

## EVESHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the **PLANNING AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE** held at 6.30 pm on **MONDAY 28 APRIL 2014** in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Evesham.

Chairman                    Cllr C D Homer (Deputy Town Mayor)  
Vice Chairman            Cllr J H Smith OBE

Councillors:              Cllr Booth, Cllr P R Boyd, Cllr J Bulman, Cllr A L Dyke,  
Cllr Mrs W Dyke, Cllr M D Elliman, Cllr M S Goodge (Town Mayor), Cllr  
R A Jakeman, Cllr R S W Jones, Cllr F Kaler, Cllr G O'Donnell,  
Cllr Mrs D R Raphael, Cllr R W Raphael, Cllr Mrs J E Sandalls,  
Cllr Mrs F S Smith, Cllr J H Smith OBE, Cllr Mrs J Taylor,  
Cllr N S Tucker, Cllr Mrs R Whiting

Officers:                    Mr S D Carter (Town Clerk)

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

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Mrs B A Gurden, M Hammon, Mrs L Jakeman, G O'Donnell and I J Stewart.

### 2.        **Declarations of pecuniary or other interest including requests for dispensation (if any)**

Cllrs Bulman, Jakeman and Mrs Sandalls declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda item 4 planning applications, since they were members of Wychavon District Council's Planning Committee.

Cllr Booth declared a non-pecuniary interest in the planning application detailed at 4.4 (W/14/00294), since the applicant was known to him.

Cllrs F S Smith and J H Smith OBE declared a non-pecuniary interest in planning application detailed at 4.1 (14/00613/LB), since the applicant was known to them.

### 3.        **Announcements**

The Town Mayor informed members that he would be hosting a quiz night at Raphael's Restaurant, in aid of his charities, on Friday 2 May 2014.

### 4.        **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

4.1        W/14/00613/LB – Travel Centre of Evesham – 55-59 Port Street  
Various works to allow change of use of shop to two separate retail units and residential flat. (Listed Building Consent) application.  
<http://bit.ly/1lyYcXO>

It was **RESOLVED** to recommend that this application be approved.

4.2        W/14/00721/PP – 48 Sycamore Avenue  
New garage to be built on the side of the existing dwelling (resubmission of application W/13/01521/PP to amend drainage details.)  
<http://bit.ly/1muivY5>

It was **RESOLVED** to recommend that this application be approved.

4.3 W/14/00669/LN – Eastfields – 70 Greenhill

Build conservatory on southern elevation.

<http://bit.ly/1gOUxls>

It was **RESOLVED** to recommend that this application be approved subject to it not affecting any of the neighbouring properties.

4.4 W/14/00294/PP – 64 Clyde Avenue

Erection of a two storey rear extension which continues above current single story to the front of the current property.

<http://bit.ly/1ivNtPo>

It was **RESOLVED** to recommended that this application be refused as the design is not in keeping with the street scene.

3.5 W/14/00767/PN – MJ International Management Ltd – Vauxhall Inn, Abbey Road  
Amendment to previous approval (W/13/01832/CU) to create pitched roof to flat roof element and internal alterations.

<http://bit.ly/1rEurbU>

It was **RESOLVED** to recommend that this application be approved.

3.6 W/14/00809/PP – 24 Lanesfield Park

Proposed conversion and extension of garage.

<http://bit.ly/1fl5T5V>

It was **RESOLVED** to recommend that this application be approved.

## **5. Traffic Order Consultation – Mill Bank and Conduit Hill**

Worcestershire County Council (WCC) had written to the Town Council to inform of their proposal to prohibit waiting at any time along the south side of Conduit Hill from its point opposite its junction with Rynal Place for a distance of 80 metres in an easterly direction. WCC also proposed to revoke the prohibition of waiting at any time along the west side of Mill Bank from a point 35 metres south west of its junction with Conduit Hill for a distance of 50 metres in a south westerly direction.

Members commented that that they did not understand the reasoning for this proposal and asked the Clerk to seek clarification from WCC. Members also asked if a colour copy of the map could be provided.

It was **RESOLVED** to defer making comment on this application pending further information.

*Clerk's Note: WCC have stated that the plan to prohibit waiting anytime along Conduit Hill is to make the double yellow lines that are already in situ enforceable. The revocation for Mill Bank is to create parking spaces. The Clerk did not receive a colour copy of the plan from WCC with the original notification.*

## **6. Development and Transport Movements**

The Committee was addressed by Mr Powell from the Civic Society, who gave a presentation on a proposed traffic scheme for Evesham town centre. Annexed to the minutes at Appendix A are the written proposal as set down by Mr Powell and a map detailing the plan.

