

Notes of a meeting of Chatteris Town Council's Planning Working Group held at the Council Chambers, 14 Church Lane, Chatteris, on Tuesday 24th September 2024

Present: Cllrs L Ashley (Chairman), A Gowler, A Hay, V Joyce, S Selman and S Unwin.

P14 24/25 Apologies for Absence

An apology for absence had been received from Cllr Siggee.

P15 24/25 To Consider LHI Scheme Suggestions

The Clerk said the Council had to submit an expression of interest in putting forward an LHI scheme by the 11th October and there were currently four schemes being suggested. A decision had to be made on which scheme to submit. The four schemes were:

Street lighting in Dock Road;

A speed reduction scheme for Station Street and Station Road;

Works to prevent illegal parking at the entrance to Allen's Yard;

Improvements to the New Road junction on the A142 Isle of Ely Way.

Dock Road: The Clerk reported that 32 residents had signed a petition, drawn up by Cllr Perrin, in support of streetlights along Dock Road. The signatories represented most of the residents of Dock Road and Quayside. Cllr Gowler pointed out that the Council had already looked into the idea of installing solar lights along the road but had rejected the scheme as it was feared it would open the floodgates to requests for lighting in other parts of the town.

Station Street: Cllr Perrin had collected 59 signatures in support of the scheme. Cllr Ashley pointed out a speed reduction scheme was already being considered for Station Street. Cllr Hay said she had requested flashing 20mph speed signs at school times in Station Street and a zebra crossing from Rosemary Lane across Station Street so children could safely access Burnsfield Street leading to Kingsfield School. Cllr Ashley said the crossing would help to slow traffic and would continue the safe route to school which included the crossing in Huntingdon Road. It was agreed to submit an LHI application would be counter productive as there was already a scheme under consideration. Cllr Gowler said he would support a mini roundabout at the junction of Station Road and Station Street in future as it would hopefully reduce the poor parking in the area. He was also not opposed to the idea of making Clare Street one way. Cllr Ashley said the Willows Nursery had complained as many cars parked up for the day in Station Road making it difficult for parents to park when delivering and collecting children.

Allens Yard: Councillors sympathised with residents of Allen's Yard who regularly found their entrance on to Wenny Road blocked by illegally parked cars but pointed out no parking measures were already in existence and lines needed to be repainted and enforced. It was not

an LHI scheme. It was agreed to ask the police to take action against cars illegally parked at that location, in Station Road and on the pavement at the top of Church Lane.

LHI: Cllr Selman asked about the LHI scheme and Cllr Hay explained there were non-complex and complex schemes submitted by town and parish councils. Non-complex applications were determined by County Council officers and complex by a panel of County Councillors who rated schemes based on considerations such as local support, the safety record of the road and value for money.

A142: Cllr Gowler had run an online consultation asking residents to support road improvements to the New Road junction on the A142 Isle of Ely Way, including a reduction in the speed limit and improved signage. There had been 786 signatures in support of the scheme. Cllr Selman asked how this would fit with the reservoir scheme. Cllr Gowler explained that he was proposing a relatively minor scheme which would not affect any road improvements planned by the reservoir project, such as a roundabout. He suggested the speed limit on the road should be reduced to 50mph from the 40mph limit near Slade End roundabout to just past the junction to Wenny Road and improved signage should be installed to warn of the dangers of the junction on both the Chatteris and Manea sides of New Road. He pointed out there had been two serious accidents at the junction in the past 18 months and the scheme would affect a large number of people.

It was **unanimously agreed to recommend that the Town Council apply for LHI funding for the A142 scheme.**

(Cllr Selman left the meeting at this point).

P16 24/25 Appeals, Decisions, Withdrawn Plans

The Clerk updated members on the latest planning decisions from Fenland District Council. The following had been granted planning permission:

Erect up to 80 dwellings at land east of The Elms;
Fell 1 Oak tree covered by a TPO at land south of 52 The Elms.

P17 24/25 Applications & Revised Applications

a) F/YR24/0085/O - Revised application for the erection of up to 5 dwellings (outline application with matters committed in respect of access) with highways improvements at land south of 19 Blackmill Road – *Recommend Refusal, access problems have not been sorted. The drove is a public right of way which is just 3.2m at its widest point (and that width is not maintained) and the passing places suggested are in private ownership. The by-way is well used by walkers, cyclists and horses, more traffic will create an additional hazard for those users. This is piecemeal development and represents over development in the countryside. It will visually impact on existing houses and there are potential flooding issues. (Cllr Joyce took no part in the vote).*

b) F/YR24/0735/F - Change of use of existing agricultural building to workshop for servicing and maintaining agricultural machinery (Class B2), and erection of a 2.4m high weld-mesh fence at Machinery Department, Fenton Way - *Support*

c) F/YR24/0733/AG1 - Erect an extension to existing agricultural building at Night Layers Farm, Fenton Way - *Withdrawn*

d) F/YR23/1033/F - Revised application for the erection of 21 dwellings (4 x 2-storey 2-bed, 15 x 2-storey 3 bed and 2 x 2-storey 4-bed) with associated access works, parking and landscaping, and the formation of attenuation ponds, involving the demolition of existing buildings at land south of 88 West Street – *Recommend Refusal. This application is premature as the width of the byway has still not been agreed. As it stands the application fails to overcome access problems as there is still no guarantee that the road shown can be delivered. Have other options to access the site been considered? There are also concerns about the impact of more cars on West Street which has existing traffic problems.*

e) F/YR24/0749/F & F/YR24/0750/LB - External works to curtilage listed annexe building involving the installation of solar panels to roof slopes and insertion of 1.65m high gate involving demolition of part of existing wall at Grove House, 74 High Street - *Support*

P18 24/25 Any Other Business

Planning Meeting: Cllr Gowler said he planned to attend the meeting of Fenland District Council's planning committee when the plans to build 152 homes on land south of The Elms, with access on to the A142, would be considered and he would be objecting to the access.

TTRO: The Council had been asked to submit any comments on a proposed temporary road closure to carry out patching works to the junction of Dock Road and Bridge Street by the 25th September. There were no objections to the works which were due to take place on the 19th and 20th November.