

MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER COUNCIL MEETING
OF BIRCHWOOD TOWN COUNCIL,
HELD ONLINE, ON TUESDAY 22ND SEPTEMBER 2020, 6PM

Present: Councillor Reeves in the Chair
Councillors Atkin, Bowden, D. Ellis, J. Ellis, Fitzsimmons and T. Hearldon

Clerk – Mrs. F. McDonald
Deputy Clerk – Mrs C. Caddock
Business and Finance Officer - Mr. G. Crowe

1 Resident

Apologies: Councillors Breslin, M. Hearldon (dispensation) and the Police

Councillor Evans attempted numerous times to access the meeting, throughout the duration of the meeting, but was unable to, due to technical issues.

120/20-21 **JULY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

Councillor D. Ellis proposed, Councillor J. Ellis seconded, and it was resolved that: The Minutes of the July Council Meeting held on 28th July 2020 be approved as an accurate record and signed by the Chair.

Code of Conduct – Declaration of Interests

The Chair reminded members of their responsibility to declare any personal interest or prejudicial interest which they have in any item of business on the agenda, no later than when the item is reached.

Councillors D. Ellis and J. Ellis– Birchwood Youth & Community Centre Committee

Councillor Reeves – Birchwood Community High School

Councillor D. Ellis – Birchwood Forum Enterprises

Councillor D. Ellis – Climate Change Environment Committee

Councillors Atkin and D. Ellis – Birchwood Carnival Committee

121/20-21 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

(a) **Police Report**

A Police report had been emailed to us from PCSO Bingham prior to the meeting, which had been circulated to Members. The report details are as follows:

“Birchwood Parish report August/September 2020

Incidents:

12 x Reports of ASB of note:

- *4 x Reports from Greenfinch Grove of youths gathering on the play area and running up and down drives, extra attention is being given to the area especially when on late shifts. WBC to look at youth provision outreach where possible.*
- *1 x youths on Risley Moss. We are still engaging with the rangers and patrolling the area on a late shift, although the issues are normally at weekends but no set pattern.*
- *Other incidents were relating to drunk male, small gathering and youths on school grounds.*

13 x Reports of theft:

- 5 x shoplifting from Birchwood Mall shopping centre closed, due to value being low.
- 3 x Bike thefts from close to Birchwood Mall and very local area closed as no lines of enquiry.
- 1 x Birchwood Science park theft by employee still under investigation.
- 1 x theft of electrical goods from ASDA still under investigation.
- All other thefts relate to retail type stores and no domestic properties and have been closed due to no lines of enquiry.

6 x Report criminal damage:

- 1 x Damage to a motor vehicle, offender identified and paying for damage.
- 1 x Damage to domestic phone lines, being dealt with by BT.
- 2 x bricks thrown through house window, suspect identified and still under investigation.
- 1 x Damage to bird hide Risley Moss closed - no line of enquiry.
- 1 x smashed house window, closed as no line of enquiry.

1 x Theft of Motor Vehicle:

- Theft of MV suspect arrested and under investigation.

2 x Reports of Burglary:

- Victim not engaging with police, Oakwood area.
- Theft of car Kingfisher Close - no lines of enquiry.

2 x Sexual Offences:

- Walled Garden, still under investigation.
- Admirals Road, still under investigation.

2 x Assault:

- 1 x drive youth referral completed YOTS.
- 1 x assault and drink driving.

1 x Robbery

- McColls, Admirals Road - still under investigation.

Other

- Unauthorised Encampment Warrington Road.
- Birchwood Fire Station - Male arrested public order.

Road Safety / Drink driving:

- 2 x offenders arrested and charged with drink driving.
- Tru Cam was used on the below roads at various times through the last few weeks:
 - Warrington Road x 15 Activations speeds up to 40mph.
 - Glover Road x 0 Activations, very light traffic still.
 - Complaint of speeding on Gorse Covert Road received from a resident, to be actioned in the upcoming month.

Additional Information:

- Warrington East police have now moved into the Birchwood fire station and the old station, opposite council offices, has now being closed.

