Witney Town Council does not object to this application, members discussed the environmental impact of the illuminated signage and whether there was an opportunity for Tesco to install a solar-powered lighting solution to reduce environmental harm. Further, members identified that the wording proposed for Sign 10 reads 'Serving Valence Crescent's customers, communities and planet a little better every day' – members suggested that since the store serves the residents of

			Deer Park estate, it might be more appropriate for the wording to reflect the estate name 'Deer Park' in place of Valence Crescent.
100	22/01928/HHD	84 BURWELL MEADOW	While Witney Town Council does not object to this application in terms of extending the dwelling, Councillors express concern for parking on the site. The submitted drawings clearly show that the proposed parking area is not sufficient for the space required for a vehicle – not only would a car overhang the remaining parking space, car doors, when opening, could pose a risk to users of the public highway which runs adjacent to the space. Given the proximity of the footpath to the application site, Witney Town Council request that adequate consultation be sought from the relevant Highways Authority and Members ask that consideration be given to West Oxfordshire Local Plan Policy T4 – Parking Provision.