

Councillors are summoned and members of the public and press are invited, to attend a meeting of the **Planning and Highways Committee** of Crewkerne Town Council to be held on **Monday 7 August 2023** in Council Chambers, Town Hall, Market Square, Crewkerne at 18.45.

Note:

Members of the public who wish to view the meeting proceedings, either in real time or afterwards, can access the meeting through the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCTA9K-7L4Onjcli2Gtz7tCg>

K Sheehan, Town Clerk (signed on original)

Tuesday 1 August 2023

Agenda

Open Forum: Questions may be put to the Committee in person during this Public Participation Session of up to 15 minutes and a maximum of 3 minutes per person. Issues received by the Clerk a minimum of 3 working days before the meeting (i.e., by 5pm on the preceding Wednesday) will receive a response during this session. Issues raised in this session without prior notice may be referred to the Clerk to respond to within 10 working days or listed on a subsequent agenda.

- 1. To note apologies for absence.**
- 2. Declarations of interest in items on the agenda.**
(NB this does not preclude later declarations).
- 3. To confirm the minutes of the previous meeting** on Monday 10 July 2023.
- 4. To receive the Clerk's update report.**
- 5. To consider Planning Applications as per the list available on website or via Town Council office.**
Please note that the Town Council is a Statutory Consultee for Planning Applications and as such does not make decisions on any application. Any recommendations and comments this Committee make will be fed into the planning process. Somerset Council is the Planning Authority and will issue the decision notices on all applications.
- 6. To receive planning decision notices from Somerset Council.**
- 7. To receive the updated Action Status Report.**
- 8. To note an appeal for application 22/00654/REM has been lodged and to determine if councillors wish to submit any additional comments.**
- 9. To consider Community Funded 20mph Speed Limits.**
- 10. To note press release received regarding an extension to the consultation on station changes proposals.**

11. **To receive a report from the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.**
12. **Date of next meeting:** Monday 11th September 2023, 18.45, Oak Room, George Reynolds Centre.

CREWKERNE TOWN COUNCIL
Town Council Committee Meeting
Monday 7 August 2023

Item 5 – New Applications – Somerset Council

Item 6 - To receive planning decision notices from Somerset Council

23/01224/HOU High Acres, 48 Barn Close, Crewkerne, TA18 8BN
Single storey rear extension to dwelling.

APPROVED, with conditions.

23/01255/HOU 68 Hermitage Street, Crewkerne, TA18 8ET
Demolition of a side extension and the erection of a single storey side extension to dwelling house.

APPROVED, with conditions.

23/01484/HOU 21 Bincombe Drive, Crewkerne, TA18 7BE
Extension and conversion of existing detached garage to the side of dwelling into an annex for the provision of ancillary accommodation to be used by a disabled child.

APPROVED, with conditions.

	Subject	Action	Status	Responsibility	Status
Jul-20	Millers Garage	To keep on matrix with regular updates	To keep on matrix with regular updates. Jul 23: Awaiting information from Commercial Property Land Development Manager at Somerset Council.	Clerk/Deputy Clerk	Ongoing
Nov-20	Ongoing issues with many gullies in the town	Deputy Clerk is putting together a spreadsheet of problems.	Nov 22: Ongoing contact with Highways. Budget spent, however clearance can be organised for urgent jobs. May23. To be readdressed in upcoming site meeting with Somerset Council in June. Yearly jet washing will take place, awaiting schedule.	Deputy Clerk/Highways	Ongoing
Dec-20	Diversion of Henley footpath railway crossing proposed by Network Rail and associated with the planning approval for a development on land at the top of Kithill.	Following a presentation from Network Rail, it was agreed to organise a site meeting to allow NR representatives to understand the Town Council's concerns.	Sept 22: Contact made with SSDC Planning regarding this pre condition and request for update. Apr23: Noted, correspondence received from Network Rail regarding a proposed diversion application. Further information due from Network Rail. May23: update received with 2 diversion potential routes. Somerset Council to do site visit. Crossing lies within West Crewkerne Parish so only comment from neighbouring Parish.	Network Rail/SCC Footpaths officer. NMA refused Jan 23.	Ongoing
Feb-21	The condition of the NatWest building following the fire which has damaged the building.	SSDC has made the building safe. There are concerns that it will not be made watertight or restored by the owners.	Town Council to stay in contact with the SSDC conservation officers. June23 Conservation Officer advised a breach of planning complaint be made via website. Deputy Clerk has submitted one. Deputy Clerk has requested a site meeting with Conservation to discuss various matters. Unable to progress further as there are no conservation officers that deal with buildings at risk in South Somerset.	Deputy Clerk	Ongoing
Feb-21	Pavement Survey	Cllr. Kathy Head to work with Crewkerne Action for the Disabled to	May23. Cllr Head to prepare and report later in 2023.	Kathy Head	Ongoing

