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PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE WITNEY TOWN COUNCIL

Held on Tuesday, 24 June 2025

At 6.00 pm in the Virtual Meeting via MS Teams - Virtual Meeting

Present:

Councillor G Doughty (Chair)

Councillors:	J Aitman J Doughty	G Meadows R Smith
Officers:	Adam Clapton Derek Mackenzie Cara Murray	Deputy Town Clerk Senior Administrative Officer & Committee Clerk Admin Support Assistant - Communities & Planning
Others:	None.	

P383 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

P384 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest from Members or officers.

P385 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

P386 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.

P387 NOTIFICATION OF PLANNING APPEAL DECISION - 17A MOOR AVENUE, WITNEY - APP/D3125/X/24/3340800

The Committee received correspondence concerning the appeal decision APP/D3125/X/24/3340800 for 17a Moor Avenue, Witney

Resolved:

That, the appeal decision be noted.

Cllr R Smith joined the meeting at 6:12pm

P388 LAND SOUTH OF A40 STANTON HARCOURT ROAD, WITNEY

The Committee received and considered an application by Swim Oxford Limited for the proposed construction of a grass mesh car park area and an enclosure for chemical toilet cubicles, to facilitate the use of a lake for open water swimming – Oxfordshire County Council planning application Ref:MW.0034/25.

Although the application site fell outside of the Parish, it was on Witney's boundary and adjacent to the Country Park. After consideration Members agreed the following submission be made:

Witney Town Council welcomes the introduction of an open water swimming facility in close proximity to the town. Members recognise the growing popularity of open water swimming and support the development of recreational and wellbeing opportunities that encourage healthy, active lifestyles. The Council also understands that the proposed facility will operate on a membership basis, which should help to manage numbers and ensure the activity is conducted responsibly.

However, Members wish to raise the following concerns regarding the current proposal:

- **Safe Access:** *The access point to the site appears to be located on a blind bend, raising significant concerns about road safety for both vehicles, cyclists, and pedestrians. Increased traffic movements, particularly turning in and out of the site, could pose a hazard unless appropriate mitigations are put in place.*
- **Traffic Management and Signage:** *Given the potential increase in vehicle movements associated with the facility onto a well-used local route, the Council requests a review of signage and traffic calming measures in the area to improve visibility and manage access safely- appropriate directional and warning signage may be necessary.*

Witney Town Council would be happy to explore opportunities for collaboration, including possible future pedestrian access to the Lake and Country Park, as well as working together on biodiversity initiatives, and the development of green corridors onto adjoining town council owned land that enhance both the ecological value and public enjoyment of this important natural space.

Resolved:

That, the above submission be made to Oxfordshire Country Council.

The meeting closed at: 6.15 pm

Chair

