

**MINUTES of a PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING held at
TOWN HALL, Felixstowe, on Wednesday 8 January 2025 at 9.30am**

PRESENT: Cllr S Bird (Chairman) Cllr J Candy
 Cllr A Folley Cllr C Franklin
 Cllr S Bennett Cllr S Wiles

OFFICERS: Mr A Tadjrishi (Town Clerk)
 Mrs S Morrison (Planning Administration Assistant)

IN ATTENDANCE: 3 members of the public (via Zoom)
 Mr C Poole, SCC Principal Transport Planner (via Zoom)

332. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

None.

333. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from **Cllr N Barber, Cllr M Morris** and **Cllr B Price**.

334. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following Other Registerable Interests, to which no matters on the agenda were directly related, were noted:

Member(s)	Minute No.	Nature of Interest
Cllr S Bennett Cllr J Candy Cllr A Folley	All	Other registerable interests (as Members of East Suffolk Council)
Cllr S Bennett Cllr S Bird Cllr S Wiles	All	Other registerable interests (as a Member of Suffolk County Council)

335. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Planning & Environment Committee meeting held on 11 December 2024 be confirmed as a true record.

336. SCC CONSULTATION ON MAIDSTONE ROAD & GRANGE ROAD WALKING AND CYCLING IMPROVEMENTS

The Chairman welcomed Mr Calum Poole, Principal Transport Planner for Suffolk County Council, who provided a presentation on the proposed walking and cycling improvements for the Maidstone Road and Grange Road area in Felixstowe.

Committee noted that the proposals were part of a public consultation aimed at improving the safety of pupils travelling to school and encouraging walking and cycling. Mr Poole explained that the project team sought to ensure the proposals represented the best solutions for these objectives.

It was outlined that the next steps included analysing consultation responses, publishing the findings and explaining how these influenced the final design options, with a delivery plan expected by the end of 2025.

During the discussion, Members raised several concerns, including:

- **Resident impact and communication:** Members expressed concern about the impact of the proposed changes on local residents and the perceived inadequacy of communication with those most affected. The Committee requested more direct communication with stakeholders and an extension of the consultation period. Mr Poole assured Members that feedback would continue to be accepted as the proposals evolved and noted that 139 responses had been received so far.
- **Cycle path design:** Members queried the decision not to include a segregated cycle path, with Mr Poole explaining this was due to road width constraints and the need to retain some on-street parking. Concerns were raised about the safety of non-segregated shared paths for cyclists and pedestrians.
- **Traffic congestion and pollution:** Members highlighted the issue of peak-time congestion and the potential impact of idling vehicles on air quality. Mr Poole acknowledged this and confirmed it would be reviewed as part of the consultation feedback.
- **Parking for carers:** Concerns were raised about the loss of parking spaces for carers visiting residents with specific needs. Mr Poole noted the strength of feeling on this issue and said it would be reviewed as part of the consultation feedback.
- **Engagement with schools:** Members asked about the involvement of the three schools affected by the proposals, suggesting measures such as pre-school clubs to stagger journey times. Mr Poole confirmed that engagement with schools was ongoing and would continue.

Mr Poole assured the Committee that he would return to provide further updates as the plans progressed.

The Committee thanked Mr Poole for his presentation and noted the proposals.

At the direction the Chairman, the meeting was adjourned for 5 minutes.

The meeting resumed at 10.27am.

337. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Committee considered the following planning applications received since the last meeting and **RESOLVED** to submit the following recommendations to East Suffolk Council:

A	DC/24/4318/FUL Single storey front and rear extensions, first floor side extension and associated works 1 Hollybush Drive
Committee recommended APPROVAL.	

B	DC/24/4370/FUL Single storey rear extension 14 Park Avenue
Committee recommended APPROVAL.	

C	DC/24/4359/FUL Change of use from Class E(b) (Sale of food and drink for consumption mostly on the premises) to Sui Generis Use (Cafe & Takeaway) and installation of an extraction flue to the rear side of the building. 1 Crescent Road
Committee recommended APPROVAL, subject to an adequate noise and odour assessment being submitted from the applicant and further, that ESC Environmental Protection are content with all aspects relating to the extraction flue.	

D	DC/24/3340/ADN 1 no. freestanding A-Board. 1 Bent Hill
Committee recommended REFUSAL. We remain of our view that, whilst we are not against an A board in principle, its current siting as indicated in the application unacceptably restricts the use of the footpath. If an alternative siting of the A board is proposed, which provides a 1m minimum width of path whilst the tables and chairs are in use, this would be acceptable.	

E	DC/24/4316/FUL Raising the roof on the existing rear extension to match the rest of the building, External works to replace plastic UPVC cladding and improve the buildings thermal performance. Install solar panels and air source heat pumps to improve the buildings energy efficiency. Create additional floor space by extending the footprint of the existing building. 1A Bent Hill
Committee recommended APPROVAL, subject to ESC Environmental Protection being content in relation to noise levels resulting from the proposed the air source heat pumps.	

F	DC/24/4205/FUL Erection of a pre-fabricated metal shed to store materials and equipment Christ Church Felixstowe Grange Farm Avenue
Committee recommended APPROVAL.	

G	DC/24/3362/FUL Demolition of wall and resurfacing of car park. Colbourn Court 11 Ranelagh Road
Committee recommended APPROVAL.	

H	DC/24/4079/TPO 1no. Yew (T11 on plan) Crown reduction in height by 40cm and radial spread by 30cm 1no. Holm Oak (A on plan) - Crown reduction in height by 60cm and radial spread by 30cm 1no. Holm Oak (B on plan) - Crown reduction in height by 70cm and radial spread by 30cm Tyndale House 2 Tyndale Gardens
Committee had NO OBJECTION to the work proposed subject to the guidance of the East Suffolk Council's Arboricultural Officer.	

I	DC/24/3290/TCA 1no. Holm oak (1 on plan) - Prune to previous pollard points 1no. Pine (2 on plan) - Remove low hanging broken limb 1no. Holm oak (3 on plan) - Crown lift to 2.5 metres above ground and reduce overall crown by 1.2 metres 4no. Beech (4 on plan) - Crown lift to 3 metres above ground 1no. Pine (5 on plan) – Fell The Bartlet Undercliff Road East
Committee OBJECTED to the work proposed, other than the removal of the broken limb on the Holm Oak, and requests that the East Suffolk Council's Arboricultural Officer consider making a group TPO for all of the trees in this application. We believe that these trees significantly contribute to public amenity and we therefore ask for the trees in this application, and any other relevant trees on this site, to be considered for a group TPO. Furthermore, we believe that there is no justifiable reason for the felling of the pine.	

338. PLANNING DECISIONS

RESOLVED the decisions on planning applications by East Suffolk Council notified to the Town Council since the previous meeting be noted.

339. CORRESPONDENCE

- i. AP/24/0032/REFUSE - Commercial and Leisure spaces at ground floor and 14 flats on upper floors - Adventure Golf Sea Road.

Committee noted that the Planning Inspector had upheld the application's appeal against ESC's decision to refuse the application and had permitted development, subject to conditions.

- ii. Publication of the latest version of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) in December 2024.

The Chairman updated the Committee with a summary of the changes, noting that the most significant were related to definitions of green belt land, which were unlikely to impact on Felixstowe.

340. CLOSURE

The meeting was closed at 11.49am. It was noted that the next meeting was scheduled to take place on Wednesday 22nd January 2025 at 9.30am.

Date: _____

Chairman: _____