

**MINUTES OF THE PLANNING & HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY 10TH DECEMBER 2024 AT 6.30PM IN THE CHAMBER AT THE TOWN HALL**

PRESENT:

Barry Darch
Jeff Harris
Colin Hill
Christine Wheeler
Chris Greenhill

IN ATTENDANCE: Candi Turner (Deputy Town Clerk)
Lisa Samson (until item 5)

MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC 1

1. To receive apologies for absence

There were apologies from Cllrs Stubbings, Drew, and Hunt.

**2. To receive Declarations of Interest or any requests for the granting of
dispensations in relation to any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in items
on the agenda**

There were none

**3. To accept for accuracy and adoption the minutes of the Planning and
Highways Committee meeting held on Tuesday 26th November 2024**

RESOLVED To accept for accuracy and adoption the minutes of the
Planning & Highways Committee meeting held on Tuesday 26th November 2024.

**4. To receive a presentation from Lisa Samson to raise awareness concerning
accessibility issues around the Town and Trust owned open spaces**

Lisa addressed 8 specific issues that make getting around Beccles difficult for her. At Beccles Quay, Lisa suggests that a handrail should be installed on the walls of the bridge over the river. Also, at the Quay, she finds the surface of the track by the underpass unacceptable to walk on and suggests to widen, flatten, and tarmac the track. This suggestion is the same for the manmade track next to the play area at the quay. Lisa spoke about how frightening it can be when buses drive past her on Northgate. Her suggestions would be to install speed cameras and railings along Northgate and reroute buses. The narrow road at the bottom of Ravensmere prevents Lisa from getting to the bus stop and post box. Unfortunately, Lisa does not have a solution for this problem. On Fen Lane Lisa notes that there is not a path and that it is unsafe for pedestrians. She suggests installing a pathway and implementing a one-way system. Lisa described various locations around the town centre with dangerous pavements, particularly around Saltgate, outside Snap Fitness, and the library on Blyburgate. Lisa closed her presentation with a picture of a broken handrail outside Roy's of Beccles. Lisa described how this can be hazardous. Lisa thanked the committee for listening and welcomed any questions

Signed:..... 14th January 2025
Planning & Highways Committee Chair

or comments. Cllr Wheeler sympathised with Lisa's issues but said that tarmac would not be appropriate at Beccles Quay as it is unsympathetic to the landscape. Suffolk Wildlife Trust might be able to suggest an appropriate surface. Chair asked Lisa which of these issues would be a priority. Lisa would like to see speed cameras on Northgate. Chair explained that highway policies and criteria would not permit speed cameras on Northgate, and he informed Lisa that BTC is funding speed surveys in other parts of the town.

Lisa left the meeting

5. To receive an update on Planning decisions

The update was received. The committee was disappointed to see that application **DC/24/2615/FUL** had been permitted. The committee asked the Deputy Town Clerk to write a letter expressing the council's disappointment and to ask on what grounds consent was given.

6. To receive planning applications as listed:

- i. **BA/2024/0423/TCAA** | T1,T2 & T3: Horse Chestnut - height reduction from 12 meters to 9 meters. | The Reaches 38A Puddingmoor Beccles Suffolk NR34 9PL

Decision: Defer to Tree Officer

- ii. **DC/24/4154/LBC**|Listed Building Consent - External de-branding of signage, ATM removal, and a light strip out of all internal FFE| Bank And Premises Exchange Square Beccles Suffolk NR34 9HH

Decision: The committee is concerned that the building's historical significance is not mentioned and objects to listed building consent. There is evidence that the site of the main banking hall was formerly part of a Fisher Theatre, and this should be mentioned in the report. The committee has requested a full heritage statement. The Deputy Clerk will contact the planner.

- iii. **DC/24/4180/FUL**|Single storey rear extension and front porch|57 Ellough Road Beccles Suffolk NR34 7AA

Decision: it was noted that there are 2 plans included in the application. The committee needs clarity on which plan they are considering. The block plan is inconsistent with the elevation plan. The committee deferred its decision pending a response from the planner.

- iv. **DC/24/4269/TCA**|2no. Birch (T1 & T2 on plan) - Fell|Underhill 27A Puddingmoor Beccles Suffolk NR34

Decision: Defer to Tree Officer

- v. **DC/24/4293/TCA**|1no. Ivy Covered Trunk (T1 on plan) - Fell 1no. Plum (T2 on plan)- Pollard to 8ft|2 Crown Court Blyburgate Beccles Suffolk NR34 9TJ

Signed:..... 14th January 2025
Planning & Highways Committee Chair

Decision: Defer to Tree Officer

7. To receive for information the Broads Authority's Draft Design Guide and Code SPD document and comment if necessary

This item was deferred to the next meeting

8. To receive a draft of the Journeys and Destinations section of the BTC Strategic Plan and discuss and amend if necessary

The draft was received.

A conversation took place regarding the signing of parking for shoppers and workers.

Chair suggested discussing this further at the January meeting.

Chair referred to the traffic surveys that will be taking place in the New Year. He informed the committee that during the measuring of the traffic, the Town Council can erect temporary signage at the survey sites with various messages to road users such as to discourage HGV's from driving through Beccles or to ask drivers to drive carefully through Beccles. The committee thought this was a good idea.

Michelle Golding noted the disappointment of Northgate residents that they were not included in the selection for traffic surveys.

9. To discuss how to take work forward to be ready to respond to any further developments from Suffolk County Council concerning the Local Transport Plan

There are unlikely to be any further developments from Suffolk County Council until the New Year. This item was deferred until updates are received from SCC.

10. To agree the next meeting of the committee as Tuesday 14th January 2025 6.30pm

The meeting date was agreed.