

PLANNING COMMITTEE

30th August 2022

Present: Chairman: Deputy Mayor, Councillor Stevens

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

Officers: Elanor Oddy, Office Manager
Jan Rendle, Committee Administrator

Members of the Public: Ten

186. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on the 16th August 2022, having been circulated to all Members were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

187. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Corbett and East.

188. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Councillors Nash and Wallis both declared an interest in item 190, as members of Wiltshire Council's Eastern Area Planning Committee.
Councillor Geddes declared an interest in item 192, as an immediate neighbour of the land being discussed.

189. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were ten members of the public present, and Dr Nick Capstick from the White Horse Federation Trust, who had been invited to discuss item 192.

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

PL/2022/05828	- No comment
PL/2022/06028	- No objection
PL/2022/06191	- No objection
PL/2022/06269	- No objection
PL/2022/06524	- No objection.

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

The committee received and noted the report.

192. FOR INFORMATION – DEVIZES SCHOOL LAND SALE

Dr Nick Capstick was invited to address the meeting and gave a comprehensive overview of the White Horse Foundation Trust’s proposal to sell an area of land with poor sports potential in order to fund the investment in sports facilities, science laboratories and language facilities. He explained that currently between 20% and 30% of Devizes Year 6 children attend schools elsewhere, these tending to be the higher achievers. The Trust has already significantly raised educational standards and invested in maintenance and infrastructure, but in order to fund improved facilities and buildings to attract those children who are looking elsewhere – and indeed better teachers – and thus raise the overall quality of education further, it requires a substantial capital investment that has proved unavailable from other sources.

There was a robust discussion in which Members expressed their hostility to the proposals to lose not only an area of sports field but also reduce the amount of open space within the town, whilst acknowledging the ongoing poor state of the school buildings. Concern was expressed that there had been insufficient consultation with ward Members and neighbouring properties, although the meeting was reminded that the proposals were still at a pre-consultation stage, with some contact having been made with stakeholders and immediate neighbours. Members of the public also queried the rationale behind the proposal.

193. FOR DECISION – WILTSHIRE COUNCIL EVENT PARKING CONSULTATION

Following a long discussion in which the Committee expressed its frustration at the illogicality of the policy, it was proposed by Councillor Wallis, seconded by Councillor Nash and AGREED

THAT the Council’s response would be as follows:

- 1) Full closure of the car parks to continue to be charged at the projected loss of income for that day;
- 2) Partial closures to be charged at £20 per bay up to a cap of the projected loss of income for the entire car park that day – but with only the required spaces being suspended;
- 3) Where the amount to be charged is less than the administration and enforcement cost for that car park, a reasonable charge should be agreed with the organiser and paid once the activity has been concluded.

It was further AGREED

THAT officers should make enquiries to ascertain how other local Town Councils are approaching the event parking consultation.

194. QUESTION TIME

There were no questions.

CHAIRMAN