

Minutes

Witham Area Committee

18th July 2006



Present:

Councillors	Present	Councillors	Present
J E Abbott	Yes	P A Heath	Yes
P R Barlow	Yes	P J Hughes	Yes
K E Bigden (Vice-Chairman)	Yes	M C M Lager	Yes
K D Boylan	Yes	Ms J S M Martin	Yes
Dr R L Evans (Chairman)	Yes	R G S Mitchell	Apologies
D M Finch	No	Mrs J B Reekie	Apologies
T J W Foster	Yes	Mrs K E Tearle	Yes
Mrs M E Galione	Yes	R A G Tincknell	Yes
J E B Gyford	Yes	P J R Turner	Apologies

Mr A French, Chairman of the Standards Committee, was also in attendance.

25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following Declarations of Interest were made:-

- Councillor M C M Lager declared:
 - (i) A personal interest as a Member of Witham Town Council in Planning Application No. 06/00881/FUL – 102 Maltings Lane.
 - (ii) A personal and prejudicial interest as an Essex County Council member involved in the suggested Option 4 in Agenda Item 5 – Ebenezer Close to Chipping Hill (Bramble Road) Cycleway, Witham. In accordance with the Code of Conduct, Councillor Lager left the meeting during the discussion on this item and the relevant part of Public Question Time.
- Councillor J E B Gyford declared a personal interest as his wife offered historical archaeological information in respect of one of the routes in Agenda Item 5 – Ebenezer Close to Chipping Hill (Bramble Road) Cycleway, Witham.
- Councillors J E Abbott and Mrs M E Galione declared personal interests as ordinary members of Witham & Countryside Society which had made representations on the proposals in Agenda Item 5 – Ebenezer Close to Chipping Hill (Bramble Road) Cycleway, Witham.
- Councillors P R Barlow, K D Boylan and Mrs K E Tearle declared personal interests as members of Witham Town Council which had commented on both items in Agenda Items 5 - Ebenezer Close to Chipping Hill (Bramble Road) Cycleway, Witham and 6 - Application No. 06/00881/FUL – 102 Maltings Lane.

In accordance with the Code of Conduct, all Councillors remained at the meeting, unless stated otherwise, and took part in the discussion for all the above items and the vote thereon.

26 MINUTES

DECISION: The minutes of the meeting of the Witham Area Committee held on 20th June 2006 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

27 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

INFORMATION: There was one question asked, a summary of which is appended to these Minutes.

Any amendments to the Officers' recommendations having taken into account the issues raised by members of the public would be dealt with by conditions, a summary of which is contained within the appropriate minute. Full details of the Decision Notices are contained in the Register of Planning Applications.

28 EBENEZER CLOSE TO CHIPPING HILL (BRAMBLE ROAD) CYCLEWAY, WITHAM

(Councillor Lager left the meeting during the discussion of the following item).

INFORMATION: The Committee considered a report setting out the results of the public consultation on four route options for the Chipping Hill to Ebenezer Close cycleway. The Local Plans and Cycling Officer, Rachel Stevens, advised that Essex County Council had been consulted on the proposed route and advised that the highway was not wide enough for a cycleway.

Members considered that, on balance, option 4 was the better option of the four but felt that none of the routes were ideal. It was suggested that traffic calming would be preferable to traffic lights and that every effort should be made to minimise potential conflict between pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles. The Committee requested a further report to include full costings of all options together with a safety audit and in particular the point at which cyclists were expected to dismount at Spring Lodge car park.

DECISION: That a further report be presented to Witham Area Committee detailing the full costings of all four options together with a safety audit as referred to above.

29 PLANNING APPLICATIONS APPROVED

DECISION: That the undermentioned planning applications be approved under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, including Listed Building Consent where appropriate, subject to the conditions contained in the Development Director's report, as amended below, details of which are contained in the Register of Planning Applications.

<u>Plan No.</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Applicant(s)</u>	<u>Proposed Development</u>
*06/00650/FUL (APPROVED)	Feering	Ms D O'Brien	Amendments to approvals 99/01874/PLD, 00/01463/FUL & 00/01464/LBC – Single storey extension, conversion of existing attached outbuilding and new car port, The Barn, 15A Feering Hill.
*06/00651/LBC (APPROVED)	Feering	Ms D O'Brien	Amendments to approvals 99/01874/PLD, 00/01463/FUL & 00/01464/LBC – Single storey extension, conversion of existing attached outbuilding and new car port, The Barn, 15A Feering Hill.
*06/01111/FUL (APPROVED)	Terling	Daniel Foreman	Erection of first floor extension to existing garage and proposed enclosure of existing entrance porch, Forge Cottage, Waltham Road.
*06/00881/FUL (APPROVED)	Witham	Mr A Hilling	Erection of close boarded fence to garden fronting highway, 102 Maltings Lane.

30 MINUTES FROM OTHER GROUPS AND PANELS

Witham Area Panel – 3rd May 2006

INFORMATION: The Committee expressed serious concern regarding the content of the minutes of the Area Panel which they considered to be unhelpful and lacking in action points. Members were particularly concerned that environmental improvements they had suggested for their wards were not implemented. The Area Manager Housing Services, Mr Ian Perry advised the Committee that all three Area Panels had a reduced budget, down to £200,000 from £300,000, which meant only minor improvements in each Area could be funded. He added that the minutes were produced by the officer responsible for co-ordinating the meeting and therefore kept brief and to the point.

Action Point: Ian Perry to liaise with the officers responsible for the three Area Panels to ensure that more relevant minutes including action points are produced in future.

DECISION: That the minutes be received and noted.

Whilst the following item was considered in private session, the minutes do not contain any confidential information and are therefore admissible in the public domain.

INFORMATION: Members were reminded that, in accordance with the Council's Constitution, petitions consisting of 20 or more signatures were automatically referred to the relevant Area Committee for noting. Mr Ian Perry, Area Manager, Housing Services, advised that the petition was received through the Housing Department and had not been considered by the anti-social behaviour team. He noted that the Police had no records of any problems in the area in question. Verbal complaints had been received together with support from other neighbours who did not consider there to be a problem and the tenants had been visited. Members requested that a report giving an update on progress made be presented to a future meeting of Witham Area Committee and that the relevant ward member be advised of such petitions in future.

DECISION: That the petition be received and noted with a report on action taken and progress made to be presented to a future meeting of Witham Area Committee.

PLEASE NOTE: The full list of standard conditions and reasons can be viewed at the Office of the Development Service Director, Council Offices, Causeway House, Bocking End, Braintree, Essex, CM7 9HB.

(Where applications are marked * this denotes that representations were received and considered by the Committee).

The meeting commenced at 7.15pm and closed at 8.43pm.

DR R L EVANS

(CHAIRMAN)

APPENDIX

WITHAM AREA COMMITTEE

18th July 2006

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Summary of Questions Asked / Statements Made During Public Question Time

1. Question Relating to Agenda Item 5 – Ebenezer Close to Chipping Hill (Bramble Road) Cycleway, Witham

Question by Mr K Corville, 47 Chipping Hill

Mr Corville asked why there was no provision for a cycle path on Powers Hall End Road and why cyclists were asked to dismount at this site?

Mr Corville's question was answered during the officer's presentation.