

# **ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY 14 MARCH 2018**

## **Planning and Development Committee**

Witney Town Councils (WTC) Planning and Development Committee is a statutory consultee to West Oxfordshire District Council (WODC) for all planning and licence applications submitted.

During 2017/8, Members views have been sought on 252 applications on proposed developments including, Conservatories, Advertising Consent, Licensing and Construction of Industrial buildings, Hotels, dwellings and housing developments; of which in 161 Cases WTC's opinions were endorsed and 17 applications were withdrawn, a few were contrary and the remainder of applications considered are awaiting WODC determination.

With Large Scale developments now taking place on the North Curbridge, Burford Road and Springfield sites WTCs Planning committee have also been busy compiling and reviewing Street Names. With further development planned in WODC's Local plan suggestions for themes or famous local people not recognised will be warmly welcomed.

The Local Plan details where housing is to be developed up to 2031 meeting West Oxfordshire's Allocation is now out for consultation <http://www.westoxon.gov.uk/residents/planning-building/planning-policy/local-development-framework/local-plan-2031-examination/> following review by the planning inspector. It details the planned construction of 4,702 Dwellings in and around the Witney Sub Area as

<u>The Major Sites Are:</u>	<u>No. Dwellings*</u>	*Source WODC Local Plan
1) Dwellings Completed	600	
2) North Curbridge	1,000 (In Construction)	
3) Land at Downs Road	257	
4) Land West of Minster Lovell	125	
5) Land North of Springfield Oval	75 (In Construction)	
6) Land North of Burford Road	260 (Site Being Cleared)	
7) Witney East	450	
8) Witney North	1,400	
9) Woodford Way Carpark	50	
10) Other Small sites and Windfall	485	
<b><u>Total Planned</u></b>	<b><u>4,702</u></b>	

According to ONS Mid-Year-2016 Population Data there were 28,533 residents of Witney and the Wider Witney Sub Area as defined in WODC's Local Plan totalled 34,838, however we have to bear in mind that it is not only this demographic that rely upon Witney's services and the infrastructure must be developed to support all of our neighbouring parishes and promote tourism.

Currently the population density of West Oxfordshire as a whole is around 2.34 persons per dwelling, in Witney it is higher with 10,000 dwellings this equates to 2.85 persons per dwelling,

therefore all councils need to plan infrastructure improvements for an increase of between 11,000 and 13,165 residents by 2031.

Members of Witney Town Council, not just the Planning Committee, have been attending many events such as those by the Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group, to discuss the identified needs Witney and the surrounding area require to support planned growth and we will continue to do so.

Witney Town Council's Planning Committee have commenced looking at the infrastructure needs to support this level of development and S106/CIL allocation requirement and the next rounds of public participation for the Community Led Plan "Witney Vision" will soon be announced, to focus on specific aspects raised such as Transport, Health, Schools, Sport, Soft and Hard Infrastructure to support those being done by WODC and OCC.

The output from the "Witney Vision" Community Led Plan will be to formulate a base to eventually create a Neighbourhood Plan for Witney and the Sub area in conjunction with neighbouring parishes.

With regard to reporting road issues, pot holes etc. residents are encouraged to use the FixMyStreet app. The latest cold spell has resulted in a number of new and larger defects, whilst the Town Councillors are proactive in ensuring these issues are reported and addressed in a timely manner we cannot do it alone, please download the app onto your mobile phone or tablet- it takes a minute or so to take a photo and report a concern. If you wish it chased through by all means email the report to [alan.beames@witney-tc.gov.uk](mailto:alan.beames@witney-tc.gov.uk). The Witney Traffic Advisory Committee meets four times a year and continues to press for better road infrastructure, holding OCC to account.

Witney Town Council's Planning Committee will continue through 2018/19 to review all applications and represent your views. As with all committee meetings members of the public are able to speak on agenda items; if you wish to comment upon or make suggestions you are more than welcome to attend, contact the Town Hall for further information.

**Cllr Alan Beames, Chairman - Planning and Development Committee**