

SUDBURY TOWN COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE PLANNING DEVELOPMENT AND HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD IN THE TOWN HALL ON 18TH NOVEMBER 2024 COMMENCING AT 6:30 PM**

Committee members present: Mr N Bennett – the chair.
Ms J Carter
Mr S Hall
Mr A Osborne
Miss A Owen
Mr A Stohr
Mr N Younger

Officers in attendance: Mr C Griffin – Town Clerk

1. **SUBSTITUTES AND APOLOGIES**

Apologies had been received from Councillor Mr T Regester.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillors Ms J Carter, Mr A Osborne and Miss A Owen declared that they were Babergh District Councillors.

Councillor Ms J Carter declared she was a Suffolk County Councillor. She also declared that she had already had discussions on item 11.

3. **DECLARATIONS OF GIFTS AND HOSPITALITY**

There were no declarations of gifts or hospitality.

4. **REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION**

No requests for dispensation had been received.

5. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on the 4th November 2024 be confirmed as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

6. **ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**

The Town Clerk confirmed that there were no outstanding actions from the previous meeting.

7. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

DC/24/04740 **Proposal:** Planning Application. Erection of an extension to provide additional floorspace and ancillary office space.
Location: Units 20A to 22 Addison Road, Chilton Industrial Estate, Sudbury, CO10 2YW

RESOLVED – To recommend approval, noting the concerns of the resident of Highfield Road that the parking area behind the building should be secured when not in use.

DC/24/04868 **Proposal:** Notification of Works to Trees in a Conservation Area – Remove growth on 1No. Lime (T1) and thin major boughs over neighbours by 30%. Reduce 1 no. Mulberry (T2) by 2m. Reduce weight in fallen boughs of 1No. Willow (T3), Reduce 1 No Plum (T4) by 2m. Trim 1 No. Yew (T5), 1 no Holly (T6) and 1 No. Bay (T7).
Location: Salters Hall, Stour Street, Sudbury, Suffolk, CO10 2AX

RESOLVED – To recommend refusal on the grounds of insufficient information. The applicant should have provided clear photographs of each tree from ground level showing what parts would be removed. Request that the BDC Tree Officer visit the site before making a decision.

DC/24/04878 **Proposal:** Application for works to a tree protected by Tree Preservation Order WS171/G1 – Remove the stem of 1No Sycamore tree overhanging the neighbouring property
Location: Telephone Exchange British Telecom, Newton Road, Sudbury, CO10 2RL

RESOLVED – To recommend approval.

DC/24/04904 **Proposal:** Application under Section 73 of the Town & Country Planning Act for DC/24/01616 (1no dwelling) for the removal or variation of Condition 15 (Removal of Permitted Development Rights).
Location: The Dell, Newton Road, Sudbury, Suffolk, CO10 2RN

RESOLVED – To recommend approval.

DC/24/04977 **Proposal:** Notification of Works to Trees in a Conservation Area - Fell 1 No. Prunes (T1), Reduce the crown of 1 No. Prunes (T2) by 1-2 m, Fell 1 No. Holly (T3).
Location: 66 Friars Street, Sudbury, Suffolk, CO10 2AG

RESOLVED – To recommend refusal on the grounds of insufficient information. The applicant should have provided clear photographs of each tree from ground level showing what parts would be removed. Request that the BDC Tree Officer visit the site before making a decision.

DEVELOPMENT

8. TO DISCUSS THE TRANSPORT PLAN

Cllr T Regester was not able to attend, but his notes had been circulated to all members. The Suffolk County Council Sudbury Area Transport Plan was discussed in detail and the following observations were made;

