



BUCKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL

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Town Clerk: Mr. P. Hodson

Wednesday, 04 September 2019

Councillor,

You are summoned to a meeting of the Planning Committee of Buckingham Town Council to be held on **Monday 9th September 2019 at 7pm** in the Council Chamber, Cornwalls Meadow, Buckingham.

Mr. P. Hodson
Town Clerk

Please note that the meeting will be preceded by a Public Session in accordance with Standing Order 3.f, which will last for a maximum of 15 minutes, and time for examination of the plans by Members.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence

Members are asked to receive apologies from Members.

2. Declarations of Interest

To receive declarations of any personal or prejudicial interest under consideration on this agenda in accordance with the Localism Act 2011 Sections 26-34 & Schedule 4.

3. Minutes

To receive the minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on Monday 12th August 2019 to be put before the Full Council meeting to be held on 30th September 2019.

Copy previously circulated

4. Buckingham Neighbourhood Plan/Vale of Aylesbury Plan

To receive a verbal report on the public exhibition of VAHT's proposal for the garage area behind Pightle Crescent, held on 28th August. *Invitation circulated by email 19/8/19.*

PL/51/19

5. Action Reports

5.1 To receive action reports as per the attached list.

Appendix A

5.2 (220/19: E-W Expressway) To receive responses from MKC & OCC

Appendix B

5.3 (917.2/18; HS2) to receive responses from the CEO of HS2 & DfT

Appendix C

Buckingham



Twinned with Mouvaux, France

Members are reminded when making decisions that the Public Sector Equality Duty 2010 requires Members to have due regard to the need to: Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct that is prohibited by the Act, advance equality of opportunity between people who share a characteristic and those who don't, and to foster good relations between people who share a characteristic and those who don't.

All Committee documents can be found on the Buckingham Town Council's website. Alternatively, the Clerk send you a copy of any minutes, reports or other information. To do this, send a request using the contact details set out above.

6. Planning Applications

For Member's information the next scheduled Development Management Committee meetings are 26th September and 17th October 2019, with SDMC meetings on 25th September and 16th October 2019.

To consider planning applications received from AVDC and other applications

1. 19/02627/AAD The Old Town Hall, Market Square, MK18 1NJ
Installation of fascia signage 1N^e Non-illuminated sign above reception door, 1N^e Non-illuminated sign above shop window and 1N^e Non-illuminated sign on brick pillar of Old Town Hall
Weightman [Spratt Endlicott solicitors]

For Members' information this is a retrospective application possibly triggered by our report to Enforcement of unauthorised new signage in May 2018 (18/00203/CON3)

2. 19/02767/ALB 65 Well Street [Chapmans], MK18 1EN
Repair damage to corner of property and CCTV cameras fitted to the rear elevation (part retrospective)
Herring

The retrospective aspect is due to having to install emergency stabilising works to the damaged wall on the Bridge Street elevation.

3. 19/02900/APP 18 March Edge, MK18 7BP
First floor part two storey side extension
Whitbread

4. 19/02932/APP 1 Naseby Court, MK18 1TS
Variation of Condition 2 relating to application 18/03451/APP – Proposed extension using block work with a render. Only the RH side and RH rear wall would be rendered.
Stolze

The following two applications may be considered together:

5. 19/02959/APP The Grand Junction PH, 13 High Street, MK18 1NT
6. 19/02960/ALB Proposed demolition of single storey rear extensions erection of single storey rear extension and fire escape to second floor, internal and external alterations, conversion of outbuilding to student accommodation, creation of new access off Cornwalls Meadow and associated works.
Oakman Inns & Restaurants

7. 19/03001/APP 5 Hillcrest Way, MK18 1HJ
Change of use from B2 (Light Industrial) to Beauty Salon (sui generis)
Taylor

The following two applications may be considered together:

8. 19/03013/APP Prezzo Restaurant, 36 High Street, MK18 1NU
 9. 19/03014/ALB Replacement of external fencing and internal alterations to existing restaurant
Prezzo Restaurants Ltd.
10. 19/03126/APP 40 Treefields, MK18 1GP
Single storey rear extension
Low

Members had No Objection to the previous application 19/01579/APP (3/8/19) which was withdrawn on 2nd July. This extension is slightly wider (now matching the house width) and somewhat shorter (3m as opposed to 4.3m) and has a lean-to roof rather than a gable end.

11. 19/03161/APP 32 Bradfield Avenue, MK18 1PR
Demolition of existing rear extension and erection of two storey side and single storey rear extension.
Mills

12. 19/03174/APP 9 Bobbins Way, MK18 7SA
Front porch
Wiltshire

13. 19/03175/APP The Old Latin House, MK18 1JX
Erection of car port, garden workshop and store
Scrase

- *Members may remember a previous application, 18/00484/APP for the same proposal which was refused; the new rear accesses onto Summerhouse Hill were separated out from this (18/03954) and have been approved. The building is as previously described and Members had No Objections to it last November; this application also contains the historical information requested by the officer.*

AMENDED/ADDITIONAL PLANS

The following Additional Information has been received, for information only:

14. 18/04112/APP 10 Hilltop Avenue, MK18 1TZ
Erection of 6ft fence on side boundary (retrospective)
Davies

Additional document: Land Registry document for the property, showing the applicant's ownership of the side land bounded by the fence.

