

## **PLANNING COMMITTEE**

**25<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

Present: Chairman: Deputy Mayor, Councillor Stevens  
Town Mayor: Councillor Corbett

Councillors:	Bridewell	Britten	Brown	Tanner
	East	Gay	Geddes	
	Giraud-Saunders	Greenwood	Hopkins	
	Hoult	Hunter	Nash	
	Oliver	Ormerod	Pennington	
	Rose	Wallis	Wooldridge	

Officers: Simon Fisher, Town Clerk  
Elizabeth Brownson, Committee Administrator

Members of the Public: Three

### **551. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 11<sup>th</sup> April 2023 having been circulated to all Members were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

### **552. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillor Ormerod.

### **553. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**

Councillors Nash and Wallis declared an interest in minute number 555, as members of Wiltshire Council's Eastern Area Planning Committee and did not take part in plans other than those which relate to their Ward. Councillors Geddes and Greenwood advised that the applicant for plan number PL/2023/02207 is known to them both personally but they have pecuniary interest in the application.

Councillor Wallis also advised that in relation to minute 557, he was the Chairman of the DDP, but he would be making a comment during any discussion.

### **554. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were three members of the public present.

### **555. FOR DECISION – WILTSHIRE COUNCIL'S NOTICE OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR CONSIDERATION**

PL/2023/02825 – No objections.

PL/2023/02207 – No objections.

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

The committee received and noted the report.

**557. REPORT FOR INFORMATION – DEVIZES GATEWAY STATION**

The Chairman welcomed Mrs Symington, who has been supporting the Town Council and Devizes Development Partnership through “Restoring Your Railway” process.

Mrs Symington explained that the principle of developing a new Gateway Station for the town was still to support economic growth for local business’, help young people access higher education and strengthen the local tourism through improved local access to the railway network.

Strategic outline was submitted in November 2021 to DFT. 7 months later it was advised that it was a good argument for the plans but needed more detail. It appointed Network Rail in August 2022 and provided £400,000 to carry out a feasibility study to look at issues that hadn’t been answered.

In developing the Interim Feasibility Study a concept was established that the station would have two unmanned platforms with a footbridge (bridal bridge), shutters, bus and car drop off as well as a car park albeit with lower capacity than originally put forward. To help concerns around traffic management and the impact on local villages the plan was to move the station to the south of the line and a short distance further from the town.

Whilst the study has shown there are clearly benefits in developing a gateway station to make it work operationally, substantial work will need to be carried out at Westbury Station and if this work is only costed against the Devizes Project then it becomes financially unviable.

Both Network Rail & GWR both agree that they need to look into a wider Wiltshire Rail Improvement strategy. One issue currently being experienced is on a line capacity due the amount of quarried stone being taken from the Mendip Hills to Old Oak Common for the HS2 project. This work is due to be completed in 2029.

It is hoped that work will start on this wider strategy in late 2024, in the meantime all agencies and partners are reminded that it is still important to show their support for the project

It was asked that whilst this work is going on if there could be an improvement in the bus connectivity to our local train station as a bus to Pewsey takes 1 hour from Devizes. If the connections were reasonable more people would use it. In response it was advised that Wiltshire were aware of the issues and as part of a new grant a new demand led service was being made available for Pewsey station

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**558. QUESTION TIME**

There were no questions.

CHAIRMAN