

Minutes of the meeting of the **Planning Committee** held at the **Shire Hall** on **Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> August 2024** at **5.30pm**

## **Councillors:**

Present: D Adelson, S Bale, E Beck, G Holdcroft, R Leach, N Phipps, D Pegg and R Sanders.

Apologies: P Gillard and M Kneebone.

In attendance: Town Clerk and no members of the public.

### **1. Apologies for Absence**

The Committee agreed to approve the absence of P Gillard and M Kneebone.

### **2. To receive Declarations of Interest**

No members made any declarations of interests in relation to items on the agenda.

### **3. Public Question Time.**

There were no members of the public present.

### **4. To agree and approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> August 2024**

The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held 7<sup>th</sup> August 2024 were approved.

### **5. To note intentions to undertake works to trees in the conservation area (TCA)**

The Committee noted the following works to trees in the conservation area (TCA):

- DC/24/2817/TCA - The Cottage 38 Cumberland Street Woodbridge Suffolk IP12 4AD

The committee made no comment.

- DC/24/2835/TCA - St Johns Church St Johns Hill Woodbridge Suffolk IP12 1HS

WTC are deeply concerned about the potential loss of trees in the historic centre of Woodbridge, especially the loss of the group of five yew trees

which provide an iconic churchyard scene. We believe their removal is unlikely to solve the anti-social behaviour described, instead it will be re-located elsewhere in the churchyard. Whilst the Council would prefer to see management rather than felling of these yews, we note that they are about to obstruct the footpath, and so, after some discussion, decided not to ask for a TPO on the group. We are therefore agreeable to the work listed 1-5 on the application form (and provided below).

1 - 1no. Group of Yew (marked group of 5 on plan) - Fell

2 - 1no. Group of Yew (marked group of 2 on plan) - Reduce canopy to finished radius of 2 metres and reduce height by up to 1 metre

3 - 1no. Sycamore (marked large sycamore on plan) - Prune to create a clearance of 3 metres from the church building

4 - 1no. Sycamore (marked small sycamore on plan) - Fell

5- 1no. Yew (marked yew, box on plan) - Fell

Regarding item 6 - 3no. Laurel (marked on plan) - Fell

WTC cannot see any suitable reason for the felling/ removal of the three laurel trees/bushes, and therefore request it be reconsidered. Again, the Council would prefer to see these specimens managed in order that the visual and social amenity they provide is not lost.

Furthermore, the Council will apply to the Planning Authority for an area TPO to be introduced for the entirety of the St Johns Churchyard (which is to apply to the trees remaining after the work above).

**6. To comment on applications to trees with a Tree Preservation Order (TPO)**

No applications in this period.

**7. To comment on applications for planning permission**

The Council agreed their comments as set out below:-

DC/24/2484/FUL - Blinney Road Off Grove Road Grundisburgh Road Roundabout Woodbridge Suffolk IP12 4HH	Further to WTC's holding objection on this application agreed at the meeting on August 7th, the Committee considered the response from Suffolk County Council Highways.
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	<p>Whilst WTC supports the principle of providing energy storage for the benefit the town, in line with the comment from Suffolk County Council Highways, <b>WTC recommends refusal</b>, for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The proposed location is on the corner of a very busy junction by a high-speed road, and that is only likely to get busier and potentially more dangerous in the near future. The consequences of a road accident on the roundabout would become much more severe should a vehicle collide with the battery.</li> <li>- There is currently street furniture and trees in the proposed location.</li> <li>- The Active Travel Woodbridge project will impact significantly on traffic movements along Bilney Road,</li> <li>- The junction is likely to be remodelled as part of the A12 Major Road Network Improvement Project.</li> <li>- Any work undertaken at this site will be difficult to complete safely without significant road closures.</li> </ul>
<p>DC/24/2810/VOC - Land To The South And East Of Adastral Park Martlesham Suffolk</p>	<p><b>WTC recommends refusal</b> – this application makes the development very different from the original, accepted plans, and the proposed landscaping is a retrograde step from that already approved. WTC endorse the recommendation of refusal provided by the East Suffolk Council Senior Landscape Officer.</p>

**8. To note East Suffolk Council decisions on Planning Applications where those decision are contrary to this Council's recommendations and not previously reported**

The Committee noted East Suffolk Council's decisions on planning applications where those decisions are contrary to this Council's recommendations and not previously reported.

**9. To consider a pavement licence application for Caffè Nero, Woodbridge.**

The Committee agreed it has no objection to the pavement license application for Caffè Nero.

**10. Closure**

The meeting was closed at 6.06pm.

Councillor Adelson  
Chair