- Pages 2 and 3 – The area boundary includes all of the parishes of Great Cornard and Chilton as well as the town of Sudbury. This should be stated clearly early in the document.
- Page 4 – The title should be ‘Sudbury Area Population’ as these figures include the parishes of Great Cornard and Chilton.
- Page 8 – The word ‘default’ in enabling active travel to be the default choice for shorter trips might be taken badly by those older or less fit residents who are unable to walk or cycle.
- Was Stowmarket included as an example, or should this read Sudbury? The final words ‘Gun Cotton Way’ mean nothing and may refer to a road in Stowmarket.
- Bollards are not always bad for those walking. They are important for the safety of pedestrians from HGVs and vehicles mounting the pavement. They are fitted along both sides of the narrow section of Cross Street and Sudbury Town Council are in the process of asking for additional bollards on North Street.
- Page 9 – The map does not show the path from the Kingfisher Leisure Centre to Great Cornard through Friars Meadow as a cycle route for improvement despite this being the safest option. This has been proposed by Sudbury Town Council before and would link with the disused railway line route to enable cyclists to completely bypass Sudbury traffic.
- The improved cycle route to Chilton Woods is welcomed.
- Page 10 – The improvements to enable a bus link between Clermont Avenue and Chaucer Road is welcomed. Was there an intention to move to all electrical buses?
- Page 11 – Hamilton Road, where the current bus station is located, is the key to integrated transport for Sudbury. It has been in a very poor state of repair for many years awaiting redevelopment. All three levels of local authority (county, district and town) need to work together on a development plan.
- Page 12 – There is no mention of who would fund the new roundabout junction to link the Chilton Woods employment area with the A134. This, together with the other roads and services network in the employment area, is essential to enable businesses to set up and provide local jobs.
- Page 14 – The poor air quality in Sudbury is directly linked to the number of HGVs driving through the centre of the town on the A131 and minor changes to car use are unlikely to have significant impact.
- Who is organising and running the electric car club on Queens Road?
- Page 15 – There is a lack of clarity on the district council plans for the existing lorry park, now that the GP surgery is not being built on the lorry park site.
- Page 17 – Road improvement symbols are missing from KFC and Belle Vue roundabouts, as mentioned on page 12. The bus station symbol is missing from Hamilton Road.
- Page 18 – Is the indicative capital investment shown actually available in the current budget and is it likely to be sufficient?

RESOLVED

To submit the observations above on the Sudbury Area Transport Plan to Suffolk County Council.

9. **TO DISCUSS THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON THE DEMOLITION AND REPLACEMENT OF ORMISTON SUDBURY ACADEMY**

Due to shortage of time, there was limited discussion on the future of Ormiston Sudbury Academy.

RESOLVED

To encourage members to attend the public consultation on the demolition and replacement of the Ormiston Sudbury Academy at the school on 26th November 2024 from 3:15 pm to 7 pm.

10. **TO DISCUSS THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON THE NEW BRAINTREE DISTRICT COUNCIL DESIGN CODE.**

Braintree District Council had launched a 6-week public consultation on their new Design Code which would run until mid-December.

RESOLVED

To note the new Braintree District Council Design Code.

HIGHWAYS

11. **TO DISCUSS THE PROMOTIONAL BOARDS ON THE ROUNDABOUTS**

The Chairman of Sudbury in Bloom attended the meeting to express his concern that the Sudbury in Bloom sponsorship signs had been removed from the roundabouts on the A134. He explained that there had been a long-standing verbal agreement with Suffolk County Council for Sudbury in Bloom to maintain the flower beds on the roundabouts and to put up small sponsorship signs. This had gone back at least as far as when Cllr John Sayers was a member of both Suffolk County Council and Sudbury Town Council. Sudbury in Bloom felt especially aggrieved that their signs had been taken down by a contractor without any consultation or warning and were now being held 'hostage'.

Cllr Jessie Carter, who represents Sudbury on the county, district and town councils, stated that she had raised this with the leader of Suffolk County Council and was scheduled to have another face-to-face meeting with the portfolio holder for highways. It appeared that this change was due to Suffolk County Council wishing to develop a new income stream from selling advertising space on roundabouts.

RESOLVED

To write to the leader of Suffolk County Council, copied to the portfolio holder and the members representing Sudbury, objecting to this change of policy after about 20 years of successful cooperation, which had been approved by Suffolk County Council at the start. Sudbury in Bloom were a community group looking after the environment and providing cost-effective maintenance of the roundabouts through the use of volunteers. Their excellent work had earned an Anglia in Bloom Gold Award and had been well known to Suffolk County Council members and officers. This sudden action showed very poor communications and was damaging to the reputation of Suffolk County Council. The status quo ante should be restored and Sudbury in Bloom given written assurance that they could continue as before for at least another 10 years.

12. **TO DISCUSS THE SPEEDING ON EAST STREET**

RESOLVED

To consider this matter at a later date.

13. **TO DISCUSS THE HIGHWAYS LIST**

Members discussed the following points;

- A134 Speeding – Concern was raised that vehicles left the McDonald’s roundabout a too greater speed to allow other traffic to safely exit from First Avenue. Members noted that this road had a 40mph speed limit, so the police would have to be asked to enforce this.
- Roys Car Park Fence – Concern was raised over the state of the fence between Roys Car Park and the railway station, which was a popular walking route into the town centre. This fence was a hazard, but ownership was unclear, as it was thought to be on the boundary between Roys land and Babergh District Council land.

The meeting closed at 8:33pm

Signed

Chairman

DRAFT