In his address Mr Powell stated that the new bridge gave the town an opportunity to look at its traffic management, and that his proposal would do away with all traffic lights in the town, instead creating mini-roundabouts at pivotal junctions. This system was common in Europe and had also been employed with some affect in Swindon. He went on to state that that the issue of traffic in the town was the primary reason for the perceived decline of Evesham.

In response to a question, Mr Powell stated that his proposal had not been modelled, but that he was very confident it would work as he had extensive knowledge of the town.

Concern was raised as to potential delays in getting to the hospital and for the fire service getting to emergencies if they had to go around this one way system. It was highlighted that despite Mr Powell's desire that these services be placed on the ring road, there was no plan to move the hospital, and the building of a new fire station off Abbey Road had been finalised. Any proposal should take this into account, which this did not.

It was commented that some of the details in the proposal had merit, and it was right to consider the traffic in Evesham, however, this proposal needed further development and modelling.

It was noted that WCC were planning to investigate traffic issues in Evesham, but that this would not happen for at least 18 months.

Mr Powell was thanked for his proposal.

**NOTED**

**7. Matters of urgency raised, for information only, at the discretion of the Chairman**

There were no matters raised under this item.

**8. Business Rate Relief Application**

Under the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act, it was **RESOLVED** to ask the press and public to leave and move into confidential session pending the discussion of a confidential item.

In confidential session, it was **RESOLVED** that the application for business rate relief is supported but that the Town Council does not contribute financially as it does not receive any income from business rates and has not budgeted to for such an expenditure.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.30 pm.

COUNCILLOR C D HOMER  
CHAIRMAN

**PROPOSED TRAFFIC IMPROVEMENTS TO THE CENTRE OF EVESHAM**  
(Proposed Press Statement and Document with Plan to be sent to interested parties)

1. A mini roundabout to be constructed at the entrance of Swan Lane. All traffic coming down the High Street from Greenhill would turn left, reversing the existing traffic flow. Then turning right into Chapel Street, continuing down Mill Bank and Mill Street, then turning left over the bridge.
2. After crossing the bridge, all traffic would turn right or continue up Port Street. There would be one way traffic along Waterside to include traffic turning left from Coopers Lane and the Hospital sites.
3. Approaching Cheltenham Road, turn left, straight on or turning right up Abbey Road over the New Bridge and Viaduct.
4. At the end of Abbey Road, the traffic would continue up the High Street to meet the traffic island set out at the junction of Swan Lane and the High Street.
5. Traffic from Avon Street would be one way going westerly for the whole direction thus preventing the entrance from Brick Kiln Street turning right which has very poor visibility. This would minimise the traffic flow onto the new mini roundabout.
6. The existing pedestrian crossings would remain throughout the whole proposed one way street system. Consideration should be given to providing raised Continental type crossings, set back at a safe distance away from the proposed mini roundabouts.
7. Areas in the High Street and Abbey Road could be set out one side or the other to incorporate a cycle path to encourage people from Hampton and Cheltenham Road to possibly use the western side of the existing footpaths which could be widened by one metre to satisfy the pedestrian/cycle path standards of the Highway Authority.
8. This system would improve the traffic flow through the town, prevent the use of the "rat run" through Bewdley/Merstow Green car parks and finally encourage tourism back to the centre of town to help trade in the existing shops. The area previously occupied by Swan Lane School, (old council school) should not be built on but remain as a car park which would be better used with this one way system and serve as a parking area for residents who would lose their roadside parking as a result of this traffic scheme.
9. Traffic moving around the centre of Evesham should be restricted to 20 miles per hour as approved in Bridge Street and High Street, Pershore.

**Conclusion:** With the proposed and impending developments in the Category 1 villages adjoining Evesham, there will be considerable development in the immediate future with the major development proposals in the town. Therefore every effort must be made by the Highway Authority, Parish Councils and all interested parties to work together to provide a well designed traffic scheme for the town. With the natural beauty and history of many centuries involved in Evesham, it is of great importance to take positive steps to improve the traffic in and around Evesham, thus promoting the future for all to enjoy and prosper in The Vale.

James T Powell  
Environmental Health, Safety & Building Consultant

11 March 2014



