



PLANNING COMMITTEE

You are summonsed to attend a meeting of the Planning Committee at the following, place and date.

Date: 12 May 2009

Time: Immediate following Special Full Council.

Venue: Council Chamber, Town Hall, St John's Street, Devizes

Enquiries: Town Hall - Tel: 01380 722160

Chairman: Councillor Leighton
The Town Mayor (Councillor Mrs Burton)

Councillors:	Beinhorn	Callow	East
	Evans	Mrs Evans	Gagen
	Gudgeon	Hopkins	Nash
	Parsons	Smith	A R Taylor
	Mrs Taylor	C S Winchcombe	Mrs Winchcombe

AGENDA

1. MINUTES

To approve as a correct record and authorise the Chairman to sign the minutes of the meeting held on 28 April 2009 and which have been circulated alongside the agenda.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

3. DISCLOSURE(S) OF INTEREST

To receive any disclosure(s) of interest by a Councillor or an officer in matters to be considered at this meeting, in accordance with provisions of Sections 94 or 117 of the Local Government Act 1972 or the National Code of Local Government Conduct.

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

At the Chairman's discretion, members of the public attending the meeting will be allowed to ask questions, make a statement or address the Council upon a matter of concern to that person which is relevant to the Council. A time limit of 5 minutes per person will be permitted, but this may be extended at the Chairman's discretion and a maximum period of 20 minutes has been allocated by the Council for this item of business.

5. FOR DECISION – WILTSHIRE COUNCIL'S NOTICE OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

Details of Planning Applications for Consideration are attached (doc 5/1).

Members wishing to make enquiries about any of the applications listed or inspect plans before the meeting are advised to do so at the East Planning Department, Wiltshire Council, Browfort, Bath Road, Devizes.

6. REPORT FOR INFORMATION – WILTSHIRE COUNCIL'S NOTICE OF PLANS GRANTED OR REFUSED

Attached (doc 6/1) a list of plans granted, refused or withdrawn.

7. REPORT FOR INFORMATION – A361 SEEND BENDS, MAJOR CARRIAGEWAY MAINTENANCE WORKS

Attached (doc 7/1) is documentation received from Mouchel regarding the maintenance works being carried out on the A361 Seend Bends commencing Monday 11 May for approximately 13 weeks.

8. REPORT FOR DECISION – CROSSING IN ST JOHN'S STREET

Recommendation

It is recommended by the working party that this council requests that Wiltshire Council relocates the pedestrian crossing, currently located in front of the Silk Mercer public house, to a location between the HSBC and Nat West banks, being the most practical location for those wishing to cross the road and meeting all the necessary requirements for road markings.

Should the committee not be able to agree on this location, then the status quo should be maintained and no another location sought.

Purpose of the Report

To receive a recommendation from the working party, as appointed by this committee, for a location for the pedestrian crossing in St John's Street.

Background

A meeting was convened for the working party to meet with Mr Dave Thomas, a representative from Wiltshire Council's Highway Department, to consider the possible locations for the pedestrian crossing in St John's Street.

At that meeting, Mr Thomas put two suggestions forward, and members of the working party also felt that the current option must not be ignored, a view concurred with by Mr Thomas.

Options

One - to relocate the crossing south of its current location to between Quintessence Restaurant and Awdry Bailey and Douglas

Two - to locate the crossing north of its current location to between the HSBC and Nat West Banks.

Three - to keep the crossing in the current location.

The working party discussed with Mr Thomas at length the advantages and disadvantages and practicalities of each of the three options and it was accepted that each location, in terms of legality were acceptable.

Members of the working party were concerned that the crossing by Quintessence was too far down the road from the area where most people wished to cross and enquired if it could be moved closer to a former position which was outside Barford House. Mr Thomas explained that he had reservations about this site as the view for incoming traffic from Long Street and for pedestrians wishing to cross is restricted by the bend to the right after the Town Hall. The working party believed the Quintessence location is too far away from where most people would want to cross the road and was not a practical option.

The working party felt that locating the crossing between the HSBC and Nat West banks had the major advantage that this appeared to be where most people wanted to cross. There were concerns that this location would cause difficulties with cars turning right when pulling away from Castle Lane. After further discussions, it was agreed that manoeuvre in a car was already potentially dangerous and possibly having a crossing in place could possibly aid motorists.

The position of the current crossing was also discussed. Although there are some concerns about the location, this can be said about each of the alternative options.

Options Considered

That Devizes Town Council requests that the crossing located in front of the Silk Mercer public house be relocated between the HSBC and Nat West Banks, being the most practical location for those wishing to cross the road and meeting all the necessary requirements for road markings.

Or

The status quo should be maintained and the crossing left in its current location.

Implications & Risks

Financial and Resource Implications

There are no financial or resource implications which will impact on the Town Council.

Legal Implications and Legislative Powers

The Town Council is acting as a consultee in this matter.

Environmental Implications

Officers are not aware of any environmental implications associated with this decision, which impacts on the Town Council.

Risk Assessment

Officers are not aware of any environmental implications associated with this decision, which impacts on the Town Council.

Crime and Disorder

Officers are not aware of any issues the Council should consider under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder act 1998.

9. QUESTION TIME

Members will be allowed a short period in which to put questions on matters within the remit of this Committee which are not contained in the reports of matters formally considered by the Committee at this meeting. The question may be answered at the meeting or may be referred back to the Committee at a later date. The question may not be the subject of any further details.

TOWN CLERK