		organise a survey of the town's pavements			
Aug-21	Wall adjacent to Gouldsbrook Terrace crumbled leaving debris on the pavement.	The Deputy Clerk was asked to investigate ownership of the wall and send a letter to the owner to request that the wall was made safe	Feb 23: Highways confirm they have had difficulty communicating with landowner about the repairs needed. June 23: Highways confirm no progress made as landowner not responding.	Highways	Highways. To be left on until resolved.
Sept21	Pedestrian crossings. Concerns regarding the speed of traffic and visibility of crossings. Faded road markings and lights on the bollards dim in day light	The Deputy Clerk was asked to contact Highways to request that the crossing was repainted and different lights installed, including lights on the column of the bollards.	July 22: The reflective cover has been replaced.	Deputy Clerk	Complete. Leave on as councillors wish to keep pedestrian crossings on radar.
Feb 22	Cars and tractors speeding around Gouldsbrook Terrace to Church Street.	Deputy Clerk to contact Highways to request a solution.	Nov 22. CTC to contact Highways re building out of the pavement to ensure pedestrian safety whilst crossing. This would slow traffic. No Small Improvement Schemes at present – to add to next Highways visit. Next meeting should be June 2023. June 23: Nothing can be done at present.	Deputy Clerk/P&H Chair	Ongoing
Apr 22	Speeding issues in Broadshard	Many complaints re speed of traffic from Merriott into Broadshard.	SID pole installed.		Ongoing
Aug 22	Dangerous Pavements on West Street. Uneven paving slabs and raised ironworks have caused falls.	These have been reported. Contractors have worked on part of the pavement but potentially made it worse.	Nov 22. Highways Officer to inspect. Apr23 County Roads have requested a reminder of the section of concern. Deputy Clerk to investigate and respond back. June 23: Highways will re-check measurements. July 23 update requested re measurements	Deputy Clerk	Ongoing

Oct 22	Diseased tree on Market Street	Agreed to replace it but queried £300 licence fee	Town Clerk has submitted planting proposal to Highways but not yet received confirmation.	Town Clerk	Ongoing
Dec 22	Faded road markings – zebra crossing outside Waitrose/Library also junction of Wynnstay with North Street.	Responsibility – SSDC? Responsibility – Private ownership?	SSDC to refurbish car park markings South Street – date to be confirmed.	Town Clerk	Ongoing
Jan 23	Broken pavement outside George Hotel. Unsightly patch repair.	Raised with SCC Highways who are organising a meeting with Conservation Officer.	Awaiting report from SCC meeting. Apr23 update from County Roads: George Hotel area is marked up waiting to be priced, and if enough budget a job will be raised. June 23: Work scheduled, no date as yet; bollards will be installed to prevent vehicles parking on the pavement. July 23: works have been carried out to paving and waiting on the installation of 2 bollards. Deputy Clerk has queried completion date with Highways, no response as yet.	Deputy Clerk	Ongoing
Feb 23	Littering opposite Wadham School, Ashlands Road	Reported to Locality Officer.	Potential site visit. Apr23 CTC to consider request to fund a co-mingle bin at a cost of £785.00. Somerset Council to obtain and install if approved. CTC agreed to monitor and revisit the issue in 6 months.	Deputy Clerk	Ongoing
Mar 23	Overflowing dog bin bottom of Brickyard Lane	Clerk to contact Streetscene about collection schedule.	Deputy Clerk has requested a collection schedule be confirmed. July 23: further request for schedule	Town/Deputy Clerk	Ongoing
Mar 23	Missing bins at various locations	Clerks to investigate where possible	Deputy Clerk following up on missing bin on Station Road and a historic offer from Taylor Wimpey to reinstate. May23 TW confirmed happy to replace and have ordered one. Awaiting delivery date. July 23 chased.	Town/Deputy Clerk	Ongoing
Mar23	'Laydown' area opposite Wadham School requires	Deputy Clerk in contact with Morrisons regarding the area being re-landscaped following recent works	Morrisons contractor to carry out repairs to drains, level & reseed grass, plant bulbs. Awaiting start date. May23	Deputy Clerk	Ongoing