Members' response (21st January 2019) was OPPOSE: "Members noted that the length of fence installed made a considerable impact on the open nature of the street scene, especially as the fence bordered the public path, and noted that three neighbours have objected to the loss to the estate's open plan layout (and a fourth has objected on the same grounds since the meeting). Concern was also expressed at the impact of the fence on the adjacent mature tree in the verge, whose roots could be conjectured to lie underneath it. They also asked for BCC Highways' comments on the restriction of vision to the right for drivers emerging from Catherine Court, especially as this is a much-used crossing place for pupils at Buckingham Primary School."

There is no comment from BCC on the website; AVDC's Highways consultant responded (7/1/19): Since it seems that the fence does not interfere with visibility when leaving Catherine Court I have no highway objections in this instance.

The following notification was received on 7th August for response by 28th August, but the only new item on the website was a drawing submitted with application 14/03095/APP with no indication of what Members were being asked to comment on. This information was sought immediately, and prompts sent, but none had been provided by the date of publication of this agenda. The application has therefore only been included on tis agenda in case this information arrives before the meeting.

15. 18/01098/APP 23, 23A & 23B Moreton Road
Erection of 6no. self-contained apartments and boundary wall
– retrospective (Amendment to 14/03095/APP)
Morrison

Members have responded as follows:

(30TH April 2018) NO COMMENT [Originally listed as 'Conversion of 3N^e dwellings into 6N^e separate, self-contained apartments – Retrospective' on 4th April, withdrawn on 9th and submitted with new description as above 17th April]

Members offered no comment as the dwellings were occupied already, but hoped that the officer would take note of the comments from Highways. There was no planning notice posted so Members reserved the right to alter their response if neighbours presented valid planning objections to the Council at their 14th May meeting.

Amended plans (20th August 2018): OPPOSE - Amendment: boundary wall not constructed to HBO's satisfaction; alternative proposal

Members concurred with the HBO's views and action, especially with respect to the use of engineering bricks.

NOT FOR CONSULTATION

13. 19/02916/ACL 57 Aris Way, MK18 1FW
 Application for a Certificate of Lawfulness for proposed loft conversion
 Harris

Apart from an additional note concerning sound insulation, the drawings are identical to those for the subsequently withdrawn 19/00773/APP which Members considered at the 25th March meeting, responding: NO OBJECTIONS – Members regretted the loss of the hipped profile which reduced the apparent bulk of the roof.

14. 19/03056/ACL 1 Candleford Court, MK18 1GA
 Application for a Lawful Development Certificate for a proposed change of use from a retail unit to residential dwelling. The inclusion of Bathroom, Kitchen and Disability access doors.
 Watts [Guinness Partnership]

15. 19/02974/INTN Land adjacent to 2 Aris Way, MK18 1FX
 Notification of a proposal to install a new telemetry kiosk.
 Anglian Water Services Ltd.

7. Planning Decisions

To receive for information details of planning decisions made by AVDC as per 'Bulletin' and other decisions.

Approved		BTC response	Officer recomm ⁿ .
17/00746/APP	Station Road car park	Student accommodation & parking	Conditional support
18/03593/APP	Bromley, Stratford Rd.	New s/st. side & rear extension	No objections*
19/01433/AAD	Old Market House } 36-37 High Street	Replacement signage	No objections
19/01434/ALB			
19/01852/ALB	28 West Street	Alterations, signage, satellite dish	No objections subj HBO
19/01976/ALB	6 Market Hill [Clays]	Alt ^s & Ch/use to student bedsits	No objections
19/02410/APP	18 Mitre Street	Infill of existing rear courtyard	No objections
19/00746/ALB	Stoneleigh House } 19/00834/AAD	Signs and flagpole (retrospective)	No objections subj HBO
19/02333/APP		18 Highlands Road	
19/02583/APP	Racelogic, Osier Way	External deck for staff room	No objections
19/02647/APP	6 Wharf View	Two storey rear extension	No objections

* Changed from Oppose & Attend 3/6/19 on receipt of acceptable amended plans

Withdrawn

19/02645/APP 8 London Road S/st.rear & 2-st. side extensions Oppose

Not Consulted on:

Approved

19/02430/HPDE 20 Grenville Road Permitted s/storey rear extension No objections

Refused

19/02441/HPDE 40 Treefields Single storey rear extension No objections

Split decision

19/02287/ATP 4 McKenzie Close Works to T1 & T2 Lime Trees Oppose –
inadequate information on proposed works

Refused – Crown reduce the two lime trees by 2m; on the grounds that the trees are a prominent feature of the locality and in apparent good health; no reason was provided for the work and upon inspection there is no clear and obvious need for the trees to be reduced. In the absence of further supporting information the proposed level of work is considered excessive, unjustified and harmful to the amenity value of the trees.

