

BARNSTAPLE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of Planning & Transportation Committee meeting held on Thursday 7th November 2019 at 7.00pm in the MAIN HALL, GUILDHALL, BUTCHERS ROW, BARNSTAPLE.

Present: Cllr A Rennles in the Chair.

Councillors: P Leaver, A Shah, R Mack, and V Nel.

Also present: Robert Ward (Town Clerk)

Steve Short – Devon County Council, Neighbourhood Highway Engineer

Phil Harrison – Jacobs UK for Devon County Council

Chris Barton – Jacobs UK for Devon County Council

PT056 Apologies for Absence

Councillor V Elkins & G Marchewka.

PT057 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

Cllr R Mack: as a member of North Devon Council has a dispensation to discuss and vote on all items on the agenda unless the item refers to a financial or legal agreement or dispute between the two authorities.

PT058 Minutes

RESOLVED: That the minutes from the meeting held on 24th October 2019 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

(NC)

PT059 Town Centre High Street footways resurfacing

Devon County Council officers explained that Jacobs UK have been engaged to develop schemes to reduce the maintenance requirement and improve the safety of the footways of the market towns in Devon.

The proposal is to replace the current slab and brick surfaces with bitumen as this is much more durable, provides a continuous smooth surface and copes much better when vehicles travel over it, which is unavoidable at times in locations such as the Barnstaple High Street.

Currently Devon County Council is spending in excess of £1500 per month on repairing damage to the footways and has problems defending insurance claims for injury and damage.

The budget for maintenance has reduced by 60% in the last five years.

The proposed bitumen surface is not always popular when first installed because it is very black and stark in appearance. Steve Short explained that this does not always go down well because of how dramatic the change first appears but over time the colour fades to a lighter grey, which has been better received in other towns.

The current surface has been in place since the 1990s and replaced a surface that had been in place since the 1970s it is not clear as to what was in place before the 1970s.

The granite kerbs are part of the conservation features of the High Street and have to be retained.

Councillors brought the following to the officer attention:



North Devon Council has several projects currently in progress including the Town Centre Vision consultation over the coming weeks and an application to the Future High Streets Fund for potential capital works in the town centre.

Cllr Mack wanted to give recognition to the benefit these works would give to vulnerable members of the public as it would make it safer for them.

Cllrs wanted to understand if this definitely going to proceed and if so, could features be included such as heritage plaques – S Short said they could.

What is the status of the proposal to pedestrianise Cross Street and Butchers Row – S Short explained that this is planned to come forwards and they are working with North Devon Council to support the consultation.

Is the replacement of street furniture included in the project? – S Short, yes, it is, some in partnership with North Devon Council.

Steve Short offered the opportunity for a walk through of the High Street to discuss the project with councillors.

RECOMMEND: To thank the Devon County Council staff for taking the time to attend the meeting and looking forward to being engaged in the future of the project.

(NC)

PT060 Deposited Plans

60.1 70519

Type: Full

Applicant Name: Mr David Floyde

Date Received: 21/10/2019

Location: Garage Block Sowden Park Barnstaple Devon EX32 8EJ

Ward: BARNSTAPLE WITH WESTACOTT

Proposals: Erection of one attached garage

RECOMMEND: Approval, subject to approval of the Tree Officer to confirm that no damage would be done to the nearby trees

(NC)

60.2 70640

Type: Full

Applicant Name: Eden Park Academy

Date Received: 28/10/2019

Location: Eden Park Academy (Forches Cross Community Primary) School

Forches Avenue Barnstaple Devon EX32 8EE

Ward: BARNSTAPLE WITH WESTACOTT

Proposals: Erection of new and replacement 2.4 high boundary fencing and gates

RECOMMEND: Approval

(NC)

PT061 Others received to date.

PT062 Reported Concerns

Meeting closed at 8.05pm.

Chairman.

Signed:

Dated:


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21/11/19
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