

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

WEDNESDAY 15 MARCH 2017

Planning & Development Committee

Witney Town Council is a statutory consultee on all planning applications submitted affecting Witney. We have also commented upon applications that affect Witney indirectly.

This year the Planning Committee has met every 3rd week and reviewed and commented upon 220 applications representing your views to the planning authority - West Oxfordshire District Council.

Of the 220 applications, 9 were withdrawn and 45 are awaiting determination. There are 166 decided applications and of those the District Council endorsed 88% of the Town Council's recommendations.

Looking forward to the next year, there are a number of local issues that the Planning Committee will be focusing upon:

- 1) West Oxfordshire District Council's Local Plan - this important document will shape the way Witney and West Oxfordshire will grow and develop over the next 15yrs
- 2) Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group is consulting on health provision for the Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire area. This will change how services are provided and in Witney the loss of Deer Park Surgery is contrary to the growth needs of the town. Currently we are short of around 3 GPs. With population due to reach 49,000 by 2031 in the Witney Sub Area an additional 11 GPs will be required.
- 3) Witney Hospital - a lot of services currently provided by the John Radcliffe Hospital could be provided locally, thus avoiding the necessity to travel to Oxford. Funding for the expansion of local treatment and beds will need to be planned.
- 4) A40 - Oxfordshire County Council has published a plan to dual carriage the section of road from Witney to Eynsham with a bus lane from Eynsham to Oxford. Witney Town Council supports the dualling and is chasing an early start.
- 5) Clearance work for provision of the Downs Road / A40 Junction has begun, this will provide much relief from HGV traffic in Station lane.
- 6) Witney Town Council has embarked on the process to create a Neighbourhood Plan via a Community Led Plan, written by the inhabitants of the town! The first meeting was well attended and offers of support to lead and drive it forward have been warmly received. If you would like to get involved please contact Witney Vision.

Cllr Alan Beames, Chairman of Planning and Development Committee