	remedial works following recent gas works		Contractor commenced work on 9 th May, to level and reseed area. Money for daffodil bulbs to be provided to CTC and wildflower seed has been delivered. J Davies is liaising with Wadham School to authorise the planting when bulbs are available (Sept/Oct). Issue of damaged pavement is ongoing. July 23: contractor has repaired drain cover, re-seeded, and tidied the area. Damaged pavement to be repaired, awaiting approval as requires traffic lights.		
Apr 23	Traffic congestion along North Street, Pithers Court	Highways/Traffic Management contacted to make a request for a box junction or 'keep clear' signage where Pithers Court exits onto North Street.	Traffic Management responded with decision that box junction is not suitable as criteria for heavy traffic not met. A KEEP CLEAR marking could be considered. To be discussed at next joint meeting with Highways, in June potentially. June 23: Traffic Management have issued an order to install KEEP CLEAR markings.	Town/Deputy Clerk	Ongoing
Apr 23	Loose/uneven paving slabs Church Steps	Reported to Somerset Council via email.	Dangerous uneven slabs, damage to stone. May23: chased again, no response. Add to Highways meeting June 23. June 23: Highways investigating who is responsible for works. Responsibility for broken step also being investigated. July 23: ongoing investigation by Highways and RoW on responsibility.	Deputy Clerk	Ongoing
Jun 23	Dropped Kerbs	Report sent to Highways for consideration	Report submitted by Space4Crewkerne about dropped kerbs in town. Discussed at Highways meeting. July 23: report sent to Highways	Deputy Clerk	Ongoing
Jun 23	Mobility Scooter Access	Request for steps to be changed to allow mobility scooter area in Severalls/Southmead Crescent area passed to Highways	July 23: Information sent to Highways to consider	Deputy Clerk	Ongoing

Jul 23	Graffiti	Reported to Somerset Council	Graffiti in Abbey Street and car park, Church yard and Church Street. Some offensive wording. Removed by Somerset Council from council property and any containing offensive language (with owners permission). Graffiti on private property is responsibility of owner to remove. Reported to Police.	Deputy Clerk	Ongoing
Jul 23	State of the pavements in Middle Path – near surgery raised ironwork caused a resident to trip and fall.	Reported to Councillor Surgery July 2023	Reported to Highways, added to next Highways Meeting Sept 23.	Deputy Clerk	Ongoing
Jul 23	Possibility of a pedestrian crossing on South Street near the Methodist Church.	Reported to Councillor Surgery July 2023	To be added to next Highways Meeting Sept 23.	Deputy Clerk	Ongoing
Jul 23	Broken glass outside 18 Abbey Street	Reported to Councillor Surgery July 2023	Reported to Somerset Council.	Deputy Clerk	Ongoing
Jul 23	Rusted Dog Waste Bin Happy Valley/St Barts School	Town Clerk emailed Somerset Council	Reported to Somerset Council. Aug 23: Deputy Clerk chased issue.	Deputy Clerk	Ongoing



SUPPORTING REPORTS TO PLANNING & HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE – 7 AUGUST 2023

Agenda Item 8: To note an appeal for application 22/00654/REM has been lodged and to determine if councillors wish to submit any additional comments.

Background:

Crewkerne Town Council previously submitted the following comments on 26 April 2022:

Crewkerne Town Council reviewed the above application yesterday evening. They recommend refusal on the grounds that the design of the proposed development is not appropriate or in keeping with the surrounding environment and existing properties. Crewkerne Town Council has concerns regarding the access road to the proposed development and supports comments from the Public Right of Way Officer at County Council: “The local planning authority needs to be confident that the applicant can demonstrate that they have an all-purpose vehicular right to the property along path CH 33/13. If they are unable to and permission is granted, then the local planning authority could potentially be encouraging criminal activity through permitting driving on a public path without lawful authority”.



Agenda Item 9: To consider Community Funded 20mph Speed Limits.

Issued by Somerset Council:

‘As you may have been made aware, Councillors were recently invited to attend a briefing outlining Somerset Councils position on 20mph speed limits, aligning to the manifesto commitment to ‘work with communities to make 20mph speed limits the norm outside schools, in residential areas, our city, town and village centres’.

As an authority we want to support communities who wish to fund the design and implementation of a 20mph speed limit. It is estimated that the cost would be in the region of £15,000. You will be required to pay a £500 non-refundable application fee which will cover an initial assessment including up to 2 no week-long speed data readings. Note, at our discretion we may be required to collect data from more than 2no locations to determine the suitability. These will be charged at £200 per location and will be included in the final cost of the scheme.

For information, the Department for Transport guidance on the setting of local speed limits are clear in that speed limits should be evidence led, self-explaining and seek to reinforce people’s assessment of what is a safe speed to travel. They should encourage self-compliance and should be seen by drivers as a maximum rather than a target speed.

Research has shown that a change in speed limit signs alone has very little effect on actual vehicle speeds and that the speed of vehicles is moderated by the surrounding environment rather than the posted speed limit. Where motorists do not understand the reasoning behind the implementation of a speed limit, a high level of non-compliance is likely to occur, and indeed this may lead to disrespect of speed limits elsewhere.

The key factors that need to be considered when reviewing a speed limit is history of collisions; road geometry and engineering; road function; compositions of road users; existing traffic speeds; and road environment.

