

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

Held on Tuesday, 7 March 2023

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
Officers:	Adam Clapton Derek Mackenzie Claire Green	Deputy Town Clerk Senior Administrative Officer & Committee Clerk Administration Support - Planning & Stronger Communities
Others:	no members of the public.	

P122 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor P Hiles.

P123 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor R Smith declared a non-pecuniary interest in application 23/00103/LBC by virtue of knowing the applicant.

Councillor T Ashby declared that he had made an objection comment in respect of application 23/00286/FUL as a Member of the public rather than as a Councillor.

P124 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

P125 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

P126 WITNEY TRAFFIC ADVISORY MINUTES

The Committee received the minutes of the Witney Traffic Advisory Committee held on 10 January 2023.

The Deputy Town Clerk gave an update on minute item T14 to advise that information had been gathered from Thames Valley Police by officers in respect of the potential commencement of a Speedwatch scheme to support the lower speed limits across the town. He encouraged members to provide any comments on such a scheme for inclusion in his report to be presented at the next meeting of the Traffic Advisory Committee on 21 March 2023.

Resolved:

1. That, the minutes of the Witney Traffic Advisory Committee held 10 January 2023 be noted
2. That, the verbal update of the Deputy Town Clerk be noted.

6:48pm - Councillor T Ashby left the meeting following Planning Application 23/00029/FUL.

P127 WITNEY AIR QUALITY ACTION PLAN STEERING GROUP

The committee received a verbal report from Councillor L Duncan in respect of her attendance at the meeting of the District Council's Witney Air Quality Action Plan Steering Group.

She attended along with Councillor A Prosser, the meeting was well attended and covered various subjects such as pilot schemes for car sharing, modelling for the removal of HGV's from Bridge Street. The meeting was used for factfinding from the many organisations represented and was evident that there is a significant amount of cross over between the work that these organisations carry out.

Resolved :

That, the verbal report be noted.

P128 FLOOD MITIGATION & RIPARIAN OWNERSHIP

The Committee received and considered the report of the Deputy Town Clerk concerning the County Council's preferred process in dealing with waterway blockages which are the responsibility of riparian owners.

There was concern from Members that if the town council became involved with this process, there was intimated liability on an issue in which it had no remit or statutory duty. The Local Flood Authority (LFA), Oxfordshire County Council was responsible for ensuring these issues were concluded satisfactorily and blockages were removed before flooding occurred. There was, however, recognition the town council was in a position to help concerned residents by reporting any blockages to the LFA directly if informed and chase up actions to resolve them. There were suggestions on how best to advertise this process and gather riparian landowner details from a local action group.

Recommended:

1. That, the report be noted and,

2. That, Witney Town Council supports local residents with waterway blockage concerns by forwarding the matter to Oxfordshire County Council (as the LFA) with riparian owner details if available.

P129 **NOTICE OF DEFINITIVE MAP NOTICE OF LANDOWNER DEPOSIT**

The Committee received and considered the correspondence received from West Oxfordshire District Council in respect of a resolution made by the committee on this matter at the meeting held on 24th January 2023, minutes no.P54 refers.

Members discussed their concerns following the application made by The Oxford Diocesan Board of Finance. These included the potential limiting of access to the land, the maintenance of the fence bordering the site and the impact on the work of the Wychwood Forest Trust.

Resolved:

1. That, the correspondence be noted and,
2. That, officers request the thoughts of Wychwood Forest Trust prior to writing to The Diocesan to advise of the committees concerns and request an explanation as to the reason for the submission of the application.

The meeting closed at: 7.20 pm

Chair