- *PCSO Bingham and PC Frith continue to patrol the area based on local intelligence reports and incidents recorded. Over the next few weeks we will be more visible around Greenfinch Grove area, keeping an eye out on the park following ASB reports from residents and the housing group.*
- *PC Frith has continued to work with Your Housing and Torus Housing, problem solving long term issues in Locking Stumps and Oakwood areas, where he often takes a multi-agency approach.*
- *Finally, the Warrington East policing team have now moved to their new base at Birchwood Fire Station. Risley Police Station on Delenty Drive is now closed.”*

The Clerk confirmed that the Police are not attending the meeting, as they are not permitted to use Zoom on their work IT equipment, for potential security issues.

However, PCSO Bingham had visited the office to liaise with BTC Officers, to ask if there are any issues of concern that the local community/Town Council wanted to raise with him. We can email him with any questions, comments or concerns at any time.

The Chair said that he would like an update regarding the two reported sexual offences, to see if anyone might have been apprehended yet.

Action Clerk’s office to contact PCSO Bingham to ask if there is any further information regarding the two reported sexual offences.

- (b) As the resident at tonight’s meeting did not wish to raise any questions or concerns, the Chair declared Public Participation closed.

122/20-21 **YOUR HOUSING GROUP (YHG) – UPDATE**

BTC continues to send/receive various emails / online reports following contact from residents regarding flytipping, overhanging trees, overgrown footpaths, sight line issues and alleged abandoned vehicles.

The Clerk said that she has been speaking to a representative from YHG who had arranged an event on Redshank Lane to address a number of issues of concern, and to try to encourage more people to join a residents’ group.

Councillor D. Ellis reported that the event, due to take place earlier today, had been cancelled due to rapidly changing advice from the Government in relation to the Coronavirus pandemic.

The Clerk then updated Members on various issues that had been raised with / dealt with by YHG since the July meeting including:

(a) **Container/Flytipping:**

The Clerk stated that YHG are considering employing another contractor to undertake removal of flytipping to the container.

(b) **Property Agents**

The Clerk reported that we have received contact details for YHG’s two new property agents, Clive Warren and Andrew Scott, and a list of the general areas that they cover.

(c) **Damaged Fencing**

The Clerk said that YHG has raised an order to replace some damaged fencing around a common area of land on Redshank Lane.

(d) **YHG Litter Bins**

The Clerk has again raised the matter of YHG litter bins remaining unemptied at the Birches, on the Village Green and the play area at Greenfinch Grove. Our team has been 'top picking' them and removing the waste dropped close to the bins.

(e) **Shrubbery Maintenance**

The Clerk reported that the first cut of the shrubbery/hedging, in the YHG estates, had now been completed by their contractors.

(f) **Multi-Use Games Area 'The Cage'**

The Clerk reported that the area in and around The Cage had required some attention. Our team removed litter and flytipped items, such as bicycle parts, as there were some young people using the MUGA.

This has been reported to YHG, as it is their responsibility to maintain the area.

The Clerk informed Members that on 30th September 2020, she will be attending a virtual meeting with YHG.

123/20-21 **GRASS CUTTING**

The mowing course was successfully completed by four members of staff, on 8th September. Since then the two members of staff who are new to mowing, have been out using the equipment under the supervision of the Senior Maintenance Operative, to give them additional experience before going out mowing on their own.

124/20-21 **UPDATE ON MEMBER'S REFERRAL FROM MAY / JUNE 2020**

At the May 2020 meeting, Councillor D. Ellis had submitted a proposal, "*. . . to submit to Warrington Borough Council, to combat rat-running along Locking Stumps Lane, Lords Lane and Glover Road and make Locking Stumps a low traffic zone.*"

At the July meeting, a response received from Warrington Borough Council's Traffic Management was received for consideration and was discussed in some detail. It was agreed that the option proposed was a bit 'over the top'. It was also agreed that Councillor D. Ellis should continue to negotiate with WBC and suggest some more moderate options.

