



## Winnersh Parish Council

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Minutes of the **PLANNING COMMITTEE** held remotely on **Tuesday 23 JUNE 2020 at 19.30.**

**PRESENT:** Cllrs C. Taylor (Chairman); P Fishwick (Vice-Chairman); B Krauze; F Obileye; L Wooldridge;

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Philip Stoneman (Clerk).

- 1 Apologies for absence were received from Cllr K Bradeepan.
- 2 Declarations of Interest: None
- 3 The minutes of the last meeting held on the 1 June 2020 were reviewed and there were no matters arising.
- 4 Public Session: There were no members of the public in attendance or questions received.
- 5 The committee considered the following planning applications and made comments as shown below each application:-

5.1 **Application Number:** 200979

**Site Address:** 200 Series Multi-Deck Car Park, Land South of Wharfedale Road, Winnersh Triangle, Winnersh, RG41 5TP

**Proposal:** Full planning application for the installation of lighting on the existing multi-deck car park.

**Comments:** The committee did not object to the proposal but requested that consideration to be given to ensuring the lighting be powered by solar panels and that it be switched off 30 minutes after the last train or bus service (whichever is the later) and switched on 30 minutes before the first train or bus service (whichever is the earliest). This would help with reducing carbon emissions, in line with Wokingham Borough Council and Winnersh Parish Council's climate change emergency plans.

5.2 **Application Number:** 201265

**Site Address:** 27 Laburnum Road, Winnersh, Wokingham, RG41 5XL

**Proposal:** Householder application for the proposed erection of a single storey front extension, two storey side extension plus erection of canopy to the rear of the

property.

**Comments:** The committee made no comments.

- 5.3 **Application Number:** 201308 - Adjoining Parish Consultation  
**Site Address:** 5 Newlands Cottages, Mole Road, Sindlesham, RG41 5DL  
**Proposal:** Proposal: Householder application for the proposed erection of a two-storey rear extension.

**Comments:** The committee made no comments.

- 5.4 **Application Number:** 201415  
**Site Address:** 500 Reading Road, Winnersh, Wokingham, RG41 5EX  
**Proposal:** Householder application for proposed erection of a single storey front extension including the insertion of 2no. rooflights, single storey front extension to form porch, plus erection of a carport in the front garden.

**Comments:** The committee **OBJECTED** to the application on the following grounds:  
1) The proposed carport is unattractive and does not appear to bear any relationship to the house; and  
2) The proposed building works are well in front of the building line which should be preserved and in keeping with the property and neighbouring properties.

- 5.5 **Application Number:** 201134  
**Site Address:** 7 Woodard Close, Winnersh, RG41 5NW  
**Proposal:** Householder application for the proposed erection of a single storey front extension to existing garage, part first floor part two storey side extension including a Juliet Balcony at rear elevation, plus changes to fenestration.

**Comments:** The committee had no objection to the application but made an observation about the proposed Juliet balcony that may overlook neighbouring properties and consequently that may impact on the privacy of neighbours.

- 6 The Committee noted the following decisions

- 6.1 NOTIFICATION OF DECISION  
**Application Number:** 192248  
**Site Address:** 7 Simons Lane, Wokingham, RG41 3HG.  
**Proposal:** Full planning application for the erection 1 No 4 Bedroom dwelling following demolition of existing dwelling.

The decision of WBC was to **ALLOW** the appeal in part.

- 6.2 NOTIFICATION OF DECISION  
**Application Number:** 200844  
**Site Address:** Sindlesham Meadows, Mill Lane, Sindlesham, Wokingham.  
**Proposal:** Application for a certificate of existing lawful use of land as memorial garden including landscaping.

The decision of WBC was to **REFUSE** the proposal.

- 7 The Committee noted the following applications that were for Information only.
- 7.1 Works to a TPO tree Notification  
**Application Number:** 201403  
**Site Address:** 5 Wheatsheaf Close, Sindlesham, Wokingham, RG41 5PT  
**Proposal:** Application for works to protected tree(s) TPO 1150/2006, Group1 T1, Oak - Crown thin by 10% and tip reduce the branches over the rear garden lawn.
- 7.2 Works to a TPO tree Notification  
**Application Number:** 201477  
**Site Address:** Betty Grove Lane, rear of 9 Wheatsheaf Close, Sindlesham, Wokingham, RG41 5PT  
**Proposal:** Application for works to protected tree(s) TPO 1150/2006, GROUP 1 T1, Oak - Crown thin by 10%, crown raise over rear garden by 1.5 metres. All final cuts to be taken back to suitable growth points.
- 8 Review of Speed Limits: The Committee requested that the details of the review (Appendix 1) be sent to all Parish Councillors for their observations and agreed to defer the item until the next meeting.
- 9 Correspondence: Wokingham Borough Council had advised that application number 201346 for Hatch Farm, Mill Lane, Sindlesham RG41 5DF had been received and the committee agreed that, as the proposal was substantial providing 87 residential dwellings and associated infrastructure, it would be considered at the next meeting.
- 10 Any other matters considered urgent by the Chairman: there were no urgent matters.
- 11 Date and time of the next meeting: **Monday 13 JULY 2020 at 19.30.**

