

PLANNING COMMITTEE
15th March 2022

Present: Chairman: Deputy Mayor, Councillor Corbett

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|--------------|------------|---------|---------|--------|
| Councillors: | Bridewell | Burton | East | Gay |
| | Greenwood | Hopkins | Hoult | Hunter |
| | Oliver | Rose | Stevens | Wallis |
| | Wooldridge | | | |

Officers: Simon Fisher, Town Clerk

Members of the Public: 3

547. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on the 1st March 2022, having been circulated to all Members were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

548. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Britten, Brown, Geddes, Nash, Giraud-Saunders and Pennington.

549. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Councillor Wallis declared an interest in item 552, as a member of Wiltshire Council's Eastern Area Planning Committee.

550. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were three members of the public present.

551. FOR INFORMATION – ROLL-OUT OF FULL FIBRE TO PROPERTIES

The committee was addressed by Mr Joe Gregory, the regional Community Manager from Giganet who are starting to install a "Full Fibre" digital network in the town. In his presentation, Mr Gregory set out the company history for Giganet, the services they offer and the infrastructure they are building in the town, to provide a new full fibre network.

It was explained that it could be 6 or 7 years before Openreach plan to install a "Full Fibre" network in the town as they are currently concentrating on larger conurbations and when that happens, Openreach will then remove all the traditional copper cables that support the current service.

As Giganet starts to install the new network, their plan is to use existing ducts where they can, however if they do not exist, they will need to lay new ducts

and then reinstate the land and this may regrettably cause some minor disruption.

They have already installed a single fibre cabinet in the High Street which will be sufficient for the whole town, and laid the infrastructure to connect the first 100 properties. The speed in town is currently 34 megs and Giganet's entry level package start from 150mgs at a cost in line with current providers.

As a company Giganet plan to be zero carbon, and they therefore support the planting of trees.

The presentation ended with a number of committee members asking questions which were answered.

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

PL/2022/00960 - There was a general discussion on the proximity of the proposed residential vehicle access point to the busy London Road / Windsor Drive junction, with a sense that given the volume of traffic that passes through this junction, it was difficult see how a private drive emerging at this point could not significantly impact on the flow of traffic.

It was proposed by Councillor Oliver, seconded by Councillor Greenwood and AGREED

THAT the Committee objects to the application as the proposed formation of vehicle access point at White House London Road will have an adverse impact on traffic flow through the London Road / Windsor Drive junction.

PL/2022/01283 - No objection

PL/2022/01374 - After a brief discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Hopkins, seconded by Councillor Greenwood and AGREED

THAT the Committee objects to the application as it is felt that the problem has been caused by an historical lack of maintenance as the house was built too close to this tree and it would have been known maintenance would be needed, and works to this tree are still possible rather than simply its removal.

PL/2022/01379 - after a brief discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Gay, seconded by Councillor Greenwood and AGREED

THAT the Committee objects to the application as the area in the application is too small to safely manoeuvre a car.

PL/2022/01493 - after a brief discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Greenwood, seconded by Councillor Hopkins and AGREED

THAT the Committee objects to the application due to the poor quality of the application making it too difficult for the committee understand the detail of the work that was being requested.

PL/2022/01517 - The committee was addressed by Mr Carter who had a number of concerns about the application but the committee itself had no objection.

553. FOR INFORMATION – WILTSHIRE COUNCIL’S NOTICE OF PLANS GRANTED OR REFUSED

The committee received and noted the report. It was noted by the Chairman that the application PL/02477/OUT for a residential development of up to 57 dwellings together with new vehicular accesses onto Parkfields and Quakers Road was not approved by Wiltshire Council’s planning committee. A Town Councillor had attended that meeting and made representation to the committee.

554. FOR INFORMATION - ZEBRA CROSSING AT THE NURSERY IN DEVIZES

The committee received and noted the report and there was some disappointment that Wiltshire Council has not taken any action to improve safety following an earlier fatality and further frustration that a report that set out the need for improvements has been lost.

555. FOR DECISION – HIGHWAYS IMPROVEMENT REQUEST, BYRON ROAD/ GREEN LANE JUNCTION TO IMPROVE THE WIDTH OF THE PAVMENT ON PANS LANE LEADING TO THE JUNCTION

Following an address to the committee by the applicant and a general debate by the committee, it was proposed by Councillor Hault, seconded by Councillor Greenwood and unanimously AGREED

THAT the committee endorses the highway improvement request.

THAT officers request the traffic engineer visits the site to look at what can be done to improve faded lines in the area.

THAT members of the Open Spaces Team visit the site and see if they can cut back any fallen bank to expose the edge of the pavement.

556. FOR DECISION – APPLICATION FOR STREET TRADING CONSENT – HOPTON INDUSTRIAL ESTATE

After a detailed debate it was proposed by Councillor Wallis and seconded by Councillor Gay and it was unanimously AGREED

THAT whilst Devizes Town Council fully supports independent business, it cannot support the applicant's location request as it is within a double yellow line traffic order area.

557. QUESTION TIME

1. Councillor Bridewell asked the unitary member present if the Council could be updated on any plans for the resurfacing of Victoria Road following a complaint she had received from a local resident.

Councillor Wallis responded by advising he has spoken to the former local traffic engineer who has advised that there were no reported issues. Councillor Wallis also believed that following the construction of Needham House, there has been an offer to repair the road but this has not been actioned nor was the traffic engineer aware of the offer. Councillor Wallis does plan to take the matter up with the current engineer.

2. Councillor Hunter asked if there was a protocol to have a youth representative sit on the Council, now that Devizes has its own elected representative on the Wiltshire Youth Council.

The Town Clerk responded by advising that he was aware that there is a Devizes representative on the Wiltshire Youth Council and that as there is a current protocol in place to allow youth representatives to sit a non-voting participant on the Council, he has intended to send an invitation. It is recognised that the protocol may need to be reviewed, but there would be some benefit in having a youth member at that meeting to help inform any discussion.

CHAIRMAN