

**Abingdon-on-Thames Town Council
Minutes of the Planning, Highways & Consultations Committee
Held 7.00 pm on Monday 14th November 2016
In the Guildhall, Abingdon-on-Thames.**

Present

Cllr Jeanette Halliday	Chairman
Cllr Margaret Crick	
Cllr Robert Hall	
Cllr Brian Hedley	
Cllr Vicky Jenkins	
Cllr Patrick Lonergan	
Cllr David Pope	

In Attendance

Mr Nigel Warner	Town Clerk
Mrs Nina Özdemir	PA to Town Clerk

1 **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllr Mike Badcock, Vice-Chairman.

2 **Declarations of interest**

None.

3 **Minutes**

Resolved that the minutes of the meetings held on 24th October 2016 be signed as a correct record by the Chairman, subject to corrections of typographical errors.

4. **Matters Arising**

None.

5. **Public Participation**

Mr Ronald Sparling made a statement and asked a question as attached as an appendix to these minutes.

The Chairman of the Committee, Cllr Jeanette Halliday, stated that the Town Council also shared these concerns and would be writing to the Vale of White Horse District Council and Oxfordshire County Council in this regard. In this regard she stated that there had previously been a Traffic Advisory Committee

for Abingdon. This provided a forum at which traffic/ highway issues could be discussed and it was agreed that the County Council should also be approached with a view to re-instating that Committee, which used to meet every six months.

The Chairman went on to state that there had been a proliferation of banners on barriers on highway land, specifically on the corner of Drayton Road/ Marcham Road and at the Tesco roundabout. She stated that these posed issues in relation to safety and their proliferation was also becoming unsightly. It was agreed that this issue should also be raised with the County Council.

Members also made the following points:

- Ad hoc development is the result of the delay in producing the new Local Plan. When the Local Plan is adopted builders will only be able to build in areas allocated for development, they will not be able to proceed piecemeal.
- South Oxfordshire District Council want a river crossing in their district. We, as part of the Vale of White Horse District Council, have been asking for similar repeatedly near the Culham area of the town.
- The matters raised are not ones which we have control over and so they should simply be passed on to the responsible authorities.
- We can respond to applications as we are a statutory consultee, but only make recommendations. The Vale of White Horse District Council has the final decision.
- It would be worth Mr Sparling approaching the District Council and requesting to speak at one of their planning meetings as this might have greater impact.

6. **Abbey Meadow Play Area**

Members received an update on the above from Ruth Cross, Leisure Development Officer at the Vale of White Horse District Council.

In addition to the points reported by the Town Clerk at the meeting of this Committee of 3rd October 2016, Ms Cross also reported the following:

- The location of the entrance to the play area will remain the same.
- There will be disabled access.
- The main feature in one zone will resemble the river and lock, along with various other equipment such as big swings and slides.
- The current crazy golf area will become a sensory area, with puzzle boards, musical instruments and will provide a quieter place.
- For children of 8 to 10 years old there would be a cableway, netting, inclusive roundabout and spinning top.
- There will be an area aimed at children/ young people aged 10 years and over, and include a football / basketball goal area and an aerial swing.
- The centre of the park will be an entertainment area which could be

booked for a street entertainer or band.

- There will be more benches and seating in this area, and more bins.
- There will be ongoing maintenance work to the area and pathways.
- Cannot give assurances re vandalism, but has been liaising with the Police. The main budget will be increased to take vandalism and graffiti into account.
- A member raised the possibility of an outdoor giant chess set but on discussion this was thought to be impractical as the pieces could be vulnerable to disappearing.
- A member asked if graffiti on current equipment could be removed and Ms Cross stated that she will ask.

Ms Cross was thanked for her presentation.

7. **Public Spaces Protection Orders**

Following an update at the last meeting from Mandeep Mann, (the District Council's Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator), on the new Public Spaces Protection Orders, members noted that a formal consultation would shortly be taking place and they would be advised of dates in due course.

As agreed at the last meeting, members also considered the areas which could be covered by PSPOs and also the issues needed to be addressed.

Issues raised were:

- Ongoing parking problems outside St Nicolas' Primary School.
- Cycling in Bury Street, which is a pedestrian area.
- Residents around Northcourt Road / Boxhill Walk are parking on the grass areas. Could these Orders be used and / or could there be signage? The grass verges are Oxfordshire County Council land and signs and enforcement are needed.
- Cycling and scooters on pavements.
- Need enforcement for A-Boards / clutter on pavements.
- Concerns about banners on railings.
- Concerns about young people sitting in the window recesses of the Guildhall with and without alcohol. Very intimidating when walking past.
- Banners on railings.

It was agreed that these comments would be taken forward for when the Council was formally consulted on this matter.

