

## WIRKSWORTH TOWN COUNCIL

### Minutes of a Meeting of the Environment & Town Committee held 8 January 2024

**ET23/91 Present**  
**Cllr S Maskrey (Chairman), Cllr S Barker, Cllr F Rostron, Cllr A Pollock, and Cllr P Taylor**  
**In attendance: 2 members of the public, Paul Jennings (Town Clerk)**

**ET23/92 Apologies for Absence: None**

**ET23/93 Variation in Order of Business: None**

**ET23/94 Members' Pecuniary Interests in Agenda Items:**

None
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*Open Forum opened 6:35pm*

**ET23/95 Open Forum:**

A resident spoke about flooding issues around the Hannages (they had been present at a site meeting with C Cllr Murphy, Cllr Pollock and Cllr Maskrey that morning). The resident has met with Derbyshire Wildlife Trust to discuss potential mitigation measures (Trickle Dams) to the feeder brooks into the Ecclesbourne, but DWT aren't able to progress this at present due to funding constraints. The resident reported that there are more frequent surges from STW manholes. They have previously met with ST and was informed that there was a medium term plan. Manhole discharge is not "normal" behaviour and should be on a management plan to reduce these events. Flooding from the brook is now more regularly spreading across Brooklands avenue.

Another resident raised the more frequent occurrence of flooding at Millers Green impact areas such as Speedwell Mill.

*Open Forum closed 6:45pm*

**ET23/96 Minutes: the Minutes of the Meeting of the Environment and Town Committee held on 4 December 2023 were confirmed as a correct record.**

**ET23/97 Harrison Drive Drainage**

Resident reports that in early December a number of people have fallen on Harrison Drive due to ice across the pavement (created by the overflow from the gully).

**REC that matter be raised with C Cllr Murphy given the danger this poses to pedestrians.**

**ET23/98 Brooklands Avenue/Water Lane Flooding**

Incidents of flooding have increased, often resulting in restricted access/no access to Gorse Bank due to flood waters (on 8/1/24 there was a site meeting with C Cllr Murphy, Cllr Pollock, Cllr Maskrey and a resident).

A balancing pond will be created on Gell land, the contractor has been selected, but works are awaiting the issue of a licence from DCC.

**REC that the Council contact C Cllr Muphy requesting:**

- **That the issue of the licence for the balancing pond works be chased up.**
- **Erosion of the road to be flagged with Highways**
- **Request that a level line be placed on either side of the road to indicate height of flood waters**
- **That a process be established to close the road in the event of flood waters blocking the highway**

**ET23/99      Wirksworth Drains, Mains and Sewers**

Proposal to form a small sub-group/working party that focusses on lobbying/engaging with the different parties to address the issues faced in the town, and potential issues in the future – with DCC, Anthony Gell, Severn Trent, Developers. With an initial focus on the recent flooding. Matter referred from Full Council for more detailed discussion by E&T Committee – with a strong recommendation that the issue of part of Wirksworth (Gorse Bank) being cut-off by flood waters requires escalation.

**REC that initial focus is on the issues at Waterlane. Once the balancing pond has been installed and the impact on flooding established, the council to then focus on other areas identified in the Drains, Mains and Sewers document.**

**ET23/100      DCC Greener Towns 20mph Consultation - Outcomes and Decision**

“It was always the intention of the Council to listen to the voice of those affected; for the proposals to continue we required a majority from residents as well as positive feedback from the Districts, neither of which was achieved. Subsequently it was recommended to Cabinet that the schemes should not progress. Cabinet then debated this on 7th December and took the decision not to proceed with the schemes; the decision can be found here:  
<https://democracy.derbyshire.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?AllId=14251>

**REC that matter be noted.**

**ET23/101      Safer Roads for Wirksworth**

The group have requested the following support from the Town Council:

- request to follow up missing Belisha beacon on St Johns St (outside Hope and Anchor) with Highways
- support letters to local bus companies to voluntarily reduce speed driving through town

- support letters to local haulage companies and Longcliffe to review their routes, whether driving through Wirksworth is absolutely necessary and to reduce speed
- to support the public consultation planned for early February 2024.

