

WIRKSWORTH TOWN COUNCIL

Notes of a Meeting of the Environment & Town Working Party held 6 December 2021

The working party meeting will be held to the same standard as a committee but any decision taken at a working party meeting does not constitute a lawful decision of council - the Council has resolved to meet as a working party to allow meetings to continue using Zoom to ensure all councillors are able to participate even if they do not feel able to attend face to face meetings.

All delegated decisions will be reported in line with guidelines for Open and Accountable Government (Openness of Local Government Bodies 2014)

ET21/76 **Present**
Cllr A Jordan (Chairman), Cllr S Barker, Cllr M Casselden, Cllr A Clamp, Cllr A Pollock, Cllr J Stockell and Cllr P Taylor

In attendance:
Paul Jennings (Town Clerk)

ET21/77 **Apologies for Absence: None**

ET21/78 **Variation in Order of Business: None**

ET21/79 **Members' Pecuniary Interests in Agenda Items:**
None declared

ET21/80 **Second Home Ownership**
To discuss the increase in second home ownership and the impact of holiday lets. The Neighbourhood Plan already contains a policy seeking to restrict second home ownership, but recent press announcements indicate that some areas of the county are imposing restrictions to ensure housing is available for residents and/or first time buyers and seeks to restrict second home/ holiday lets

REC that the council approach DDDC, DCC and DALC to determine if there are any measures that can be applied to ensure housing stock for residents and control the volume of second home/holiday lets.

ET21/81 **Railway Issue (Cllr Taylor)**
To discuss the recent resident complaint regarding pollution from the railway. (It was noted that the railway had subsequently responded to the complaint, and they apologised and indicate that processes would be change to mitigate the issue)

REC that Cllr Taylor seek an update from local residents to ensure the railway's response was received. (Cllr Taylor to circulate information to councillors regarding lower carbon measures being introduced by Severn Valley Railway). Cllr Jordan and Cllr Barker to arrange liaison meeting with railway (previous dates had been cancelled/postponed due to other diary commitments).

- ET21/82 **Sewage Issues (Cllr Taylor)**
To discuss increasing reports of sewage smells within the Town.
- REC that the Clerk contact Severn Trent to request information on water quality, sewage/spills in the Ecclesbourne River and report back to E&T. Cllr Taylor and Pollock to investigate the water quality of the Ecclesbourne locally.**
- ET21/83 **20s Plenty Campaign (attached)**
The campaign are requesting that Parish Councils write to DCC requesting the implementation of revised limits (which will require a change of policy by the Authority)
- REC that the council write to DCC in support of a change of policy to allow the introduction of 20mph limits in some areas of Wirksworth. That Cllr Taylor be delegated to represent the council at the next meeting of the Derbyshire arm of the 20s Plenty campaign.**
- ET21/84 **Tree Survey**
New guidance advises that a professional survey should be undertaken of all trees on a 3 yearly basis, for some of the Town Council Estate this was last undertaken in 2016. (The surveys have been undertaken on a “negative recording” basis, only highlighting trees which are of concern.)
- REC that the Clerk seeks a quote to undertake a tree survey for all of the Council’s estate and report back to E&T.**
- ET21/85 **Kingsfield Play Area Trees**
In 2016 following a tree survey, a beech tree was identified to have a fault and the DCC Tree Officer specified that a tree sling be installed. Recent guidance indicates that the tree officer should be contacted to advise that the tree is located adjacent to the highway and a children’s play area and therefore more radical action should be taken and the limb removed.
- REC that the clerk pursues the matter with DCC tree officer and report back to E&T in due course.**
- ET21/86 **London Plane Tree**
To protect the roots from further damage through compaction, signage needs to be installed to discourage people climbing over the bench and standing on the area. This would also allow the planting (by Re-wilding Wirksworth) to become established which will offer further protection.
- REC that the Clerk prepare wording and seek costs to install a sign to discourage people from standing on the tree roots and then report back to E&T.**

ET21/87 Process for meetings in 2022

The council resolved to review it's use of working parties in place of committees (the change was undertaken in order to enable all councillors to participate in discussion regarding council issues.) Updated guidance also appears to allow for councillors to participate in discussion during a hybrid meeting, but only councillors present may vote.
(Discussion to inform further debate and decision by full council on 20/12/21)

REC that given the recent emergence of the Omicron variant of Covid, that the council adopt a process of hybrid meetings for full council to allow all councillors to participate in discussion and that the council retain working parties in place of committees. The arrangements should be reviewed again in March 2022.

ET21/88 Planning Application referred

21/01255/ADV	Proposed fascia sign and a hanging sign with associated lighting above at Methodist Church St John Street Wirksworth Derbyshire
Following a meeting of the Environment and Town Working Party, the council would also ask that a planning condition be placed upon any approval. The condition should seek to restrict the illumination of the sign to only occur when the building is in use. (The proposed amendment was agreed via delegated powers – Cllr Jordan and Cllr Clamp)	

ET21/89 Planning Applications received

01	21/01251/FUL	Replacement windows to house, extension to garage and conversion to ancillary accommodation at Knott House Alderwasley Derbyshire DE56 2RF
WTC - No comment, However Wirksworth Town Council has declared a Climate Emergency and therefore supports any development or change that seeks to reduce the carbon footprint.		
02	21/01255/ADV	Proposed fascia sign and a hanging sign with associated lighting above at Methodist Church St John Street Wirksworth Derbyshire
(Initial comment) WTC - No comment, However Wirksworth Town Council has declared a Climate Emergency and therefore supports any development or change that seeks to reduce the carbon footprint.		
03	T/21/00183/TCA	Removal of 1no. Yew tree at 4 Church Street Wirksworth Derbyshire
WTC - No comment, However Wirksworth Town Council has declared a Climate Emergency and therefore supports any development or change that seeks to reduce the carbon footprint.		
04	T/21/00179/TCA	Fell 1no. Laburnum tree at Pinewood Cottage 3 - 5 The Lanes Bolehill
WTC - No comment, However Wirksworth Town Council has declared a Climate Emergency and therefore supports any development or change that seeks to reduce the carbon footprint.		
05	T/21/00193/TCA	Fell 8no. Ash trees to ground level Land Adjacent. 36 The Dale Wirksworth Derbyshire DE4 4EJ
WTC - No comment, However Wirksworth Town Council has declared a Climate Emergency and therefore supports any development or change that seeks to reduce the carbon footprint.		
06	T/21/00192/TCA	Crown Reduce 5no. Cherry trees by up to 2m and re-shape ensuring roof and wall have adequate clearance (approx. 0.5m) The Engine House Spring Close Wirksworth Derbyshire DE4 4JA
WTC - No comment, However Wirksworth Town Council has declared a Climate Emergency and therefore supports any development or change that seeks to reduce the carbon footprint.		
07	21/01344/FUL	Replacement roof and rear extension 6 Thorntree Cottages Cromford Road Wirksworth Derbyshire DE4 4FL
WTC - No comment, However Wirksworth Town Council has declared a Climate Emergency and therefore supports any development or change that seeks to reduce the carbon footprint.		
08	21/01315/FUL	Construction of link between existing property and proposed garage conversion at 17 Yokecliffe Crescent Wirksworth Derbyshire DE4 4ER

WTC - No comment, However Wirksworth Town Council has declared a Climate Emergency and therefore supports any development or change that seeks to reduce the carbon footprint.

REC to receive the recent delegated planning decisions of this Council.

ET21/90 Planning Decisions & Appeals

(decisions are only to be reported where the Town Council have objected to application.)

None to report	
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The meeting closed at 7.40pm

Chairman