

PLANNING COMMITTEE MINUTES

18th July 2023

Present: Chairman: Councillor Hopkins

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

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

Members of the Public: Five

110. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on the 4th July 2023 having been circulated to all Members were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

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111. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Stevens and Councillor Nash.

112. DISCLOSURE(S) OF INTEREST

Councillor Wallis in Minute 114 being part of Wiltshire Council East Area Planning Committee he will not be commenting on anything other than applications in his area of Devizes North Ward.

Councillor Oliver on planning application PL/2023/04995 has a slight marginal interest as applicant is a personal friend.

113. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Five members of the community attended the meeting.

114. REPORT FOR DECISION – PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

PL/2023/02961 – No objections

PL/2023/04622 – No objections

PL/2023/04995 – After a discussion regarding the downgrade of materials used to repair the building it was proposed by Councillor Ormerod and seconded by Councillor Giraud-Saunders and agreed

THAT Devizes Town Council should object to this application.

PL/2023/05033 – After a lengthy discussion regarding layout, National and Wiltshire Design Guide it was proposed by Councillor Ormerod and seconded by Councillor Hunter and a unanimous vote.

THAT Devizes Town Council objects to this application on the following grounds.

1. In terms of the National Design Guides and the creation of identity, the embankment, which is a landscape feature of this area, is masked by a line of houses that run parallel to it.
2. The design layout with garages between the houses which does not create any build form which should be key to good design as set out in the design guide.
3. The development's relationship with Sleight Lane, which as a rural area is very important and has been ignored. The lane should not be used as a hard development boundary, as this has a significant impact on the rural aspect of the lane and therefore there needs to a green buffer.
4. It is disappointing that the application does not make any attempt use the railway embankment, which will form part of the Gateway cycleway proposal, as a route into the town centre especially as there is a lack of any active travel initiatives within the application, as this would provide additional sustainability.

PL/2023/05069 – No objections

PL/2023/05127 – After a discussion regarding the potential use of this storage unit and effects it could have on the landscape and traffic around the area. It was proposed by Councillor Ormerod and seconded by Councillor Rose but NOT agreed

THAT Devizes Town Council objects to this application due to potential use to store and supply to supermarkets or waste management with this causing significant harm to the countryside and traffic impact.

It was then proposed by Councillor Wallis and seconded by Councillor Greenwood and agreed

THAT Devizes Town Council should support this application but that it has a condition placed on any approval that the building that it is only for personal use for the storage for vintage vehicles.

PL/2023/05273 – No objections

PL/2023/05628– No objections

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

The committee received and noted the report.

Councillor Wallis has made a request for more information for PL/2023/00615 as Wiltshire Council Highways had made a comment online regarding needing more work on the access to the site as it is not sufficient.

116. REPORT FOR DECISION – WILTSHIRE DESIGN GUIDE CONSULTATION

After a brief discussion it was proposed by Councillor Ormerod and seconded by Councillor Wallis and agreed

THAT The Town Council is very much in favour of Wiltshire Council’s initiative to improve the quality of development, in support of the Government’s Building Beautiful policy.

The draft Wiltshire Design Guide is an effective step along this path. We note that it follows the template of the National Design Guide. It is important to align local design

guides, to provide a consistent framework, while developing the detail and diversity of local guidance.

We detect an emphasis on the rural character of the County, and on village development, and to some extent a generic, less place-based approach. We believe that is appropriate to a county of this size and character. But it means that there remains a role for town-based guidance, such as the emerging Devizes Central Area Design Guide.

117. REPORT FOR DECISION – REVIEW OF TOWN COUNCILS’ INVOLVEMENT IN BUS SHELTER MAINTENANCE

After a lengthy discussion with feedback from Councillors and members of the public it was proposed by Councillor Wallis and seconded by Councillor Oliver with a vote in favour

THAT A small limited time task group to be set up for two meetings to conduct a review of shelters and what condition they are in, and a resolution. Devizes Town Council should make an agreement with Wiltshire Council over the responsibility of the bus stops and maintaining them.

It was proposed by Councillor Wallis and seconded by Councillor Oliver with a unanimous vote

THAT Councillor Wallis, Councillor Oliver, Councillor Greenwood, Councillor Tanner, Councillor Corbett, Councillor Hunter and Councillor Ormerod will form the task group and will meet on dates that are suitable for the majority of members.

118. REPORT FOR INFORMATION – LOCAL HIGHWAY & FOOTPATH IMPROVEMENT GFOUP (LHFIG) PROJECT UPDATE FOR DEVIZES

Councillor Gay asked about the Bath Road crossing, Councillor Oliver advised that it was an assessment from Highways that said insufficient people would benefit from this crossing and the best place to put it is opposite the Spar shop and if wasn’t to go there then there would not be one at all.

Councillor Wallis enquired about what had happened to the Highways improvement request regarding Morrison’s roundabout layout. The Town Clerk advises that he has not seen any update so would follow up.

Councillor Wallis had also put forward two Highways improvement forms regarding Bath Road crossing near the Nursery and St Peters crossing to improve them and these had disappeared, therefore could they be followed

up. Councillor Oliver advised that the LHFIG had excluded anything other than a crossing by the Spar shop as they believe all other locations will have insufficient demand. Councillor Rose brought to everyone's attention that about 15 years ago an attempt to get a crossing by the Spar shop had not been successful because at that time it was deemed that a better location was further down the road by the bus stop, however a resident was unhappy about it being outside their property.

119. REPORT FOR INFORMATION – LCWIP CONSULTATION

The Town Clerk advised Councillors that whilst it was originally decided that the committee would agree a response to the LCWIP consultation at this meeting an extension to the deadline has given time to allow a follow up meeting the Cycle Friendly Devizes. The item will now be considered at the next planning meeting.

120. QUESTION TIME

Councillor Ormerod asked if the tree works application made by Devizes Town Council for St Marys Churchyard would be brought to a future meeting. The Town Clerk said it would not as the application was in relation to urgent works, but if there were further questions or suggestions, he would be happy to discuss them.

The Chairman allowed a member of the public to address the committee.

The member of the public asked about lack of signs along London Road to remind drivers that there is a 30mph speed limit. The Town Clerk advised that Wiltshire Council's policy is that 30mph repeater signs are not used in an urban area where the speed limit should be known.

The member of the public also asked if it was proposed that artificial grass would again be placed under the seating area in the Market Place. The Town Clerk confirmed that it would be.

CHAIRMAN