Allowed – Crown clean, crown raise to 4m; remove epicormic growth and prune away from any buildings by 2m.

Planning Inspectorate

An appeal against refusal has been lodged, start date 7th August (notification letter dated 12th August); any additional comments to be submitted by 11th September 2019.

Application 18/02932/ALB: Replace two damaged/inoperative rear bedroom windows.

Members considered the application on 10th September 2018, responding NO OBJECTIONS subject to HBO satisfaction; AVDC refused it on HBO recommendation 4/1/19.

8. Development Management Committee

8.1 Strategic Development Management (4th September 2019) *No Buckingham applications*

8.2 Development Management (5th September 2019) *No Buckingham applications*

9. Enforcement

9.1 To receive any update

9.2 To report any new breaches

10. S106 quarterly update

10.1 To receive the updated s106 expenditure sheet

Appendix D

10.2 (Min 274 refers) To consider whether to initiate discussion with the Shadow Authority re future BTC participation in s106/CIL negotiations.

11. Written Questions

To receive for information AVDC's answers to 4 written questions from Cllr. Stuchbury.

Appendix E

12. Matters to report

Members to report any damaged, superfluous and redundant signage in the town, access issues or any other urgent matter.

13. Chairman's items for information

14. Date of the next meeting: Monday 7th October 2019 at 7pm.

To Planning Committee:

Cllr. M. Cole (Town Mayor)

Cllr. J. Harvey

Cllr. P. Hirons (Vice Chair)

Cllr. D. Isham

Cllr. A. Mahi

Cllr. Mrs. L. O'Donoghue (Chair)

Cllr. A. Ralph

Cllr. R. Stuchbury

Cllr. M. Try

Mrs. C. Cumming (co-opted member)

BUCKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Report on consultation event held by VAHT at Northend Court on Wednesday 28th August 2019

3.30 – 6.30pm

PLANNING COMMITTEE

9th SEPTEMBER 2019

Agenda Item No: 4

Committee Chair: Cllr. Lisa O'Donoghue

Author: Mrs. K. McElligott, Planning Clerk

Summary:

Vale of Aylesbury Housing Trust are proposing to demolish the 20 garages in the yard behind Pightle Crescent, Western Avenue and erect 9 modular (ie pre-fabricated) dwellings.

Background:

VAHT have already inserted an additional dwelling in the garden of 1 Bourtonville, have approval for the insertion of another at 2 Bourtonville, have applied to demolish the garages at Overn Crescent and erect 4 dwellings (loss of 11 garages and public parking space) – no decision yet.

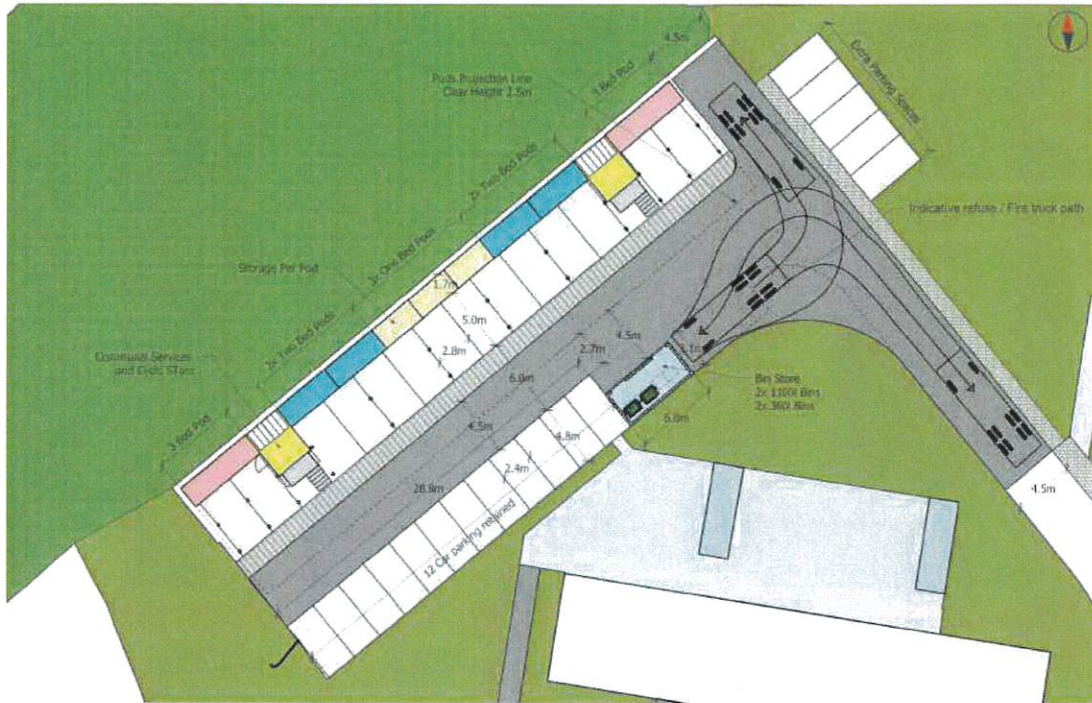
The consultation event was by invitation, circulated to Members on 19th August 2019.