**REC that the Town Council contact C Cllr Murphy seeking action to replace the missing beacon. To note that the letters by the group wait until the consultation has been undertaken to give more evidence/ weight to the requests. That the public consultation by the group is likely to commence from March.**

**ET23/102 TrailTale**

The company have contacted the council regarding their solution (“which they have collaborated with numerous local authorities”) to develop self-guided heritage and nature walk routes, which uses their free mobile phone app – TrailTale.

**REC that the Town Council note the matter. That the information be passed to Heritage Centre and NOW.**

**ET23/103 Snowball**

Snowball is a free review platform, described by the app creators as a “TripAdvisor for the disabled community”. The creators have written to the Council requesting that the app (Snowball) be discussed with a further request that the Town Council then “promote Snowball in your area and get the community involved, including local businesses but also, if possible, review your area so that we can help one another create an equal and inclusive community.”

**REC that the Town Council note the matter. That the information be passed to Heritage Centre and NOW.**

**ET23/104 Planning Application Referred**

23/01246/FUL	Erection of garage Lant Close Farm Bolehill Road Bolehill Derbyshire DE4 4GQ
WTC - No comment, however Wirksworth Town Council requests that any development or change seeks to reduce the carbon footprint” and that the Planning Procedure be amended accordingly. The Town Council position will be that a building’s impact on the environment should be of greater importance than the impact on the streetscape	

**ET23/105 Planning Applications received (Delegated Planning - Appendix 1)  
Prior to January meeting**

1	T/23/00233/TPO	Multiple works for various trees 5 Blind Lane Wirksworth Derbyshire DE4 4EZ
WTC - No comment, however, Wirksworth Town Council requests that any development or change seeks to reduce the carbon footprint” The Town Councils position will be that a building’s impact on the environment should be of greater importance than the impact on the streetscape		
2	T/23/00234/TCA	Dismantle to a standing stem at approx. 4m just above first union 1no. Rubina Tree (T1) and crown reduce 1no.Mirabelle plumb (T2) by 1-2m and crown lift

		Charnwood 21 Cromford Road Wirksworth Derbyshire DE4 4FH
<p>WTC - No comment, however, Wirksworth Town Council requests that any development or change seeks to reduce the carbon footprint” The Town Councils position will be that a building’s impact on the environment should be of greater importance than the impact on the streetscape</p>		
3	23/01234/FUL	Replacement skate park structures and pump track Skatepark Fanny Shaws Playing Field Cromford Road Wirksworth Derbyshire
<p>WTC - No comment, however, Wirksworth Town Council requests that any development or change seeks to reduce the carbon footprint” The Town Councils position will be that a building’s impact on the environment should be of greater importance than the impact on the streetscape</p>		
4	23/01246/FUL	Erection of garage Lant Close Farm Bolehill Road Bolehill Derbyshire DE4 4GQ
<p>Extension applied for 09/01/24</p>		
5	23/01248/CLEUD	Certificate of Lawful Existing Development- Erection of toilet and shower block for use by camping and caravan site guests Land At Sleepy Hollow Farm Hopton Lane Wirksworth Derbyshire
<p>WTC - No comment, however, Wirksworth Town Council requests that any development or change seeks to reduce the carbon footprint” The Town Councils position will be that a building’s impact on the environment should be of greater importance than the impact on the streetscape</p>		
6	23/01273/FUL	Two storey side extension with hip to gable roof conversion and dormer window to rear. Avondale 10 Derby Road Wirksworth Derbyshire DE4 4AS
<p>WTC - No comment, however, Wirksworth Town Council requests that any development or change seeks to reduce the carbon footprint” The Town Councils position will be that a building’s impact on the environment should be of greater importance than the impact on the streetscape</p>		
7	23/01310/FUL	Installation of 11no. Solar PV panels (Resubmission) The Old Blacksmiths Shop Dale End Wirksworth Derbyshire DE4 4EJ
<p>WTC - No comment, however, Wirksworth Town Council requests that any development or change seeks to reduce the carbon footprint” The Town Councils position will be that a building’s impact on the environment should be of greater importance than the impact on the streetscape</p>		

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

**ET23/106 Planning Decisions & Appeals**

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

None to report
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**REC that the matter be noted.**

*The meeting closed at 7:45pm*

Chairman