

PLANNING COMMITTEE

20th June 2023

Present: Chairman: Councillor Hopkins
Town Mayor: Councillor Stevens

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

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

Members of the Public: 5 plus 4 Wessex Water representatives.

72. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on the 6th June 2023 having been circulated to all Members were confirmed and signed by the Chairman. Councillor Oliver identified a spelling mistake that has been changed.

73. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies from Councillors Brown, Corbett and Pennington.

74. DISCLOSURE(S) OF INTEREST

Councillor Nash as a member of Wiltshire Council Eastern Area Planning Committee has interest in all areas of Devizes except his own ward of Devizes East.

Councillor Wallis as a member of Wiltshire Council East Area Planning Committee he will be commenting on applications in his own division Devizes North.

75. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Five members of the community were in attendance plus 4 Wessex Water representatives.

76. REPORT FOR INFORMATION - DEVIZES WATER QUALITY PROJECT

The committee were advised by Wessex Water that the project will be starting work on 7th August 2023 (*this date has since been revised as a result of this meeting to the 29 August*) with an end date of spring 2025. It was hoped to use no dig technology but this will not work because of the services that are underground so they will have to use open cut trenches which is a slower method of pipe replacement. The project will trial high power suction and if it is successful this will hopefully bring the planned end date forward and will then be used on other areas of the project. There were concerns from Councillors regarding road closure for access to homes, businesses and car parks within the town centre, however Wessex Water assured Councillors that they will maintain access at all times and they can be flexible to support residents. A traffic management plan for the project has been agreed by Wiltshire Council's highway team, but Wessex Water also made it clear that if something doesn't work as well as hoped things can be adjusted.

It was confirmed that a letter has been circulated to residents and businesses explaining the works with further letters to be issued two weeks before they are due to move to each new phase to update the residents and business owners. There will also be a drop-in session for the community to understand what is going to happen.

During the works, two compounds will be set up, one will be on the grass area on Sheep Street that will be covered with matting before the compound is put down so when removed the grass will naturally repair itself. The second compound will be in the grounds of Oxhouse on Dunkirk Hill. The plan is to keep HGV traffic to a minimum in the town, with all deliveries going to the Dunkirk Hill depot and only being moved to Sheep Street when needed. Wessex Water will contact residents of Dunkirk Hill to make them aware of the plans.

Councillors have suggested Wessex Water should come to see town centre traffic at peak times and understand how quickly traffic builds up. Wessex Water have said they will use as minimal HGV's as possible about three per day for limited days and try to avoid peak times where possible. Wessex Water and Wiltshire Council Highways have looked into diverting HGV's round Devizes and the outcome of the census showed it will cause more disturbance and it will be a 57-mile trip to avoid driving via the town.

Phase 1 will be 27 weeks 7th (29th) August – 16th February split A-E

Phase 1A – 8-week road closure at junction of Sheep Street, Sidmouth Street and Monday Market Street. 14th August – 6th September. There were concerns that 2nd September is the carnival date Wessex Water has assured the Councillors that they will be putting measures in place to make sure this can go ahead.

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Phase 1B – 4 Week Closure at the top of Sheep Street to junction of Bridewell Street.

Phase 1C – Continue down the road Bridewell Street to the junction to Sheep Street and Morris Street. Wessex Water know there is an ambulance station down there so that will be managed as well.

Phase 1D – There will be no road closures onto Long Street with 3 way lights and 2 way lights to manage traffic. There will be a closure at the junction of Hillworth Road that will be for a small period for about a week for a new connection but a diversion will be put in place.

Phase 1E – Public right of way on Morris Lane that connects Sheep Street to Long Street that will be managed by public right of way closure and a divert will be set up.

It was noted that Wessex Water should contact Rowde Parish Council as it will have an adverse effect on the area and this extends to concerns that Conscience Lane and Whistley Road are rat runs to avoid traffic in Devizes.

Wessex Water were asked if the junction at the end of Sidmouth Street by Roses Butchers had been modelled as part of the traffic management as there are concerns that local vehicles including butchers' vans will cause significant delays and danger. Wessex Water advised that there will be someone managing the traffic from 07:00-19:00 so if any traffic builds up, they can manage it. All the drawings have been approved by Wiltshire Council's highway department.

It was suggested that the parking bay outside Dominos should be returned to a loading only bay and Wessex Water said they will go back and see if that is a possibility.

Wessex Water will contact Devizes Town Council and join local Facebook groups with updates to be posted on any social media to keep residents informed of any updates.

Concerns were raised that this project does not coincide with other planned road works in the town. It was noted that the carnival procession will need to get through the town centre during the work period and this would be made difficult by the closure of the Sidmouth Street / Sheep Street junction. Wessex Water confirmed that whilst they were aware of the events they would look at their plans again.

Wessex Water were asked to take away all the information provided about the town from the councillors who know Devizes very well and take it into consideration before starting the project and that regular updates with a few Councillors would be helpful to sort out any immediate issues. Wessex Water suggested every six weeks to meet with Devizes Town Council for updates about the job.

Town Clerk to share Councillors' contact details with Wessex Water if they have any more questions.

77. REPORT FOR DECISION – PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

PL/2023/04009 – After a brief discussion it was proposed by Councillor Wallis, seconded by Councillor Ormerod and Agreed

THAT Devizes Town Council positively supports the application

PL/2023/03573 – After a detailed discussion it was proposed by Councillor Ormerod, seconded by Councillor Wallis and agreed

THAT Devizes Town Council objects to the planning application due, to a lack of affordable housing within the scheme; inadequate parking provision within the development; a very poor traffic management plan for the scheme and poor design when considering the relationship between the new building and the assize courts.

PL/2023/04606 – No objections.

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

The committee received and noted the report.

79. REPORT FOR INFORMATION – WILTSHIRE BUS REVIEW STAKEHOLDER SURVEY.

After a discussion it was proposed by Councillor Hopkins, seconded by Councillor Bridwell and Agreed.

THAT Councillors Rose, Ormerod, Oliver, Greenwood and Hopkins would be delegated to complete the questionnaire on behalf of the council.

80. QUESTION TIME

No questions were received from Councillors.

A member of the public questioned about the amount of new housing developments coming forward for the town and what was Devizes Town Council doing about it, as it is affecting air quality. The Chairman advised the resident that Devizes Town Council objected to recent larger developments but local planning refusal can be overturned by planning inspectors. The resident also mentioned that the speed ramps on Maryport Street are in a poor condition and that the roads need resurfacing.

CHAIRMAN