The site is hidden behind the blocks of flats at Pightle Crescent, off Western Avenue:



9 new houses are proposed, built over 5m x 2.8m carports with storage facilities at the rear. 12 parking bays will be retained opposite them and 5 new ones made in the verge by flats 13-18 (although one drawing labels this as 'extra manoeuvring space'). The end houses are 3-bedroom detached at the first/second floors and have individual entrances; between them are four 2-bed houses and three 1-bed houses in a terrace, accessed from stairwells (containing a cycle store) leading to a communal balcony at first floor level across the front of the terrace.

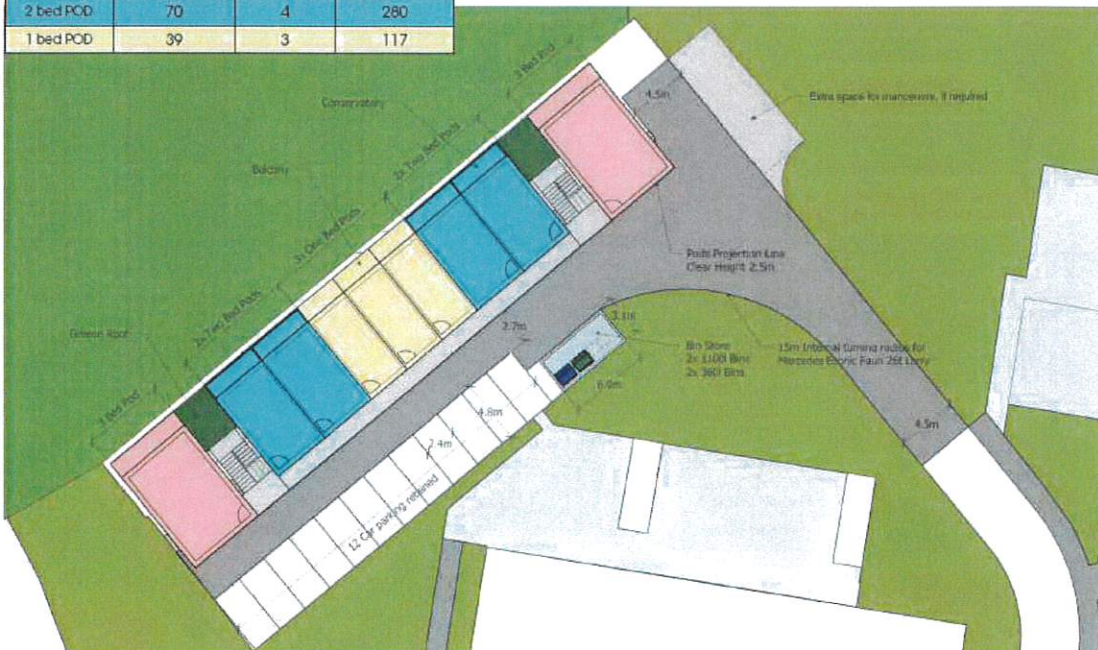
Car park level plan



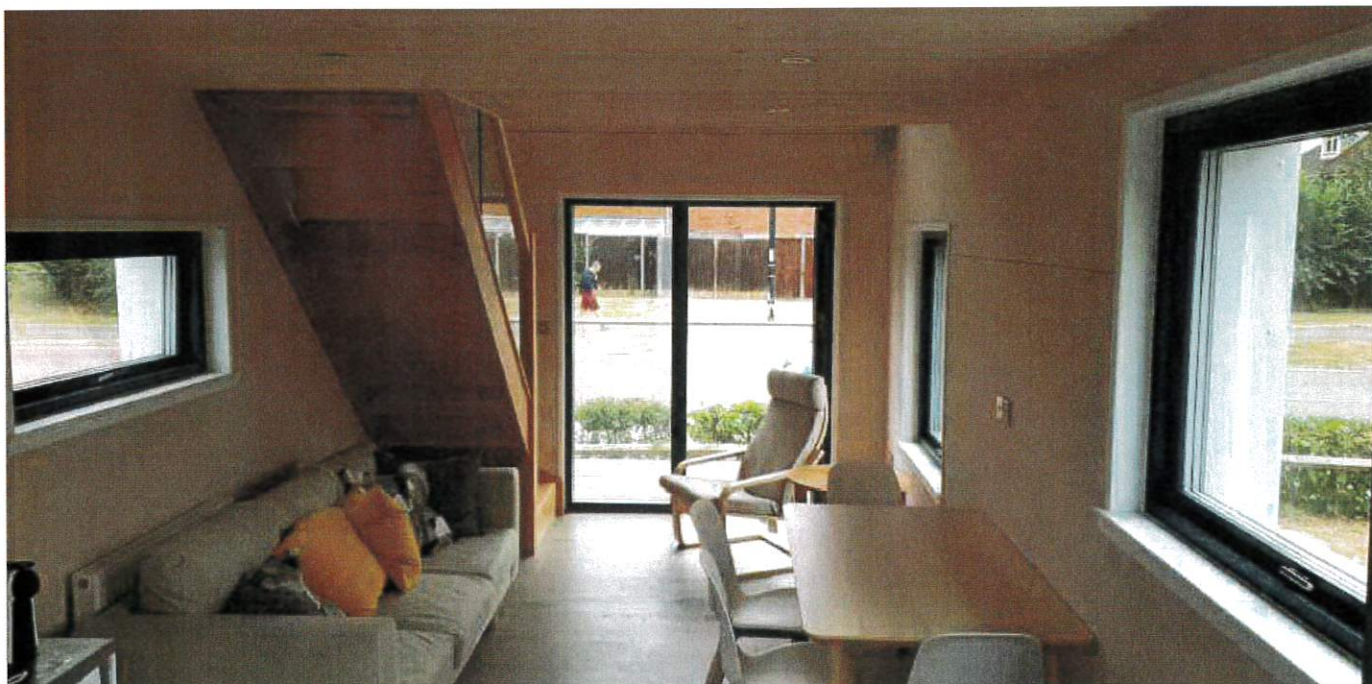
Tracking lines are for the refuse vehicle, houses will not have individual refuse & recycling bins, a purpose-built bin shed will contain communal skip bins.

