

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

Held on Tuesday, 9 March 2021

At 6.00 pm in the Virtual Meeting Room via Zoom

Present:

Councillor R Smith (Chair)

Councillors:	A Prosser	V Gwatkin
	J Aitman	M Jones
	L Ashbourne	A McMahan
Officers:	Sharon Groth	Town Clerk
Others:	1 member of the public.	

P118 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Cllr R Bolger.

P119 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no interests declared by members at the meeting.

P120 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Committee adjourned for this item.

A member of the public addressed the Committee on agenda item 6, request to purchase Town Council land adjacent to 67 Thorney Leys, Witney,

The Committee reconvened following public participation.

P121 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

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

RESOLVED:

That the comments, as per the attached schedule, be forwarded to West Oxfordshire District Council.

P122 **WITNEY TRAFFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES**

The Committee received the minutes of the Witney Traffic Advisory Committee meeting held on 12 January 2021.

Members discussed the items debated at the meeting and enquired on the progress of talks on the issues raised, particularly in relation to the bus service at West Witney.

RESOLVED:

1. That the minutes of the Witney Traffic advisory Committee meeting held on 12 January 2021 be noted; and,
2. That Officers enquire on the progress of talks between Oxfordshire County Council and the Parish Transport Representative regarding a bus service at West Witney.

P123 **REQUEST TO PURCHASE TOWN COUNCIL LAND - 67 THORNEY LEYS**

The Committee received and considered the report of the Operations & Estates Advisor regarding a request by a resident to purchase land at the rear of 67 Thorney Leys, Witney.

Members were concerned of the impact on biodiversity in this area should the land be incorporated into a garden and highlighted the value of this green corridor along the edge of a busy road in the town. The Committee, although understanding of the request, could not agree for the land to be sold as it worked against the climate initiatives of the Council.

RESOLVED:

1. That the report be noted; and,
2. That the request to purchase land at the rear of 67 Thorney Leys, Witney be refused for the reasons listed above.

P124 **SALT CROSS GARDEN VILLAGE AREA ACTION PLAN (AAP)**

The Committee received and considered the Salt Cross Garden Village Area Action Plan from West Oxfordshire District Council.

RESOLVED:

That the Salt Cross Garden Village Area Action Plan (AAP) be noted.

P125 **OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL LOCAL TRANSPORT AND CONNECTIVITY PLAN - VISION CONSULTATION**

The Committee received consultation documents from Oxfordshire County Council concerning a Local Transport & Connectivity Plan.

This was a key document which would shape the County's plans until 2050 and members agreed the Town Council should offer a comprehensive response on behalf of Witney, as a service centre and largest town in the west of the County.

RESOLVED:

That the Town Clerk formulates and submits a response on behalf of the Council based on the comments made at the meeting.

P126 **NEW STREET NAME - ACCESS ROAD FOR NEW SCHOOL - WEST WITNEY**

The committee received and considered a request to name a new school access road at the West Witney development.

Members felt that the suggestions of School Road and School Lane were too generic and an alternative suggestion by the River Learning Trust of River Road did not fit in with the development's naming style.

The Committee suggested an alternative name of Isabelle Spencer Way. Isabelle Spencer was a key figure within education in Witney from 1946 teaching and becoming the School Mistress/Deputy Head at Henry Box. She bequeathed a considerable amount of money to continue to support young people and education via the Witney Educational Foundation. The committee also thought it was in keeping with the other road names in the vicinity – Alice Batt and Mary Box.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Street naming request at Windrush Place be noted; and,
2. That Witney Town Council suggests the alternative name of 'Isabelle Spencer Way'; and,
3. That this suggestion be forwarded to the Address management Office at West Oxfordshire District Council for consideration.

The meeting closed at: 7.26 pm

Chair