

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

Held on Tuesday, 7 November 2023

At 6.09 pm in the Virtual Meeting Room via Zoom

Present:

Councillor A Bailey (Chair)

Councillors:	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:	no members of the public.	

P596 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors G Meadows and O Collins.

Due to connectivity issues for Councillor A Bailey and the absence of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor/Chair, it was RESOLVED that Councillor R Smith would Chair the meeting until Councillor Bailey was able to join the meeting.

P597 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest from Members or Officers.

P598 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

Councillor S Simpson joined the meeting at 6:13pm

Chair-ship of the meeting was passed from Councillor Smith to Councillor Bailey at 6.20pm following the discussion of the first planning application – 23/02635/S73.

P599 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Committee received and considered a schedule of planning applications from West Oxfordshire District Council.

Members noted that the address of the first application 23/02635/S73 on the agenda showed as 33 Beech Road however, the application was for 38 Beech Road. Members agreed that the application should still be considered.

Members also noted the Council's agreed updated response to planning application 23/01203/RES - Reserved matters approval for local centre and associated infrastructure pursuant to outline permission 12/0084/P/OP. Land East of Isabelle Spencer Way Witney Oxfordshire. Comments had been collated and submitted ahead of this meeting due to a short time frame provided by the Planning Authority following the submission of updated plans.

Resolved:

1. That, the comments, as per the attached schedule be forwarded to West Oxfordshire District Council and,
2. That, the response for planning application 23/01203/RES be noted as submitted to WODC on 25 October 2023.

P600 **PESTICIDES POLICY**

Members received and considered the report of the Operations Manager in relation to a Council Pesticides Policy on land it managed.

Members expressed their awareness that the use of Pesticides was a contentious subject but broadly supported the policy. A member suggested making contact with the Pesticide Action Group who offered support and advice on this issue.

They were pleased to see that pesticides would be used in a controlled manner. and wanted this point to be clearly stated at the head of the policy along with a caveat to explain that this would lead some areas looking less well kempt than others.

The Committee welcomed the use of mapping to illustrate the no-spray zones so that it was clear for any reading the policy to see. There were queries on listed areas in the draft policy and mapping would also help provide guidance.

Members were pleased to hear that the current work practices in respect of reduced mowing around the base of trees and the control of Ivy growth was successful and therefore were in agreement that this continued.

Members asked for additional information to be provided on the alternative mechanical or non-chemical options that had been discounted.

Resolved:

1. That, the report be noted and,
2. That, a re-drafted policy be prepared for review at a future meeting of the Policy, Governance & Finance committee.

The meeting closed at: 6.55 pm

Chair