Entry level plan

House types	GIFA/POD (m ²)	No. of Units	Total GIFA (m ²)
3 bed POD	85	2	170
2 bed POD	70	4	280
1 bed POD	39	3	117



Site street view



Interior view

The front-facing roofs are covered in solar panels, and the windows are triple-glazed. The house wall finishes can be timber (shiplap or weatherboard) or a similar pattern in coloured Hardie Plank – a fibre cement cladding. The walls are a six-layer sandwich, two of them insulation.



Site as existing (Google). The trees behind the line of garages are TPO'd



Entrance to the site from Pightle Crescent

The tracking diagram shows that a refuse wagon can access the bin store and have room to turn (provided there is no on-street parking to obstruct it). I was assured that the module company had inspected the site and the delivery trucks and crane would also be able to get in and round the

corner. The land behind the garage block, with the Protected Woodland on, does not belong to VAHT.

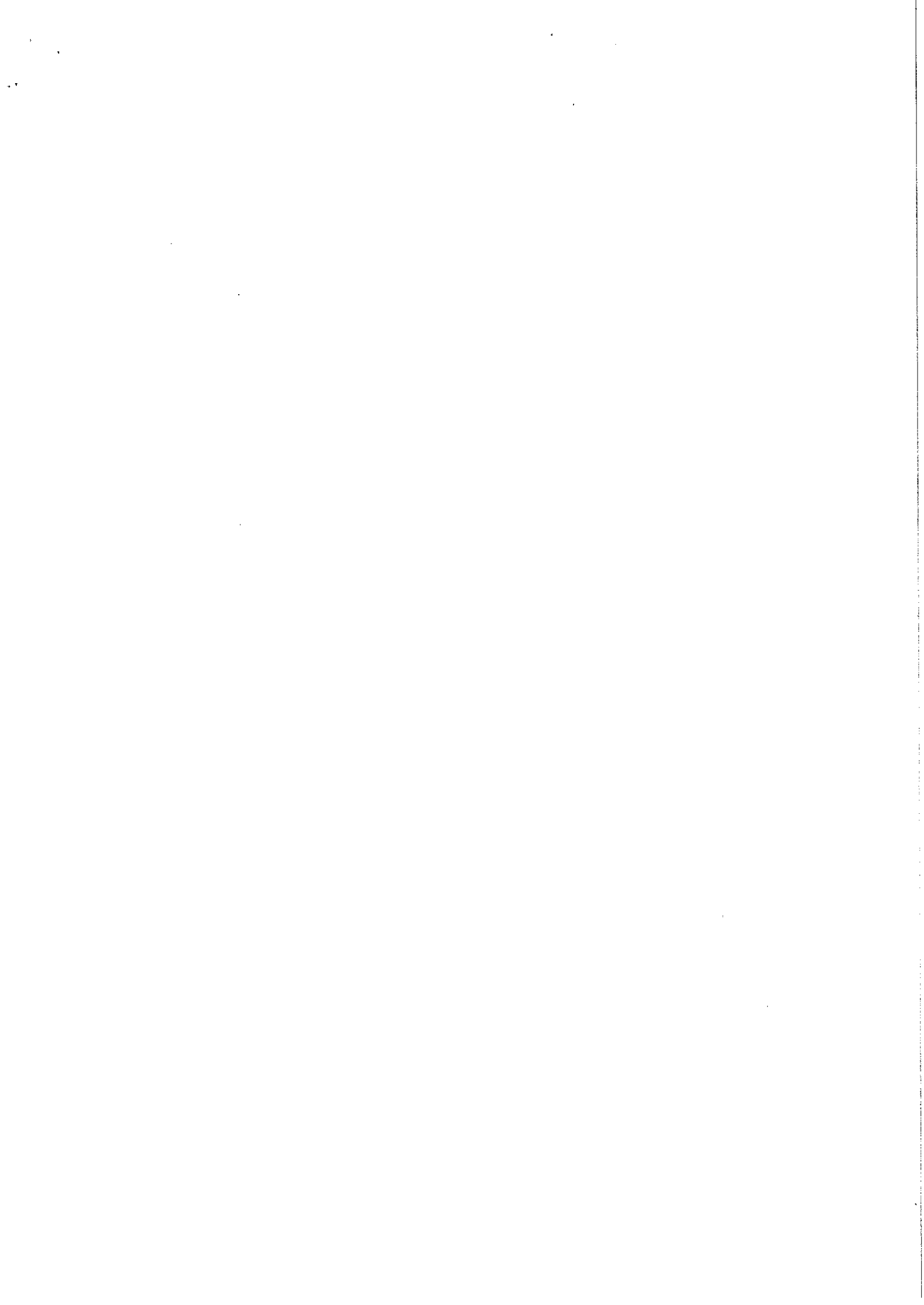
I was also told that only 5 of the garages are in use, and those are not rented by residents of the existing flats; the remainder are not in good order (a resident alleged that there had been no maintenance for many years, and they were not advertised). To be fair, the garages have small internal dimensions, and are not suitable for modern vehicles, but would be perfectly satisfactory for domestic storage and for motorcycles, cycles and children's toys and scooters, which are not suited to storage in a flat or outdoor parking. I voiced concerns about the parking for residents (there are 36 existing flats) and overflow on to Western Avenue, which already has enough roadside parking.