At tonight's meeting, Councillor D. Ellis said that he had spoken directly with the WBC Officer by telephone to explain the Town Council's preferences for less drastic measures. The Officer said they would discuss this further with colleagues and would then contact Councillor D. Ellis.

Councillor D. Ellis said that he did not receive a response. He has already followed the matter up, but is still awaiting a reply.

Action Councillor D. Ellis to continue to liaise with WBC regarding the above issue.

125/20-21 **POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER (PCC) MEETING**

At the July meeting, Councillor D. Ellis confirmed that he had attended a remote meeting with the PCC, and Parish and Town Representatives and said that that he would prepare some notes and circulate them to Members.

These notes from the meeting have been circulated to Members, as follows:

Meeting with the Police and Crime Commissioner held by Zoom on 26th August - Summary

The Covid-19 crisis has led to a lot of issues of domestic violence and Cheshire Police have been working hard to provide appropriate support to those affected with an excellent level of engagement.

Funding has been made available to community groups of up to £1000. This is funded through the proceeds of crime initiative where criminals have goods confiscated and sold. This has led to a substantial fund for this kind of initiative and has been used primarily to support lonely and vulnerable groups.

The Cheshire Police force have been extremely impressed by the work of volunteer groups working across the country to help those who have been worst affected by the Covid pandemic.

As many have observed, it has really brought out the best and worst in people.

Cheshire police have followed the 4Es approach with regard to enforcement of restrictions –

- Engage
- Explain
- Encourage to comply
- Enforce

Only if absolutely necessary has action been taken through the issue of FPNs. It was commented that the enforcement of face masks came as a surprise to the force as there was no previous consultation.

On the recruitment front, a further 43 officers have been added to the force across the county. Now every ward has a PCSO again. Every ward will also have a base in the community from 1st September, as well as a designated police officer.

During questions, the following issues were brought up:

- Increasing appearance across Warrington of nitrous oxide cartridges and is being seen particularly in parks and other green spaces. The biggest challenge to arrive at the scene quickly enough to be able to take action.
- The asset recovery from drug dealers has generated enough money to be able to impact every single ward with £1000.

The PCC still has the goal to be able to have average speed cameras on all main A roads in the county on appropriate stretches.

126/20-21 **MEETINGS' FORMAT**

The Clerk confirmed that advice received from WBC, NALC, SLCC and ChALC continues to be that meetings should be held remotely, wherever possible, for the foreseeable future.

NEW ITEMS RAISED UNDER THE CLERK'S REPORT TO THE COUNCIL

127/20-21 WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

- (a) Sent/received – various emails / online reports following contact from residents re: flytipping, concerns about trees, overgrown footpaths, alleged abandoned vehicles, trip hazards around Gorse Covert local shop, damaged play equipment, graffiti, broken glass, footpath maintenance, and water pouring from an overflow pipe from an empty private flat.
- (b) We have received an email from WBC stating that any issues that occur on WBC land, must now be reported by residents directly to WBC via their website – by creating a My Warrington account. If residents do not have internet access, they should telephone WBC to make a report directly to them.

The Clerk commented that some residents are not receiving this new (WBC's) preferred method of reporting, positively. BTC remains happy to help where we can, and we continue to receive requests for assistance regarding varying issues on WBC, YHG, and other landowners' land.

- (c) To note that WBC has asked for Glover Road parking to be monitored, to see if there are any further issues. This is to build up a picture of potential problems, to determine if any restrictions are needed.
- (d) Sent / received – various reports re: several traveller encampments.

Councillor Bowden said that he understands the frustrations of residents, especially when Section 77 Notices to leave are ignored by travellers. When this occurs, WBC then has to secure a court date to obtain a Section 78 Removal Notice.

WBC can only act if the travellers are on WBC land and WBC **must** follow the legal procedures. If travellers are on land owned by other landowners, action must be taken by the specific landowner; but the Cheshire and Warrington Traveller Team will advise landowners where they can.

Councillor Atkin asked whether there is any update regarding a traveller transit site.

