

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

Held on Tuesday, 4 July 2023

At 6.00 pm in the Virtual Meeting Room via Zoom

Present:

Councillors:	G Meadows R Smith J Aitman	J Robertshaw S Simpson
Officers:	Adam Clapton Derek Mackenzie Claire Green	Deputy Town Clerk Senior Administrative Officer & Committee Clerk Administration Support - Planning & Stronger Communities
Others:	0 members of the public.	

P369 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A Bailey and O Collins.

P370 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest from members or officers.

P371 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no Public Participation.

P372 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.

P373 ADDRESS MANAGEMENT - NEW DEVELOPMENT AT THE CROFTS, WITNEY

The Committee received the request from West Oxfordshire District Council address management team regarding the naming of what was previously know at St Marys Court to be named Rosser Court/House.

Members discussed the proposal and felt the suggestion that a 20-year rule on naming streets or places after deceased individuals should be waived would potentially set a difficult precedent. If the District Council wished to proceed it would do so without the support of the Town Council.

Resolved:

1. That, the correspondence be noted and,
2. That, a response be submitted requesting an alternative name to be considered or for the continued use of St Marys Court.

P374 AIR QUALITY ACTION PLAN CONSULTATION

The Committee welcomed the consultation on the Witney Air Quality Action Plan, noting the last AQMA report was in 2005. Members asked that that the following comments be submitted:

- Requirement for more data on vehicle types passing through Witney.
- Survey of Log burning stoves to discover the level that are exempt from the list of non-desirable devices.
- Survey of the level of engine idling, hotspots and for anti-idling to be highly prioritised within the framework
- A visual display to be erected to show real time carbon emissions in congested areas, such as Bridge Street in order to increase public awareness.

Members also noted that there weren't references to help reduce the reliance on polluting generators for mobile food outlets, like ice cream vans and coffee vans. The District Council promoted street vendors within the town, however these traders often had generators that were detrimental to air quality in the area. There were newer, less polluting technologies available, and this plan should be encouraging that.

Overall, members felt this was a good start after several year hiatus and they encouraged focused goal and target setting along with raising awareness.

Resolved

1. That, the report be noted and
2. That, a response be submitted outlining the above comments and
3. That, individual members were encouraged to submit a personal response.

P375 BOTLEY WEST SOLAR FARM - SCOPING REQUEST

The Committee received correspondence regarding the submission of a Scoping Report by the developers of the Botley West Solar Farm scheme along with a verbal update from the Deputy Town Clerk.

Members considered the information provided and discussed if it was appropriate to submit additional comments.

Members unanimously agreed that any submission should wait until the full planning application was submitted, and a consultation raised by West Oxfordshire District Council which was expected to be in September 2023. This would allow sufficient time to canvas the options of Witney residents and assess the impact the scheme would have on Witney as currently none of the development fell within the wards of Witney.

Resolved:

That, the correspondence be noted.

P376 **APPLICATION FOR MINOR VARIATION OF PREMISES LICENCE FOR SAINSBURYS SUPERMARKET**

The Committee received the application from Sainsburys Supermarket, Witan Way, OX28 4FF for a minor variation of a premises licence under the Licencing Act 2003.

Resolved:

That, the Town Council has no objection to this application.

The meeting closed at: 6.46 pm

Chair