8. **Public Consultation on Oxfordshire Transformation Proposals**

Members noted that the public consultation which was scheduled to begin in October would now start end of December / beginning of January 2017.

9. **Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service Community Risk Management Plan Consultation**

Members noted the proposed five year Community Risk Management Plan and its accompanying year one Action Plan 2017-18. Individual Members could respond to this consultation.

Members noted the consultation period would end on 9th January 2017.

10. **Oxfordshire County Council Daytime Support Consultation**

Members noted the public consultation for the review of daytime support for people aged over 18 in Oxfordshire. Individual Members could respond to this consultation.

It was noted that the consultation would run until 9am on Tuesday 20th December 2016.

11. **BT Public Payphone Consultation**

Members considered the formal consultation by BT to remove public payphones across the country. The Committee objected to the removal of two payphones in Abingdon which were located at:

- Junction Oxford Road and Appleford Drive OX14 2DB
- PCO Ock Street OX14 5AE

12. **Oxfordshire County Council Road Traffic Regulation Orders**

Members noted the following Public Notice which had been received:

- Oxfordshire County Council (Abingdon) (One-Way Traffic and Prohibition and Restriction of Waiting) (Amendment No. 17) Order 2016 (Abingdon) (Designation and Regulation of Street Parking Places) (Amendment No. 7) Order 2016 (Vale of White Horse District excluding the Parish of North Hinksey) (Disabled Persons Parking Places) (Amendment No. 11) Order 2016

13. **Update on the Electrification Programme for the Great Western Route**

Members noted the email which had been received relating to the above.

14. **Application for Variation to Licence – Loose Cannon Brewery, Abingdon**

Members considered the above application. There were no objections.

15. **Certificate of Lawful Development**

Members noted the following:

RE: Single storey extension at the rear.
AT: 19 Brode Close, Abingdon OX14 2QJ
REF: P16/V2794/LDP

16. **Permitted Development Rights**

Members noted the following:

RE: Single-storey rear extension – Edwardian style conservatory
Depth: 4.0m
Height: 3.465m
Height to eaves: 2.1m
AT: 3 Ginge Close, Abingdon, OX14 2PY
REF: P16/V2748/PDH

17. **Vale of White Horse Planning Decisions**

Noted.

18. **Planning Applications**

Planning applications were received and considered from the Vale of White Horse District Council. Following consideration of the planning applications, it was **RESOLVED** that the following comments be forwarded as the Council's recommendations on the various applications: (see separate schedule).

The meeting rose at 7.55pm.

Appendix

Item 5 – Public Participation: Statement and Question from Mr Ronald Sparling

Good Evening.

I believe I speak on behalf of many concerned Abingdon Residents.

I am fully aware that the 'Planning Highways and Consultations Committee' must communicate with other Government departments and councils, but due to the committee's title, they must have some involvement in this process ?

Over the last year there have been many planning applications and proposals in the Abingdon area.

Briefly some of them are :-

North of town :-

N. Abingdon - 900 units PROPOSAL

Peachcroft - 1100 units PROPOSAL < desktop exercise ?

Impacting Ock St/Marcham Rd area :-

Colwell Drive - 93 units PROPOSAL

Cross keys - 6 units COMPLETE

Bellinger - 32 units PROPOSAL

Clock House - 25 units WORK IN PROGRESS

Mayott House - 40 units COMPLETE

Drayton & Steventon :-

Walnut Meadow - 73 units WORK IN PROGRESS

The Gables - 57 units WORK IN PROGRESS

Morland Gardens - 158 units WORK IN PROGRESS

Traffic in Abingdon is already at an excessive level.

If the projects mentioned are all completed we will have a total of Extra 2484 potential properties feeding traffic into the A34 junctions, over next 12 years.

As much as 7-8000 extra vehicle movements a day, as an estimate ?

Marcham Rd, Ock St, Northern link road., Oxford Rd and Lodge Hill WILL gridlock.

Car Parking will be a nightmare, as sometimes approval is given with little or no associated parking as flats at Stert St /Vineyard junction ?

This does not take into account any current or future developments in Marcham or any further proposals in the meantime.

Contractors traffic relating to building projects will also add to traffic levels.

My question is

Will the council please consider my suggestion that no further applications for additional properties should be considered until a Major Road upgrade is completed ?

This should ideally comprise of an elevated Southern Ring Rd from the vicinity of White Horse Leisure centre, crossing the river East of the lock, with a junction in Culham area , another river crossing South of the Marina to link up to a re-designed junction near Tesco , and also that the long-awaited Lodge hill junction is fully upgraded to 4 way status ?

I see a clear need to invest in the badly neglected infrastructure before drawing the extra £3m of Council tax receipts from the occupants of the New properties..... roadsB4roofs.