Councillor Bowden reported that more than 300 hundred pieces of land have already been assessed for the proposed site but, so far, none have been deemed to be deliverable. He added that this is a sensitive issue and the task group must be realistic, that when an area is finally identified, it will cause some anxiety to residential communities close by.

A traveller transit site would allow officers to direct groups to the site, which could relieve some of the ongoing issues related to traveller encampments, being faced by residents, not only in Birchwood, but throughout Warrington.

Any site would have to meet the needs of both the travelling community and residents.

Councillor Bowden stated that he will share any updates when available.

128/20-21 YOUR HOUSING GROUP (YHG)

- (a) Sent/received – various emails / online reports following contact from residents re: flytipping, overhanging trees, overgrown footpaths, sight line issues, alleged abandoned vehicles, business vehicles parking on grass verges, damaged wooden barriers, and overflowing bin areas.
- (b) The Clerk has contacted YHG about the play area on Centurion Close still being padlocked.

- (a) Received – Various update/information emails from Warrington Voluntary Action.
- (b) Received/sent emails regarding a query from a resident, asking if BTC will be ‘advertising’ the casual vacancies regarding co-option. All Councillors must meet the criteria to be a Parish Councillor in the area they are representing.

Members discussed the query raised above.

As the Council remains quorate for meetings, Members felt that to co-opt additional Members at this present time, who have no substantial knowledge of the workings of the Council (unless they were an ex-Councillor) would not be productive.

As current advice is that face-to-face meetings should be avoided, because of Coronavirus, Councillors felt that it would be difficult to give the necessary guidance, information, and ‘training’, such as on the Nolan Principles, to newly co-opted Members.

At present there are no physical, face-to-face meetings for prospective Members to attend, where they would get a truer picture of how the Town Council works, Members suggested that they defer any co-options to a point when either Government advice changes and / or elections are permitted to be held.

Members feel that the ‘confines’ of a remote meeting often rely considerably on the previous experience of Members to enable them to run smoothly.

Councillor Fitzsimmons **proposed**, J. Ellis **seconded**, and it was **unanimously resolved** that the potential co-option of new Members should be deferred and reconsidered in the New Year.

- (c) Sent/received – emails regarding a Woodland Trust owned piece of land to the rear of the high school, which needed attention. This has been resolved.
- (d) Received – email from Steve Shaw, Director, Power for People, asking if he could have a copy of the letter sent to us by Charlotte Nichols, MP; giving her response to the Local Electricity Bill. Officers have written to Charlotte Nichols, to ask for permission to share the letter. We are awaiting a reply.
- (e) A query has been received asking whether BTC’s meeting room is available to book for meetings yet. A reply was sent stating that it is not currently.

Members resolved that the meeting room should remain ‘closed’ for the time being.

- (f) Received – email from a lecturer at York St John University, asking if any Councillor would be interested in joining a steering group for the newly formed Association of New Town Archives and Museums.

Those Members present at the meeting could not currently commit to taking on additional responsibilities. It was suggested that we ask the lecturer if they would be happy for the invitation to be extended to local historians.

Action Clerk’s office to ask if the invitation can be extended outside of the Council.

- (g) Received / sent emails re: a resident’s concerns that a public house was allegedly not following social distancing or track and trace guidelines.
- (h) To note the receipt of two Freedom of Information (FOI) requests. These have/are being dealt with according to FOI procedures.

- (i) To note that during recess, Councillor D. Ellis has been in correspondence with a local resident regarding various issues, including ongoing noise problems at a business site behind their property, Travellers, the Strategic Plan and asking which Councillors cover the Risley Village area of Birchwood.
- (j) Received – Various LGC e-briefings.
- (k) Sent/received – various emails with our Website Consultant, regarding our ongoing actions in making our website as accessible as possible by the deadline. The Clerk said this has involved a lot of reformatting of pages.
- (l) To note the Clerk has been liaising with a representative of Birchwood Lions and John Magee, the new shopping centre manager, regarding the Birchwood Annual Service of Remembrance.