I also asked about the garage yard on the other side of Western Avenue, where the garages have already been demolished; VAHT were unsure whether this belonged to them or AVDC.

VAHT expressed a desire to present to the Committee when they had processed the comments sheets and possibly modified the plans accordingly, and I have emailed the dates of forthcoming meetings.

KM

29/8/19



ACTION LIST

Min. 270/19	7 via Parish Channel 2 via Parish Support	Min. 136/19	News release 1. Silverstone (depending on AVDC response) 2. Coffee#1 pavement tables	Date of appearance
Min. 137.2.1				
Subject	Minute	Form	Response received	
AVDC				
Record Keeping	46.2/19	Letter to acting Chief Exec. as minuted	✓	
Silverstone Hotel	136/19 222.3/19	Letter to acting Chief Exec. Respond as minuted	✓ ✓	See agenda 5.3, 22/7/19
Innov8 CMS	223.11/19	Request portakabins be moved away from cottages	✓	Revised plan posted 21 st August moves stacked portakabins east, exchanging with 'materials set down and storage' area
Site M	267/19	Write re removal from VALP Letter also to MP	✓ ✓	
Enforcement Bulletins	273.1/19	Write to Monitoring Officer to clarify effect GPDR	✓	
Moorhen Way street signs	274/19	Request correction – missing numbers	✓	Compromise solution agreed with Streetnaming officer 22/8/19
BCC:				
CCTV	917.1/18	Letter to be written to Mark Shaw regarding continuing lack of CCTV installation on Tesco roundabout	✓	
Section 106	139/19	Suggest Lace Hill Police contribution be used for CCTV	✓	
Bridge Street Footbridge - flooding	917.3/18	Planning Clerk to write to both the County Councillors and TfB asking for a timescale to repair or unblock the drainage.	✓	
Coffee#1 pavement tables	137.2.1/19	Ask Cllr Whyte to intervene over pavement licence	✓	Response to a letter to Streetlicensing at BCC requesting an update indicates no licence has yet been applied for; and that The Whale does not have one either, but action is being taken.
Tingewick	139/19	Road markings, esp. right-	✓	

ACTION LIST

Road roundabout		hand turn arrow		
Field House Nursery	270/19 19/02777/ APP	Copy comments about warning lights/crossing to BCC	✓	
High St zebra crossing	274/19	Report white stripes need renewing	✓	Estates Manager had already done this; reinforced with Local Area Technician at chance meeting
Other:				
Lace Hill balancing lakes	654/18	Write to Chamonix as minuted	✓	
HS2	917.2/18	Town Clerk to write to the Government and HS2 appealing for the cessation of construction work until the line north of Birmingham is confirmed.	✓	See agenda 5.3
RLS fence	135.3/19 222.2/19	Write to Governors Respond as minuted	✓ ✓	RLS response – agenda 5.2, 22/7/19
E-W Expressway	220/19	Letter to neighbouring Councils as minuted	✓	See agenda 5.2
Grand Junction	222.4/19	Liaise with new owners over presentation to Committee	✓	Both 12 th August and 9 th September not convenient. Owners to contact office when plans are submitted Owners have been informed that application on 9/9/19 agenda, but no spokesperson available (see applications 19/02959 & 2960) acknowledged
Parish forum slides	269/19	Circulate to Buckingham Society	✓	
S106/CIL	274/19	Place on next agenda	✓	See agenda 10.2
Priority sign, Hunter Street traffic nip	274/19	Obscured by branches, advise University	✓	Report acknowledged, work to be carried out same day.
Enforcement reports and queries				
Reasons for case closure	743.1	Cllr. Stuchbury to investigate further	✓	Reminder sent as requested 4/7/19
Lack of Bulletins	225.1/19	Request updates on open & closed cases end of August (1 year since last update)	In hand	Awaiting response from Monitoring Officer

