

WIRKSWORTH TOWN COUNCIL

Notes of a Meeting of the Environment & Town Working Party held 7 June 2021

Following the government's decision to revoke the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 on 7th May 2021, the council has decided it is not safe to meet face to face. As it is not able to meet using virtual platforms (e.g. Zoom) it is also unable to discharge its obligation under Open and Accountable Government to ensure transparency by providing public participation. The council has therefore agreed to continue meeting but in the form of a working party.

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 delegated all decisions to Chair of Council, Deputy Chair and Chairs of Environment & Town and Finance, Buildings & Personnel Committees (4 Councillors) and the Clerk - Resolution C20/180 26/4/2021

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

ET21/11 Present
Cllr A Jordan (Chairman), Cllr S Barker, Cllr M Casselden, Cllr A Clamp, Cllr G Gratton, and Cllr P Taylor
In attendance:
Paul Jennings (Town Clerk)

ET21/12 Apologies for Absence:
Cllr A Pollock, Cllr J Stockell

ET21/13 Variation in Order of Business: None

ET21/14 Members' Pecuniary Interests in Agenda Items:
None declared

ET21/15 Community Renewal Fund (attached)
Wirksworth is part of a bid lead by Derbyshire County Council to access new government funds. Each market town is being asked what areas it would wish to focus on should the bid be successful.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-community-renewal-fund-prospectus>

REC that the Town Council request participation for Wirksworth in all 5 strands of activities proposed in the grant application made by DCC to the Community Renewal Fund.

ET21/16 Meadows
To review the results of the 1st stage of consultation (report), and agree outline process for the 2nd stage of consultation including an initial prioritisation/focus based upon the results.

REC that the report and summary of the 1st stage of the consultation process be may now be published. The 2nd stage of consultation is to now focus on the top 15 uses identified, with the intention to develop a prioritisation of what areas the council should focus on when preparing a design brief for the space. The officers to now prepare a more detailed plan for the 2nd stage approach including consultation materials.

ET21/17 Return to face to face to meetings

To consider when a return to face to face meetings might be considered. This might initially include maintaining the existing working party structure (meeting virtually) with only 1 formal face to face meeting for decisions. Current guidelines would require that the meeting be held in a space larger than the Council Chamber to ensure adequate social distancing.

REC that a full council (face to face) meeting be held on 20 September 2021, the Clerk to make arrangements to ensure mitigation measures are possible in relation to C19. In the interim the current structure or working parties and delegation be retained.

ET21/18 Issues to be raised with new County Council Representative for Wirksworth

It has been agreed that 3-4 Councillors should meet with Cllr Murphy to provide a briefing on the current and outstanding issues within the Town. The Clerk has prepared a summary of the issues to be shared with the County Councillor.

REC that the Clerk contact C Cllr Murphy requesting an introductory meeting (with 4 Town Councillors) to discuss the issues within Wirksworth.

ET21/19 Planting

Wilder Wirksworth have sought permission to plant the area around the tree adjacent to the Memorial Hall.

REC that permission be granted to the group

ET21/20 Rewilding Town Council Estate

The area of the gardens adjacent to the Memorial Hall, behind the "Lest We Forget" gates is currently unused, but is regularly mown and might be suited to a rewilding scheme.

REC that it be noted that the council are supportive of the principle of rewilding in the area, but that agreement to proceed would require a detailed proposal to ensure that any scheme is suited to this key location.

ET21/21 Derbyshire Dales Call for Sites Consultation May 2021

Between 26th May and 7th July 2021 the District Council will be undertaking a 'Call for Sites' in which developers, landowners, parish

councils, neighbourhood groups and members of the public are invited to put forward potential sites for development of any use, including more than one use.

REC that the matter be noted

ET21/22 Planning Application Referred

21/00548/ADV	Replacement signage at The Quarryman 1 Market Place Wirksworth DE4 4ET
No comment.	

ET21/23 Planning Applications received

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

1	21/00439/FUL	External alterations to building, use of first floor as an office/ studio space and ground levelling works in association with services installation Garage Rear Of 10 West End Wirksworth Derbyshire
WTC - No comment, Wirksworth Town Council has declared a Climate Emergency and therefore any development or change should seek to reduce the carbon footprint		
2	T/21/00054/TCA	Reduce all trees in Sycamore group (G1) to approx. 5m from ground level and remove selected crossing and rubbing stems and dismantle Conifer (T2) to ground level at Avalon House Warmbrook Wirksworth DE4 4EA
WTC - No comment, Wirksworth Town Council has declared a Climate Emergency and therefore any development or change should seek to reduce the carbon footprint		
3	T/21/00056/TCA	Reduce all trees in group (G1) back by 1.5 - 2m to give clearance to lights Petrol Filling Station Baileycroft Garage Harrison Drive Wirksworth DE4 4FG
WTC - No comment, Wirksworth Town Council has declared a Climate Emergency and therefore any development or change should seek to reduce the carbon footprint		
4	21/00337/FUL	Change of use from flat to offices for art business (Use Class - Commercial E) at Upper Floors 21 - 21A St John Street Wirksworth DE4 4DR
WTC - No comment, Wirksworth Town Council has declared a Climate Emergency and therefore any development or change should seek to reduce the carbon footprint		
5	21/00507/FUL	Change of use of first floor office to residential apartment and installation of roof mounted solar panel array at 23A Market Place Wirksworth DE4 4ET
WTC - No comment, however Wirksworth Town Council has declared a Climate Emergency and therefore supports any development or change which seeks to reduce the carbon footprint		
6	21/00469/FUL	Demolition of existing stone outbuildings and replace with a timber shed, covered shelter and metal canopy at 86 Greenhill Wirksworth DE4 4EN
WTC - No comment, Wirksworth Town Council has declared a Climate Emergency and therefore any development or change should seek to reduce the carbon footprint		
7	21/00508/LBAL T	Internal alterations and installation of roof mounted solar PV array 23A Market Place Wirksworth Derbyshire DE4 4ET
WTC - No comment, however Wirksworth Town Council has declared a Climate Emergency and therefore supports any development or change which seeks to reduce the carbon footprint		

ET21/24 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 7.30pm

Chairman