Discussions are ongoing regarding what format the service might take this year, or whether an alternative option to the usual service / wreath laying might be organised.

Members **resolved** that they would still like two wreaths to be laid by the Town Council on behalf of the community. The Chair of the Council confirmed that he still wished to lay a wreath at the shopping centre, even if it had to be done at a private time, or as part of a smaller service.

The Clerk usually lays the wreath at the Memorial on Cross Lane South.

- (m) To note that the office is continuing to obtain and file the relevant data safety sheets regarding the various hand gels, wipes etc. that are currently being used by staff to combat the risk of Coronavirus.
- (n) To note that information regarding Arthritis Action Groups (online) has been posted on our Facebook page.
- (o) Information regarding the latest Coronavirus restrictions in Warrington has been posted on our Facebook page.

130/20-21 **CHESHIRE POLICE**

- (a) Received – Stakeholder Update from the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC).
- (b) Sent – emails re: several traveller encampments.
- (c) Received - Various Neighbourhood Alerts.

131/20-21 **CHESHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS (ChALC), NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS (NALC), SOCIETY OF LOCAL COUNCIL CLERKS (SLCC)**

- (a) Received – NALC Chief Executive's Bulletins.
- (b) Received from NALC – LO1-20 The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panel (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regs. 2020.
- (c) Received – ChALC weekly e-bulletins with various attachments, details of training sessions, etc.
- (d) To note that we have sent updated contact details to ChALC, as requested.
- (e) Received – from SLCC – details and Minutes of branch meetings, news updates, etc.

132/20-21 **PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED**

Various LGC magazines and e-mail briefings, The Clerk – September 2020 and Clerks & Councils Direct – September 2020.

(Councillor Evans was still attempting to access the meeting at this point – and still experiencing technical issues.)

133/20-21 **MEMBERS' REFERRALS MADE VIA THE CLERK PRIOR TO THE MEETING FOR CONSIDERATION AT THIS COUNCIL MEETING**

Councillor D. Ellis – The Town Council's (silver) bus stops in Locking Stumps.

Councillor D. Ellis reported that he had been contacted by an elderly resident raising a complaint about the silver bus shelters on Glover Road.

The resident said that as the insides of the bus shelters are very dark, with solid sides, it means that they cannot see if a bus is coming. Also, bus drivers cannot see passengers at the bus stop if they are waiting inside the shelter. Apparently, the resident has missed the bus on a few occasions because of this, as she cannot move quickly enough out of the shelter, when she hears the bus coming. In addition, there is no seating in either of the two stops, and the resident finds it difficult to stand for any length of time.

The vegetation along the stretch on the approach to the bus stop, near Stonecrop Close, is also, apparently, an issue, but it is a very long stretch which would all need to be taken back quite far in order to improve visibility.

Councillor J. Ellis suggested contacting the bus company to ask them to inform their drivers of the situation, and to ask that, at least until a more permanent solution can be found, they at least slow down at the stops, to check if there is anyone waiting.

The BAFO gave Members a brief history of the two silver bus stops, which are currently owned and maintained by BTC. Over 30 years ago, the Town Council received a 50% grant from Cheshire County Council towards the cost of the bus shelters. When they were first built, they had glass side windows. These kept getting smashed, so they were replaced with polycarbonate windows, which were also vandalised. This led to the sides of the shelters being replaced again with the material they are now.

A few years ago, there was a proposal from Warrington Borough Transport, whereby they were going to replace several shelters in Birchwood, including these. We do not know why, but these two shelters were not replaced. We understand that it is only Warrington Borough Transport that can sanction the installation of new / replacement bus shelters.

Following a discussion about the issues, Councillor D. Ellis suggested that the Town Council tries to get new bus shelters to replace the two silver ones. He added that, if this is unsuccessful, perhaps the Town Council could consider purchasing some short 'perch benches' to install in the shelters, facing in the direction that the bus would be travelling towards the stop. He had some information about short perch benches, which was circulated to Members in their papers.

