

THATCHAM TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of a Meeting of the
Planning and Highways Committee
held on Tuesday 28th January 2020 at 7.00pm
in the Council Chamber, Brownsfield Road, Thatcham

Present: Councillor John Boyd (Chairman)
 Councillors Lourdes Cottam, Ellen Crumly, Paul Field, Owen Jeffery
 (substituting for Richard Foster), Mark Lillycrop, David Lister, Simon Pike and
 Jennifer Walker

In attendance: Mel Taylor (Town Clerk)
 Councillors Richard Crumly and Keith Woodhams
 Josh Kerry (ITS & Sustainable Travel Officer, West Berkshire Council)
 1 member of the press (Newbury Weekly News)

PH/2020/09 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Richard Foster
 (Councillor Owen Jeffery appointed as substitute).

PH/2020/10 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

PH/2020/11 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 7th January 2020, having been
 previously circulated, be taken as read, confirmed and signed as an accurate
 record.

PH/2020/12 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

There were no matters arising.

PH/2020/13 TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT / HIGHWAYS / ROAD SAFETY MATTERS

RESOLVED

a) Cycle Lane Segregation – A4 junction with Pound Lane
 To suspend Standing Orders to allow Josh Kerry to address the Committee.

Mr. Kerry answered Members' questions regarding the proposed installation
 of "Orcas" as trial cycle lane segregation, initially between Tull Way and
 Henwick Lane. Members raised some concerns regarding the design of the
 Orcas and Mr. Kerry agreed to feed back to the Committee regarding the
 potential for using "cats eyes" to segregate the cycle lane and would provide
 case studies and data research for the Orcas.
 Members thanked Mr. Kerry for attending.

RESOLVED To reinstate Standing Orders.

Whilst supportive of measures to protect cyclists, Members expressed
 concern that the Orcas could potentially be used as "ramps" or for "weaving"
 and suggested that they be trialled in an alternative location, perhaps
 between Floral Way and Pipers Way, before installation at this particular
 location. It was noted that West Berkshire Council were due to carry out a
 speed survey of this section of the A4 and the results of this survey should be
 awaited prior to any proposed improvement works, to ensure no interruption
 to the data being collected.

Members were keen to see cyclists encouraged off of the A4 and onto Lower
 Way, however, it was noted that there was some confusion regarding the
 direction of the cycle route in the area of The Broadway and The Moors.

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PH/2020/13 TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT / HIGHWAYS / ROAD SAFETY MATTERS
continued
a) Cycle Lane Segregation – A4 junction with Pound Lane

Mr. Kerry left the meeting

RESOLVED To feedback Members concerns, as detailed above, and request that West Berkshire Council await the outcome of the speed survey then review this proposal at that time.

b) Report of dangerous parking – Beancroft Road

Following consideration of reports of dangerous parking around Spurcroft School, the Chairman advised that he and Councillor Jeffery had attended the area at school drop-off and pick-up time on the day of this meeting and had witnessed circa 50 cars parked in the vicinity, with dangerous parking and vehicle manoeuvres observed. It was acknowledged that the school did provide staff to patrol the area at these key times.

RESOLVED To bring Members' and residents' concerns, considered at this and the last meeting of this Committee, to the attention of West Berkshire Council Highways Officers.

c) Monitoring of weight restrictions

Following discussion at a previous meeting of this Committee (PH/2019/110) at which it was requested that details of West Berkshire Council's policy on policing and monitoring weight limits be requested, Members were advised of the following response from West Berkshire Council: the monitoring of weight restrictions was a function carried out by Public Protection Partnership (PPP), and the restrictions were routinely monitored by PPP Enforcement Officers. West Berkshire Council had no formal written policy on the monitoring of weight limits on weight restricted roads in the District. The frequency of checks at the specific restrictions across the District were intelligence-led; based on complaints and the volume of breaches discovered during routine monitoring. The Crookham Hill restriction was actively monitored. Enforcement action, where a breach of a weight restriction was discovered and evidenced, was governed by the department's current enforcement policy.

RESOLVED That this information be noted.

d) A4 Bath Road (junction with Northfield Road) – Carriageway resurfacing works

Notification had been received that resurfacing works were scheduled to be carried out on the eastbound A4, at its junction with Northfield Road, on Monday 3rd and Tuesday 4th February 2020, 7pm – 11pm, following the failure of new asphalt laid in November 2019. During the works, 4-way temporary traffic lights would be in operation.

RESOLVED That this information be noted.

PH/2020/14 PLANNING MATTERS

There were no Planning matters to report.

PH/2020/15 DECISION NOTICES

Members received a list of Planning decisions from West Berkshire Council.

RESOLVED That the information be noted.

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PH/2020/16 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Plan No.	Ward	Application No.	Location:	Proposal:
1	Thatcham Central	19/03197/FUL	9 High Street	Proposed change of use from A2 (former bank building) to A1 retail following single storey rear extension, division of ground floor into two separate A1 premises and alterations to front elevations to accommodate two separate doors and shop fronts RESOLVED: No objections
2	Thatcham North East	20/00140/HOUSE	1 Coopers Crescent	Single storey extension to bungalow and outbuilding RESOLVED: No objections

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.19pm

Signed _____ Date _____