Chief Executive

Reply to Michael Bracey
Call 01908 252200 Ref MB/EW
E-mail michael.bracey@milton-keynes.gov.uk



Mr P Hodson - Town Clerk
Buckingham Town Council
Town Council Offices
Buckingham Centre
Verney Close
Buckingham MK18 1JP



7 August 2019

Dear Mr Hodson

Thank you for your letter dated 2 August 2019.

Cllr Gowans, Cabinet Member for Planning and Transport, took a Delegated Decision on 16 July, which set out the Council's position on the East-West Expressway. This report and details of the decision are available on our website:

<https://milton-keynes.cmis.uk.com/milton-keynes/Calendar/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/6228/Committee/1258/Default.aspx>

Once Highways England announces its preferred routes as part of the public consultation, the Council will further consider the impacts on Milton Keynes, both positive and negative, and review this position accordingly before responding to the consultation.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Bracey'.

Michael Bracey
Chief Executive

Mr P Hodson
Townclerk
Buckingham Town Council
Town Council Offices
Buckingham Centre
Verney Close
Buckinghamshire
MK18 1JP

County Hall
New Road
Oxford
OX1 1ND

Office of the Chief Executive

Dear Mr Hodson,

Thank you for your correspondence regarding the proposed Oxford to Cambridge Expressway.

The Expressway is a scheme promoted by Highway England, and it is expected that they will follow the appropriate and statutory process for development of the scheme as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP). Following planned route option consultation this autumn and preferred route announcement next year, this is expected to include all the evidence needed to support a Development Consent Order (DCO) application and subsequent public examination, currently expected in the mid-2020s.

The County Council does not have any views on any route preferences at present, as Highway England have not yet provided any preferred route options and associated detailed evidence base for consideration and comment.

Whilst the detail of route options is not yet know, the County Council continues to raise matters regarding Expressway decision making where appropriate. In October, for example, the County agreed a letter to central government and Highways England with Growth Board partners, expressing concern regarding lack of clarity on the potential corridor route around Oxford. This letter also outlined a set of principles regarding the proposed Expressway, noting *'that any decision on the Expressway should,*

i) Help secure a more sustainable and integrated Oxfordshire Transport Network by:

a. Linking with and strengthen key transport hubs, such as integrated bus, rail and Park and Ride facilities.

b. Securing opportunities for the development of new Park and Ride connections to Oxford, Milton Keynes and Cambridge and rapid bus links between the three cities and surrounding market towns.

c. Providing enhanced local connections to reduce transport pressures on local roads around key settlements.

- ii) *Minimize its environmental damage and avoid sensitive areas such as areas with SSIs and protected habitats.*
- iii) *Support growth and the investigation of new settlement options through Joint Spatial Plans.*
- iv) *Be future-proofed, in terms of taking account of modal shift and innovation such as the rise of autonomous vehicles.'*

I would note that we will continue to raise issues and appropriately challenge Highways England as they further develop the proposed scheme, including as part of any future consultation processes such as that planned on route options later this year. This is expected to take into account the principles noted above, as well as other County Council policy, such as on environmental matters, and other matters as relevant at the time.

For information, the full letter sent by the Growth Board in October 2018 is available on the internet at the following link:

<https://www.oxfordshiregrowthboard.org/more-clarity-on-oxford-to-cambridge-expressway-required>

Yours sincerely

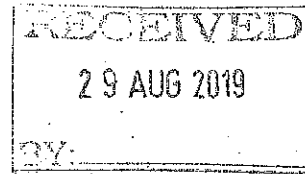


Yvonne Rees
Chief Executive
Oxfordshire County Council

High Speed Two (HS2) Limited
Two Snowhill, Snow Hill Queensway
Birmingham B4 6GA

Telephone: 08081 434 434
Minicom: 08081 456 472
Email: hs2enquiries@hs2.org.uk
gov.uk/hs2

Paul Hodson
Town Clerk
Buckingham Town Council
Town Council Office
Buckingham Centre
Verney Close
Buckingham
MK18 1JP



27 August 2019

Dear Mr Hodson,

Ref: Commencement of HS2

Thank you for writing to me regarding our works in the Buckingham area. We understand your concerns about the impact of HS2 in the area and have continued to engage with local groups and the community while our works are planned and undertaken. This has included responding to Cllr Clare following receipt of the petition.

