



Watlington Parish Council

Watlington
Neighbourhood
Development Plan



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W CE • **Gill Birchhoff (Chair), Fiona Danks, Kim Harris, Terry Jackson, Keith Jackson**

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Ian Hill and Tony Powell. Isla Woodcock will be asked if she would like to continue as a member of the NPAB as she has not been able to attend recent meetings

2. Declarations of Interest:

There were none

3. Minutes of the meeting of 11th November 2024

The minutes were agreed to be a correct record of the meeting and will be signed by the chair. The minutes were accepted by WPC at the Full Council meeting on 10th December 2024. There was no meeting of the NPAB in December.

Matters arising

- a) Update on the completion of the shared cycleway/footpath from Red Kite View to Gulham Road

This is not completed yet. There has been a delay caused by damage to the electricity supply to new streetlights. It is taking time for the responsibility for the damage to be determined. The top surface of the extended footway/cycleway still has to be done and also works to complete the bus stop areas. A crossing point at Pyton Lane has also to be completed. Steve Bellinghede is pushing this on behalf of WPC with Floor Harris. There is no information available about the replacement tree planting to mitigate the loss of the two silver birch trees that were felled on Gulham Road as a result of the scheme but this is being followed up by Clr van Merlo

4 Review of the WNDP:

- a) **Update on the review** No further work has been done but draft supporting paragraphs for the policies should be available at the next meeting
- b) **Wittington Conservation Area Appraisal** Unfortunately, SODC is still not able to give a firm date when the public consultation on the Appraisal will begin. The expectation that the consultation would begin in January or February is not being met. The final version of the CA Appraisal prepared by Kathy Davies was sent to SODC in January 2022 and the version to comply with SODC requirements was finalised in May 2024.

5 Locality funded projects updates

Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan The final version was completed at the end of November and was accepted by the parish council at the Full Council meeting on 10th December. It was decided to wait until January to circulate it more widely and this has now been done. Very positive feedback has been received. A local group of volunteers – Wittington Footpaths Action Group – has been set up to implement the improvements to the network identified in the Plan.

6 Update on development:

Hanning application for the Wittington Relief Road

The OCC meeting to determine the application was deferred from 6th January and, subsequently, from the revised date of 20th January. It is now expected to go to the OCC Hanning and Regulation Committee on 24th February. The OCC Council meeting to agree the budget for 2025/26 will be held on 11th February – this will include allocation of funding for the Relief Road. A letter from WFC and NPAB was sent to all OCC councillors before Christmas asking for their support for the scheme. Some very supportive responses were received. Further lobbying will be carried out before the OCC budget meeting.

Red Kite View follow up to the issues identified by GB and ED at the site visit on 28th October 2024

No further information has been provided by Floor Hines. The outstanding matters, including the repair of the liner to the attenuation pond, will be followed up by GB. It was noted that new whips have been planted to replace the ones mowed down by the management contractors. Further monitoring of the delivery of the Biodiversity Enhancement Management Plan will need to be done directly with Floor Hines. The alternative would be to involve the SODC Enforcement Team which is unlikely to be effective.

Red cow developments

Construction on Site B

It was noted that development of the site is ongoing. There have been some problems with mud from the development spreading onto Gushan Road but

this appears to be managed appropriately by Redrow. The problem will be raised with the Redrow team at the upcoming online informal progress meeting.

The revised application on Site C

This has not been determined by SDC yet. Redrow will be providing further information.

7 Other matters and date of next meeting

The next meeting will be on Monday 17th February 2025