Councillor Bowden suggested contacting the bus company, as they might have access to grant funding for some routes, and also contacting David Boyer at the Borough Council. He added that installing something more modern would improve the area and perhaps make using public transport more attractive for passengers.

Councillor D. Ellis said it might be worth looking into whether there are any grants available from any Climate Change organisations, to improve / encourage the use of public transport.

Councillor Atkin suggested contacting Ben Wakerley, directly, as he is the Managing Director at Warrington's Own Buses, and also the Chair of Confederations of Passenger Transport for North West England.

Members **unanimously resolved** that Mr. Boyer and Mr. Wakerley be contacted in the first instance regarding the two bus shelters. Also, that Warrington's Own Buses be asked to request that their drivers slow down and prepare to stop at the two stops, in case there are any passengers who might be waiting inside.

Action Clerk's office to contact WBC and Warrington's Own Buses, regarding the above.

134/20-21 **CURRENT PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR COMMENT AND OBSERVATION AND OTHER RELATED PLANNING ISSUES**

(a) **Warrington Borough Council - Development Management Committee (DMC)**

The DMCs scheduled for 12th August and 2nd September 2020 had no items of specific relevance to Birchwood on the main agendas for consideration.

(b) **Enforcement Cases**

- (i) Lists of enforcement cases recently opened/closed have been received.
- (ii) Sent / received – emails relating to an ongoing issue (ENF/20/077850) regarding a business being run from a property on Linnet Grove. The tenant running the alleged business lives in a Golden Gates/Torus property. Golden Gates Housing are now dealing with the matter.

(c) **Planning Decisions**

- (i) Application No. 2020/37188 19 Dove Close, Birchwood, WA3 6QH. Proposed ground floor alterations to porch with internal alterations to kitchen. First floor addition to form additional bedroom & en-suite. **Approved with conditions**
- (ii) Application No. 2020/36915 6 Ecclestone Close, Birchwood, WA3 7NL. Proposed first floor extension to front. **Approved with conditions**
- (iii) Application No. 2020/36928 37 Applecross Close, Birchwood, WA3 6UX. Proposed single storey, flat roof extension to the rear of the property, which will incorporate a lantern opening. **Approved with conditions**
- (iv) Application No. 2020/36749 30 Hamsterly Close, Birchwood, WA3 6UF. Proposed single storey rear extension. **Approved with conditions**
- (v) Application No. 2020/37253 Parkers Farm Community Centre, Delenty Drive, Birchwood, WA3 6AN. Listed building – proposed general maintenance work including isolated repointing, redecoration, RWP replacement and roof works. **Approved with conditions**
- (vi) Application No. 2020/37373 56 Daniel Close, Birchwood, WA3 6QL. Proposed single storey side extension to replace existing conservatory. **Approved with conditions**

- (vii) Application No. 2020/37219 Driveway verge leading to Locking Stumps Primary School and Thomas Risley Church, off Glover Road, Locking Stumps, WA3 7PH. Proposed signage. **Approved with conditions**
- (ix) Application No. 2020/36968 Car parking areas, adjacent to 1 & 2 Kelvin Close, Birchwood, WA3 7PB. Proposed erection of a multi-storey car park, amendments to surface level parking and associated works. **Approved with conditions**

(d) **Planning Applications**

Plans can be viewed at <https://www.warrington.gov.uk/see-or-comment-planning-applications>

Certain applications are not Planning Applications; therefore there is no statutory opportunity to allow 21 days for comments, e.g. Non material amendment applications, Lawful development certificates (S192) and 28 day prior approval/determination applications. These types of applications are received for information only.

- (i) Application No. 2020/37495 8 Adlington Court, Birchwood, WA3 6PL. Proposed signage.
- (ii) Application No. 2020/37543 59 Woolmer Close, Birchwood, WA3 6TT. Proposed single storey side extension.
- (iii) Application No. 2020/37781 71, Bramshill Close, Birchwood, Warrington, WA3 6TY. Proposed first floor side extension and replacement of existing conservatory with rear extension.

