

**Minutes of the Property and Amenities Committee Meeting held at
Corsham Town Hall on Wednesday 22 January 2025**

Present Councillor T Ellis (Chair)
Councillors S Abbott, H Belcher OBE, N Brakspear, J Brook and
R Williams

In Attendance J Whittleton (Head of Technical Services)

P&A 57/24 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors J Robertson and G Ward.

P&A 58/24 Public Question Time and Petitions

None.

P&A 59/24 Declarations of Interest

None.

**P&A 60/24 Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Property and Amenities Committee
meeting held on 27 November 2024**

There were none.

P&A 61/24 Park Place Allotments (*Minute P&A 49/24 and others*)

The Head of Technical Services gave a brief update on works to deliver the allotment site at Park Place. He stated that the contractor had started work on 6 January and had made good progress with the paths and landscaping. They were likely to move onto fencing work the following week and this would take approximately two weeks to complete. In general, the work was on course. Town Council staff had begun allocating plots and the first tenants were likely to be on site ahead of the next growing season.

Resolved

To note the update.

P&A 62/24 Asset Management Plan (*Minute P&A 76/23 and others*)

The Head of Technical Services gave an update on works which had been identified in the Asset Management Plan, including:

- Work to replace the Town Hall fire escape was due to start on 28 January. It was hoped the work would be completed by 31 January, but there was some contingency for the work to continue into the weekend if difficulties were encountered.
- Works to replaster some of the walls and ceilings in Flat 2, Arnold House had started in December. The contractor had experienced a few issues with the plaster not hardening in the cold weather, but it was hoped that this would not delay the work unduly.
- Works to replace some weather-damaged stone blocks at the top of the north face of the Town Hall were likely to start in March. The stonemason had quoted £12,019 plus VAT to replace the damaged blocks, but there was scope for this to rise once the stonework had been inspected at close range.

Resolved

To note the update.

P&A 63/24 Bus Shelter Cleaning and Maintenance

The Head of Technical Services gave an update on efforts to improve the appearance of bus shelters in the Town. There were nine polycarbonate shelters in the town and some of these looked quite a poor state, with large smudge marks where graffiti had been removed and where bus timetables had been attached with tape. A quote had been obtained for glass panels to replace the tired-looking polycarbonate (approximately £477 for one shelter). The Head of Technical Service was planning to visit each of the shelters with the Environmental Projects Officer to prioritise the worst looking shelters.

Issues discussed included:

- That polycarbonate was more resistant to being smashed; and
- That improving the state of the shelters might encourage more people to use buses.

Resolved

To note the update.

P&A 64/24 Update on Local Highway Improvement Group Issues (*Minute P&A 50/24 and others*)

The Committee received an update on some of the issues raised at the 15 January LHFIFG meeting:

- The Corsham 20mph scheme had been signed off, the seal date was set for 27 January and Wiltshire Council expected the signage work to take place in February.
- A report was being prepared for the cabinet member about the Batch 2 waiting restrictions following a large number of comments and objections. The Senior Traffic Engineer would be advising the cabinet member to omit

the Hatton Way/Macie Drive proposals, but the issue of parking and pedestrian safety would be looked at by the Senior Traffic Engineer when she had time.

- A substantive bid for the A4 pedestrian improvements had been submitted. The result of this bid should be known in February.
- The LHFIG had pointed out (in relation to the request for new bus stops along Bradford Road) that Wiltshire Council was not able to maintain new bus stops and that the Town Council would need to confirm that they were able to maintain any new stops before this request could be considered.

Resolved

To note the update and to confirm to the LHFIG that the Town Council would be willing to maintain new bus stops along Bradford Road if these were installed.

P&A 65/24 Requests for Highway Improvements and Traffic Surveys (*Minute P&A 52/24 and others*)

Consideration was given to the following Highway Improvement Requests.

Cross Keys. Request for low kerbing or a low bund to prevent flooding.

Issues discussed included:

- Whether the request was a highway improvement and suitable for the LHFIG to look at or whether it was a maintenance issue and should be submitted through the app; and
- That the resident had been directed by Wiltshire Council to submit a highway improvement request.

Resolved

To support the request and to send it on to the LHFIG. In the event that the LHFIG chose not to consider it, to ask Wiltshire Council where this request ought to be sent.

Leaffield Industrial Estate. Request for zebra crossings at Leaffield Way and Edinburgh Way.

Issues discussed included:

- That the LHFIG had an annual budget of c.£21,000 and that the installation of zebra crossings at this location might cost £30-60,000 each;
- That there was a need to use available funding in areas where it was most needed; and
- Wiltshire Council's criteria for installing new zebra crossings (pedestrian numbers, not installing crossings near bends etc).

Resolved

Not to support the request.

P&A 66/24 Update on Speed Indicator Devices and AutoSpeedWatch Camera (*Minute P&A 54/24 and others*)

Consideration was given to data collected from the Speed Indicator Device (SIDs) during its deployment at Velley Hill, Gastard.

Issues discussed included:

- That the highest speeds recorded were lower than often recorded at this location and whether there was a reason for this (Police enforcement);
- That there had been an issue with the older SID which meant that it was not possible to extract data from its recent deployment at Valley Road; and
- The data that the SIDs were able to capture and report.

Resolved

That a wide-ranging report be prepared on the use of SIDs and ASW in Corsham, setting out issues around permission for sites, the capabilities of the devices, directing Police enforcement and potential SID models that could be used.

P&A 67/24 A Town Transport Plan for Corsham (*Minute P&A 48/24 and others*)

Consideration was given to a draft Town Transport Plan for the town. Officers were planning to provide comments on the draft to Urban Foresight by 27 January.

Issues discussed included:

- That the six objectives appear to encapsulate everything that the Town Council wishes to achieve;
- That the plan may prove useful when considering highway improvement forms and LHFIFG issues as it may serve to focus attention on priority areas;
- When, during the lifetime of the plan, the Town Council should look into extending the 20mph area; and
- The possibility of using funds currently spent on free parking to subsidise buses.

Resolved

To ask Urban Foresight to consider bringing forward the timescale to extend the Corsham 20mph zone to the short-term (2025).

P&A 68/23 Local Transport Plan 4 (LTP4)

Consideration was given to Wiltshire Council's consultation on its draft Local Transport Plan 4 (LTP4). Comments needed to be made by 24 January.

Issues discussed included:

- That Corsham's position on the A4 and the importance of the railway station should be emphasised;
- That it would be useful for officers producing LTP4 to have regard to the Town Council's emerging Town Transport Plan; and
- How Wiltshire Council will implement the plan, deliver the objectives and measure success.

Resolved:

To respond to the consultation by recommending that:

- Wiltshire Council produces an implementation plan to set out how it is going to deliver the objectives and that it considers performance indicators or some other means to measure whether the plan has been successfully implemented.
- The Draft Market Towns Sub-Strategy should emphasise the importance of delivering the Corsham railway station and also Corsham's position on the A4.

The meeting began at 7.00pm and ended at 7.53pm. There were no members of the public present.

CHAIR

DATE