

PLANNING/WORKING COMMITTEE MINUTES

MINUTES of the Wrockwardine Wood & Trench Parish Council Planning/Working Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 10th September 2013 at the Parish Council Centre, Church Road, Wrockwardine Wood at 7pm.

PRESENT: Cllr's. C.F. Smith – Chair, K. R. Watkins – Vice Chair K. Hanmer, D. Plant and S.A. Watkins

Clerk: Mrs. Y. Taylor

IN ATTENDANCE : Cllr's. M. Hanmer, Shirley Reynolds, Stephen Reynolds and J. Thompson
Jim Collins (TWC)
Andrew Newell (TWC)
Seven members of the public.

P/781 Apologies RESOLVED – to accept apologies from Cllr. H. Smith.

P/782 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest in any item specified in the agenda.

P/783 The Minutes of the Planning/Working Committee Meeting held on 21st August 2013 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

P/784 To receive Jim Collins and Andrew Newell from Telford & Wrekin Council to discuss plans for the new Telford Academy.

It was RESOLVED to open the meeting for this item to allow residents present to ask questions.

Jim Collins said that the original budget to build the new schools was reduced by 30% and it is lucky that the funding is still available but TWC cannot do some of the things they originally planned such as incorporating secondary schools. Mr. Collins said that the cost of constructing an entrance off the Wrockwardine Wood Way would be outside the available funding. Mr. Collins said that the original site was to be the elevated section further along, but a further suggestion to site the school where the 3G pitch was proved to be a better position. The ground testing results proved positive and they are able to build on this site. Mr. Collins said that on 31st August 2015 the Sutherland School and Wrockwardine Wood Arts College will close and the on 1st September 2015 Telford Co-Operative Academy will open for pupils age 11 – 16 years. In advance the Governing bodies took the decision to become an academy so the school will not come under the direct control of the local authority. A Trust will be formed and will have representation from the local authority and a representative from Co-op Midlands who are the schools sponsors. Mr. Collins said that the school will be available for community use.

Mr. Newell said that the proposal for the entrance involves moving the road closer to the New Road junction to make access easier and having a Zebra crossing halfway down the entrance. OLC will then have two entrances. The service road will be altered and coaches will use the TWC compound, which will be moved out, to turn around and pupils will then be dropped off outside the leisure centre. The leisure centre will be refurbished. The disabled bays will be moved to the front of the leisure centre. Mr. Newell said that parents will be discouraged from parking. A resident commented that it will not be possible to stop parents from parking and Mr. Collins said that it is usually worse at primary schools as virtually all pupils are dropped off by parents. Mr. Newell said that there will be an intelligent traffic lights system installed at the top of White Horse Hill and out of school time it will not change to red to stop traffic. A new footpath will be built going to the Silkin Way. A resident pointed out that they own the land that the Silkin Way is on although it is a right of way footpath. Mr. Newell said that TWC are talking to the Bowling Club with a view to extending the car park. The Football

Club is remaining at its current site at the moment but a bid has been made to the FA to obtain funding for a new club and if successful this will be sited at the rear of the leisure centre.

A resident asked about the land belonging to Wrockwardine Wood House and Mr. Collins said that an offer they put in to purchase the land was rejected but negotiations are still on-going.

Cllr. D. Plant said that there is already congestion on White Horse Hill and the new school will mean the area will be chaotic. Cllr. K. Hanmer agreed and said she has grave concerns about the entrance and said residents also have concerns about the increase in traffic. Cllr. Anne Watkins also expressed concerns and said that she disagrees that pupils will walk along Wade Road as suggested by Mr. Newell and said they are more likely to walk along Church Road. Cllr. H. Smith said that children will be coming to the school from all directions and traffic will increase on Church Road.

Cllr. J. Thompson said that he is in favour of the new school and thinks it will be fantastic, but he is concerned about the increase in traffic on New Road and Church Road.

Cllr. Keith Watkins said that he is in favour of the new school, but is concerned about increased traffic as Church Road is chaotic now.

Cllr. Stephen Reynolds said that he agrees with everyone's concerns about the increase in traffic and pointed out that pupils from Oakengates are not going to walk, they will come in cars. Cllr. Reynolds asked if there had been any thought of a parking area on the opposite side of the road being provided and pupils could walk over the bridge to the school.

A resident expressed concern about where local businesses are going to park with the increase in traffic to the new school.

The Chair commented that the entrance to the new school will be a problem and will just extend congestion from the bottom of the road all the way up to the top. The Chair said that we need the traffic lights regardless of the school but they will add to the chaos and also affect the trade of the shops in the area. The Chair asked Mr. Collins and Mr. Newell to reconsider the entrance to see if they can come up with something better to avoid the congestion.

A resident asked if the new Academy could be built on the Sutherland School site. Mr. Collins said that TWC did consider this site but it was not large enough to accommodate the number of pupils that will be attending.

Mr. Collins said that he accepts everyone's concerns regarding the entrance which they have already considered, but he will go back and look at it again.

P/785 To consider Planning Application W2013/0676 – Erection of a 1200 place academy school with associated parking and landscaping at Oakengates Leisure Centre, New Road, Wrockwardine Wood.

RESOLVED – to object to this application pointing out that everyone is in favour of the new school but we object to the siting of the entrance because it will cause major congestion on New Road/Church Road.

P/786 To consider an email from Tim Williams regarding our objections to planning application 2013/0613 – proposed replacement pitch at OLC

Mr. Williams said that our objections to the proposed replacement pitch have been noted and our concerns regarding construction traffic using the same entrance as customers to the leisure centre have been passed to the Highways Engineers. Highway Engineers have responded saying that there is no other way of accessing the site and it will require very careful management. Mr. Williams says that any permission granted for the new pitch would include the implementation of a Site Environmental Management Plan. The reason for the plan would be to avoid congestion on the surrounding roads and to protect the amenities of nearby residential areas. Mr. Williams asks if the planning committee would reconsider their position in light of the information provided.

RESOLVED – not to withdraw our objections to this application regarding the entrance to the site..

Mr. Collins said that he will take back our comments regarding this item and see if there is anything he can do.

The Chair pointed out that the Parish Council and residents feel very strongly that putting the entrance to the new school on a road that was originally made for a horse and cart will cause major

problems. At school times cars park on both sides of Church Road and vehicles are unable to get through.

P/787 To consider any Planning Applications received after publication of the Agenda.

The Chair said that there was one further planning application – to consider a flat roofed extension to the garage at the rear of 11 Tudor Meadow. It was AGREED that there are no objections to this application.

P/788 Any other items of information or for the next agenda There were no further items.

P/789 Date of the next meeting As and when required.

The Chair thanked Mr. Collins, Mr. Newell and residents for attending the meeting.

The meeting closed at 7.25pm.

Signed
Chair

Date