You may be aware we have been working in the area over the last 18 months to divert utilities, such as gas and electric supplies. We are now entering the next stage in our programme of works in the area, which involves vegetation removal, ecological mitigation, archaeological investigations, and the construction of compounds and haul roads. Work will gather pace as we continue preparation for the main construction works which include major earthworks, construction of structures and highway diversions.

All our works will be undertaken in strict adherence to the Code of Construction Practice. The vegetation clearance in question will be carried out in a phased manner, working with landowners and under strict ecological control. Other ecological works including the translocation of great crested newts and mitigation work for other species will be carried out in conjunction with the vegetation clearance. In response to concerns raised by the local community we re-phased our works to ensure that as much as possible would take place outside the nesting season.

Our team of ecologists ensure that nesting birds are not disturbed during clearance work, this involves regularly checking vegetation including hedgerows, trees and scrub in advance of clearance before issuing a 'permit to clear'. Where active nests are identified, the ecologist ensures that a buffer of vegetation is maintained to prevent disturbance until it is confirmed that the nest is no longer active.

HS2 aims to be one of the most environmentally responsible infrastructure projects ever delivered in the UK. In the Buckingham area, Sheephouse Wood and Finmere Wood, we have planted tens of thousands of trees this year and significantly more will be planted as part of the HS2 project. We'll construct four new ponds to accommodate Great Crested Newts. The planting will create key habitat connectivity routes including bat flightpaths across existing ancient woodlands. The planting will also encourage wildlife to move to new areas, away from what will eventually be the construction area of HS2

We also have a lot of other works planned or taking place across the Phase One route to mitigate against the environmental impact of the new railway:

- 7 million new trees and shrubs, including over 40 native species, specific to each location. The new native woodlands will cover over 9 square kilometres of land.
- Over 33 square kilometres of new and existing wildlife habitat – equating to an area the size of 4,600 football pitches. That's an increase of around 30% compared to what's there now.
- Tailor-made homes for wildlife, ranging from bat houses to 226 new ponds for great crested newts and other amphibians.
- Earthworks and landscaping which will re-use around 90% of the material excavated during construction.
- The potential to support community projects and develop amenity spaces such as access routes, public parks, open spaces and nature reserves.

The powers to build Phase 1 of HS2 were approved by Parliament in 2017. Since then the project has been making progress across the line of route between London and Birmingham. We have carried out work on more than 65 sites, servicing over 250 work locations. This includes the creation of 46 habitat sites, planting over 300,000 trees, completing 14 utility diversions and ongoing works on road improvement schemes. In some cases, to deliver this work, there is a requirement to undertake vegetation clearance.

We continue to negotiate with our main works civils contractors and will move to Notice to Proceed when those negotiations are concluded.

Locally, we continue to engage with residents and local groups, including regular meetings with Parish Councils, on our works programme. We have local engagement managers along the line of route and our team is available to answer questions about the scheme. In June 2019 we held three information events, in Calvert, Twyford and Steeple Claydon to share updates and recently met with representatives from the petition group.

Thank you for contacting me, I trust the information provided is of assistance to the Town Council.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Thurston', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mark Thurston

Chief Executive Officer

High Speed Two (HS2) Ltd



Department
for Transport

Department for Transport
Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 4DR

Tel: 0300 330 3000

Web Site: www.gov.uk/df

Our Ref: TO 264560
Your Ref:

Mr Paul Hodson
Town Council Office
Buckingham Centre
Verney Close
Buckingham
MK18 1JP

2 September 2019

Dear Mr Hodson

Thank you for your letter of 2 August to the Secretary of State for Transport about the High Speed 2 (HS2) rail project.

The Prime Minister told Parliament on 25 July 2019 that he had asked Douglas Oakervee to lead a review of HS2. This independent review of the High Speed 2 programme is now underway.

The review will use all existing evidence on the HS2 project and consider its benefits and impacts; affordability and efficiency; deliverability; and scope and phasing, including its relationship with Northern Powerhouse Rail. The report, which is due this autumn, will inform the Government's decisions on next steps for the project.

The terms of reference for the review have been published at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-announces-independent-review-into-hs2-programme>. These do, of course, include consideration of the environmental impact.

The Prime Minister has made clear that the review of HS2 should be a genuinely open exercise. We are also clear that, should we decide, following the review, to continue with the project, that we do not want to unnecessarily delay it. That is why limited enabling works which are currently being undertaken by HS2 Ltd on the project will continue in parallel pending the report and a decision whether or not to proceed.

Many of the early works are designed to ensure that new habitats, such as woodland, become fully established as early as possible. So far 350,000 new

trees have been planted and 48 areas of new habitat have been created for wildlife.

A final report will be sent to the Department in the autumn to inform the Government's decision on the next steps for the project. We will publish this Review and take decisions on the HS2 project once we have considered the findings. If the review recommends that the HS2 project should proceed then we intend that it will be one of the most environmentally responsible infrastructure projects ever delivered in the UK.

Yours sincerely

Christopher Curson
High Speed and Major Rail Projects Group