The Meeting closed at 19.57

## APPENDIX 1

### Speed limit review FAQ

#### How can I find out about the Review?

The review was advertised via a press release, although social media has also picked it up. We won't be taking any comments raised there into the review as a formal request. Only those that respond to the [tm.consultations@wokingham.gov.uk](mailto:tm.consultations@wokingham.gov.uk) email address with a specific location will be investigated. Each resident request will receive a response about the investigation on their road and a summary report of all roads investigated and borough-wide results will be prepared and made available on the website in the autumn.

#### Which roads are being considered and why?

The Speed Limit Review is targeted at A & B class roads. It's a recommendation of Government that speed limits are regularly reviewed by highway authorities and a general rule of thumb for this is every 4/5 years. The last review in Wokingham was undertaken in 2011, so it's a bit overdue.

### **What is involved in the Review?**

The Council will be gathering data on traffic speeds from a wide variety of sources to inform decision making about speed limits and road safety in general. However, the data gathering phase for a speed limit review was always on our 2020/21 work programme

### **Are you going to consult with residents?**

Public consultation doesn't normally form part of the review process set out by Government. The decision to open this opportunity for residents to comment was taken because of the level of concern about speeds that we were receiving, especially during COVID. Roughly a fifth of all complaints are about speed or speed related driving and a review of just the A&B roads often leads to complaints that we are not addressing local roads.

### **When does the consultation close?**

We haven't set a closing date, deliberately because residents views will gradually develop as COVID eases and traders open for business, with more people walking and cycling and being exposed to traffic conditions than they have been. However, we will start individual street assessments towards the start of July. Once assessments have been done, we will share the data with police and discuss the viability of any changes and secure support for these with a commitment to enforce.

### **What will you do with all the data?**

Our aim is to get the correct limits for the roads we have, better compliance with existing or changed limits and therefore a commitment to enforce from TVP.

We hope to be able to continue the provision of street specific speed information to residents beyond the review period, as an information service. We have been developing a speed management tool that will enable us to respond directly to resident queries about speeding, rather than defer them until surveys could be undertaken.

### **Who is responsible for enforcing speed limits?**

The Council has no legal powers to enforce speed limits. Thames Valley Police enforce speed limits according to the resources they have available. In the follow up to COVID, the National Police Chiefs Council responded to public concern over speeds on quieter roads during lock down and decided to push increased speed enforcement and speed awareness and asked local police forces to support this through their PR. The Council, as a partner authority to TVP in the Safer Roads Partnership, is supporting the initiative.

### **If justified, will you reduce the speed limit?**

Government guidance suggests that some speed limits may need to be increased as part of a review. However, if supported by the data, we will liaise with Thames Valley Police to agree any revised speed limit. Once agreed, we will commence statutory processes for changing limits agreed and publish these for public objections to be heard. Sometimes, TVP will not accept a lower speed limit without speed management or traffic calming measures being provided and we may also have to consider schemes like this to support our case. If we do, we will also have to wait until we have resources to implement these, which may also be subject to consultation processes.

### **How long will it take to implement a new speed limit?**

The results will go through the normal Individual Executive Member Decision process. This is not an amendment Traffic Regulation Order, it doesn't have anything to do with the regular parking amendments we introduce. Implementation will likely be after the TRO and IEMD

processes have concluded, I am hopeful this will be towards the end of this financial year. We may have to determine this subject to satisfactory resources being available for the relevant signing works.

**What else is the Council doing to support walking & cycling after lockdown?**

Alongside the work we do to promote sustainable travel and encourage walking and cycling for all journey where it's feasible, the work that we are doing to support walking and cycling in transition from lockdown is separate from this speed limit review. We will be introducing experimental measures to support walking & cycling as lockdown eases, especially in urban areas. However, the work that we are doing to support walking and cycling in transition from lockdown is separate from this speed limit review. The review is about the suitability of existing limits and levels of non-compliance, with changes being recommended where better compliance can be achieved.

**Managing speed is good for safety, but what about the environment?**

The effects on air quality, congestion etc are often determined by the way people drive in relation to speed limits, which are not based on 85%ile speeds, but mean speeds. The mitigation of air pollution on the network is a separate activity and part of the Council's Climate Emergency action plan, especially the congestion reduction strategy. Air pollution has more to do with the management of traffic volume, vehicle classification and highway layout than speed limits, but if the limit is appropriate for the road conditions and closer compliance can be achieved, this generally results in better environmental performance.