Members had no objections or comments to make at this time regarding the three planning applications listed above.

- (iv) Application No. 2020/37719 North Cheshire House, Kelvin Close, Birchwood, WA3 7PB. Variation of Condition 2 (approved plans) and Condition 4 (car parking spaces) on previously approved application 2017/31859 (manufacturing and storage of aluminium frame windows).

During recess, Councillor D. Ellis has been in correspondence with a local resident regarding ongoing noise issues at this site (and sent them a copy of the Noise Management Plan).

Members discussed the current application. It was noted by Councillor D. Ellis, that the two large waste skips, and some car parking, had already been moved to the rear of residents' properties, despite the planning application not being approved yet. He has received further emails from a resident regarding this application.

Residents have reported to Councillors, that the type of waste being dumped into the skips – such as glass and metal off-cuts, make a significant noise when they are dropped in.

Members **unanimously resolved** to object to the application.

Action Clerk's office to send a letter of objection regarding the above.

- (v) Application No. 2020/37640 208B Cavendish Place, Birchwood, WA3 6WU. Proposed change of use of industrial unit to a small scale bulking up and transfer of sanitary and clinical waste (offensive, non-offensive and hazardous waste streams sanctioned under the EA Standard Rules 2008 No. 24, clinical waste & healthcare waste transfer station).

Members discussed the above application.

Councillor D. Ellis raised his concerns about the application. He thinks that it is not consistent with the other types of business which are in that part of the business park and seems inappropriate for the site. He is worried about the storage of unpleasant ‘offensive’ and ‘hazardous’ materials including infectious waste, with the additional possibility of foul smells.

Members were also concerned about the potential for waste build-up on the site in the event of supply chain issues and other problems (as has happened at other similar facilities at locations in the UK).

Councillor Atkin said that he also has some concerns about the suitability of the proposed change of use for the site, but he is unsure on what grounds a planning objection could be made.

Councillor Bowden stated that he is surprised that it would be considered suitable for the site, but he can speak to Martin O’Rourke, Commercial Director at Birchwood Park, to ask for further information and clarification about the application.

Members unanimously accepted this suggestion.

The Clerk asked Members if they would like BTC to request an extension to the time in which we have to make comments.

Members resolved that this would be a good idea.

Action Clerk’s office to request a time extension for the submission of comments from BTC.

Action Councillor Bowden to contact Martin O’Rourke to ask for additional details about the application.

135/20-21 **STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN UPDATE**

Councillor D. Ellis stated that he had attended a recent meeting of Birchwood Forum Enterprises.

There is no further progress at present regarding the Business Improvement District (BID) which currently remains a ‘non-starter’ until further notice. The Forum is looking into other priorities and is considering a number of alternatives to achieve their goals.

Councillor D. Ellis, for information, said that the Covid-19 pandemic has had an impact on the Birchwood Youth and Community Centre. However, work done over the last year to cut bills quite significantly, has enabled them to maintain a bank balance of over £7,000. In addition, Slimming World is now back open, using an appointment system, and putting social distancing measures, etc. in place.

Councillor D. Ellis noted that he had received a free copy of a cycle map of Warrington, which many households in Birchwood have also received. He asked whether it would be possible to publish the part of it covering Birchwood, on our website.

The Clerk said that she will look into whether this is possible.

Action Clerk's office to look at whether it would be feasible / allowed (copyright?) to publish a portion of the cycle map on the BTC website.

Councillor D. Ellis said that as part of his work with the Climate Environment Committee, they are using some IT 'tools' which are a useful way of gathering information, without having to consult with residents using programs such as 'Survey Monkey', which has a cost attached. He asked if Members would like to consider a similar approach.

The Chair asked if Councillor D. Ellis could put together some briefing papers to present at a future Policy, Strategy and Engagement Sub-Committee Meeting (of which all Councillors are members) in order to consider this alternative properly.

Councillor D. Ellis said he would be happy to prepare some briefing notes and to explain the options, at a future sub-committee meeting.

This part of the meeting concluded at 6.55 pm.