

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

Held on Tuesday, 25 October 2022

At 6.00 pm in the Virtual Meeting Room via Zoom

Present:

Councillor R Smith (Chair)

Councillors:	A Prosser T Ashby	L Duncan P Hiles
Officers:	Adam Clapton Claire Green Derek Mackenzie	Deputy Town Clerk Administration Support - Planning & Stronger Communities Senior Administrative Officer & Committee Clerk
Others:	None.	

P539 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors J Aitman and V Gwatkin.

P540 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations by members or officers.

P541 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

P542 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

P543 PRE-APPLICATION ENQUIRY - UPGRADE OF EXISTING MONOPOLE INSTALLATION

The Committee received and considered correspondence from Cornerstone Telecommunications, Infrastructure Ltd. regarding a proposed upgrade to the existing monopole installation at Oxford Hill, Witney.

Members agreed that any definitive response should only be provided through the planning process once an application had been submitted, however, they recognised the willingness of the correspondent to engage with the community and Council on the matter.

The need for upgrading mobile infrastructure was clearly understood but the Council raised comments regarding the aesthetics of the monopole at a gateway to the town and whether an alternative location might be considered whether it could be disguised as a tree as had been achieved in other locations, and the potential loss of and future maintenance of trees in this vicinity should it move to planning stage.

Resolved:

1. That, the correspondence be noted and,
2. That, the comments above be forwarded to the correspondent.

P544 **CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED MAIN MODIFICATIONS TO THE SALT CROSS GARDEN VILLAGE AREA ACTION PLAN**

The Committee, having decided at the meeting of Climate, Planning & Biodiversity on 4 October 2022 to defer the discussion to allow members longer to consider the changes continued their discussions in respect to the proposed modifications to the plan.

Members thanked officers for summarising their previous comments and expressed their disappointment at the stark differences between the revised action plan document compared to the original. Previously, key objectives had been identified for the delivery of the scheme which now appeared to have been diluted or rescinded.

The Committee objected to the changes to A40 underpass wording which would appear to offer developers a way out of meeting the obligation of providing this important item of infrastructure.

The loss of cycle provision was also a concern to members, and they discussed that provision of safe cycleways should not be reduced, indeed provision should also be considered for safe cycling in all direction of the garden village.

The members concerns continued with the loss of green and carbon neutral housing specifications and they were particularly disappointed with the dilution of the key goal of net zero carbon. The loss of a Salt Cross Garden Village Trust may also result in higher management charges being applied to residents and see delays in the delivery of infrastructure and amenity provision.

Resolved:

1. That, the correspondence from WODC be noted, and
2. That, a response encompassing the above points be submitted in response.

P545 **DEVELOPER CONTRIBUTIONS (SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT) CONSULTATION**

The Committee received and considered the revised consultation from West Oxfordshire District Council (WODC) regarding developer contributions along with notification of a new web resource inviting residents to submit community infrastructure requests.

Members were pleased to see that their comments from the Supplementary Planning Document consultation in 2020 had been considered and received a response from WODC. This had resulted in an easier to understand documents. One exception was Witney Town Council's comment regarding the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) which had not been addressed and members asked that this could be looked at again.

Members concerns surrounded the inclusion of cycleways and footpaths in developers plans and that sports and community facilities are made a priority and delivered in the early stages of any new development.

Also discussed was the need for utilities providers to undertake investment in upgrades and if this financial commitment cannot be agreed that developers are approached to meet any financial shortfalls to ensure that strategic upgrades are completed.

With regard to the new web-based resource, Commonplace, they agreed that this should be forwarded to all councillors, so they had the opportunity to advise the residents in their wards. Members felt it was still imperative that they were able to pass on resident requests via the committee process and asked that the Council's strategic infrastructure plans be forwarded to WODC.

Resolved

1. That, the consultation and correspondence be noted and,
2. That, Witney Town Council forward a written submission regarding the Supplementary Planning Document to WODC covering the points above and,
3. That, copies of both the Witney Active Travel Infrastructure Plan and Witney Town Council Open Spaces Strategy are forwarded with regards to community infrastructure requests.,

P546 ADDRESS MANAGEMENT - WINDRUSH PLACE, WITNEY

The committee received and considered the correspondence from WODC regarding a request to reconsider the 'Lapwings Fields' suggestion and for additional street names at Windrush Place, following earlier committee discussions.

Members discussed alternative names which had been circulated ahead of the meeting by a member and agreed to put forward in order of preference; Ballards Bank, named after pilot Ruth Ballard. Followed by Flamingo Way and Chilton Close, both names associated with De Havilland.

Resolved:

1. That, Ballard Bank, Flamingo Way and Chilton Close are forwarded to West Oxfordshire Address Management for consideration.

The meeting closed at: 7.35 pm

Chair