In specific reference to 20mph speed limits, the minimum length of speed limit is 600m (300m in exceptional circumstances) and **mean speeds must be below 24mph**. If mean speeds are higher than the intervention level, traffic calming measures will be required to reduce speeds to this level. Note, in larger communities it may be that only smaller areas are feasible, for example a housing estate or ward whereby it wouldn’t impact on the strategic network.

It is also worth considering the environmental impact on the 'street scene', having the necessary highway signage, such as terminal and repeater signs, and road markings installed within the village.

We are currently welcoming expressions of interest so please complete the accompanying application form by the end of August 2023 and return to this email account along with confirmation that the application fee has been paid. We will then carry out the initial assessment and advise you as to whether you will be added to the register for progression, with the expectation that these schemes will be delivered in 2024. If your community is not ready to submit an application this year we will look to open the window for expressions of interest again this time next year.’

Agenda Item 10: To note press release received regarding an extension to the consultation on station changes proposals.

'Extension to consultation on Station Change proposals

The Rail Delivery Group has announced an extension to the current consultation on how tickets are sold at stations, a copy of the press release below for your information. The new end date of the consultation will be Friday 1st September. This will provide more time for as many people as possible to take part and provide feedback to one of the independent passenger watchdogs, Transport Focus or London Travel Watch.

As a reminder, you can find more information about the South Western Railway proposals [on our website](#).

Passenger consultation on changes to how tickets are sold extended

- Train companies listen to feedback and extend consultation period to give as many people as possible a chance to take part. Passengers now have until 1st of September to have their say
- Input from passengers and independent watchdogs will help shape final proposals, so that all passengers are supported as the railway responds to generational shifts in passenger buying habits

Train operators are extending the time available to respond to the consultation reviewing how tickets are sold at stations by an extra five and a half weeks. It means passengers will now have until September 1st to complete the consultation, which they can do either by online by visiting their local train operator's website, visiting a train station or via one of the independent passenger watchdogs London Travel Watch or Transport Focus, online or via post. Operator information about the consultation will be made available in accessible formats.

In increasing the time available, train operators are listening to feedback and hope that more people will have the opportunity to have their say in to changes to how tickets are sold at stations. Together with the extensive and on-going engagement with accessibility groups, as well as the independent passenger watchdogs scrutinising the proposals, the responses will shape final plans so that all passengers are supported as railway retailing is updated for the smartphone era. In addition to these proposals, the rail industry continues to roll out improvements to ticketing such as pay as you go and single leg pricing.

Although local plans vary, overall, the proposals aim to bring staff out from behind ticket office windows to provide more support for customers buying tickets and navigating stations, as they move in to new, multi-skilled 'customer host' roles. Through these more engaging careers, staff would be better able to support all customers to buy tickets, plan their journeys and navigate stations, as is the case at [Reading Green Park Station](#), one of 43% of stations across the network which operate without a ticket office.

An estimated 99% of all transactions made at ticket offices last year could be made online or on ticket vending machines (TVMs). Where needed, TVMs across the network will be upgraded to sell a greater range of tickets and in rare cases where customers are unable to buy the ticket they need at a station, they would be able to buy on their journey, at a ticket selling facility en-route or at their



end destination. Across the network as a whole, many ticket retailing facilities will remain open at busy interchanges, smoothing the transition.

Jacqueline Starr, chief executive of the Rail Delivery Group, said: *“Train companies have listened to feedback, and are extending the time available to respond to the consultation on changes to how tickets are sold at stations to 1st of September. Operators are keen to give more people a chance to give their views on the proposals, so they can bring the railway up to date with dramatic shifts in customer buying habits, while supporting all its customers as the railway evolves and adapts.*

“While local plans vary, the aim of the proposals is to bring staff out from behind ticket office windows to offer more help for customers buying tickets and navigating stations. At the same time ticket vending machines are being upgraded to offer a wider range of fares, and we have committed that no customer will have to go out of their way to buy a ticket.

“We encourage those who want to view the plans or take part to go to their local train company website or visit Transport Focus or London Travel Watch during the consultation period.”

The rules for how tickets were sold at stations were set in the mid-90s. Back then, 82% of all tickets were sold at ticket offices, compared to just 12% today – a generational shift the railway must respond to at a time when revenue remains 30% below pre-pandemic levels. Alongside the passenger consultation on ticket offices, a range of options will be created for staff affected, including moving at a new skilled role and comprehensive re-training and re-skilling. Train companies will continue to engage constructively with unions at a local level to manage the transition in a way that works best for staff.

Independent passenger watchdogs Transport Focus and London Travel Watch are facilitating the consultation and scrutinising operator plans, according to criteria set out on their websites. Customers who wish to view the plans should go to their local train company websites or visit <https://www.transportfocus.org.uk/train-station-ticket-office-consultation> or <https://www.londontravelwatch.org.uk/ticket-offices-have-your-say/> by 1 September 2023.’