

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

**Held on Tuesday, 6 December 2022**

**At 6.00 pm in the Virtual Meeting Room via Zoom**

**Present:**

Councillor R Smith (Chair)

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

**P636 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor J Aitman.

**P637 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest from members or officers.

**P638 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

*The Committee adjourned for this item.*

A resident of Horton-Cum-Studley addressed the committee regarding Agenda item 7 – Botley West Solar Farm.

*The meeting reconvened for planning applications to be considered.*

**P639 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.

P640 **WINDRUSH INDUSTRIAL PARK - ROAD NAMING**

The Committee received correspondence from West Oxfordshire District Council's address management team which had already been circulated.

Members confirmed there were no objections to the proposed name of "The Gateway".

**Resolved:**

That, the correspondence be noted.

P641 **REAR OF 37 CORN STREET - ROAD NAMING**

The Committee received correspondence from West Oxfordshire District Council's address management team.

Members had no objections to the proposed name of "Olive Court".

**Resolved:**

That, the correspondence be noted.

**Councillor T Ashby Left 18:47pm (During Agenda Item 7)**

P642 **BOTLEY WEST SOLAR FARM - PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

The Committee intently discussed the proposal submitted for which a public consultation was open until 15 December 2022.

Members acknowledged that the proposed sites were to the East of Witney, however, effects would still be felt within the parish, most notably on resident access to the countryside and the local biodiversity. Members were most concerned about the Ecology, landscape and visual impact that a development of this size and scale would have in West Oxfordshire now and in the future

Members expressed dissatisfaction at the level of community gain in terms of local energy and financial contributions to mitigate the creation of the farm if it went ahead. The scheme was opportunistic rather than as part of a national plan looking at the bigger picture and the need for such a large-scale solar farm when evaluated next to other Government-backed energy alternatives did not appear to be demonstrated.

**Resolved:**

That, Members comments, including those above be submitted via the public consultation feedback form.

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The meeting closed at: 7.42 pm

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Chair