



The Oakwood Centre, Headley Road, Woodley, Berkshire, RG5 4JZ
www.woodley.gov.uk

To: **Members of the Planning and Community Committee**
Councillors J. Cheng (Chairman); K. Baker; D. Bragg; M. Doyle; M. Forrer; C. Jewell;
J. MacNaught; D. Mills; M. Nagra; R. Skegg; P. Wicks

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a meeting of the Planning and Community Committee will be held at The Oakwood Centre at 7:45 pm on Tuesday 21 May 2019, at which your attendance is requested.

Deborah Mander
Town Clerk

A G E N D A

1. **APOLOGIES**
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
To receive any declarations of interest from Members on agenda items.
3. **MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 23 APRIL 2019**
To approve the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 23 April 2019 and for the Chairman to sign them as a true record. ***(These minutes were provided in the Full Council agenda of 14 May 2019.)***
4. **CURRENT PLANNING APPLICATIONS**
To consider current planning applications and agree comments to be forwarded to the planning authority. ***(Appendix 4)*** Page 3
5. **PLANNING DECISIONS**
To note information on decision notices received from the planning authority since the last meeting. ***(Appendix 5)*** Page 5

6. **PLANNING APPEALS**

To note that the following appeal against refusal of planning permission has been lodged with the Planning Inspectorate:

Application: 182995
Location: 37 Crockhamwell Road, Woodley, RG5 3LE.
Proposal: Householder application for the proposed erection of a detached outbuilding. (Part retrospective)

7. **TREE PRESERVATION ORDERS**

To note that Wokingham Borough Council has confirmed the following Tree Preservation Order:

TPO 1674/2019 – relating to an oak tree located on the front boundary of 8 Butts Hill Road, Woodley, RG5 4NH

8. **COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH UPDATE**

To receive an update on matters relating to Community Speedwatch.

9. **WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL: PROPOSED INSTALLATION OF CONTROLLED PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS**

To note that notice has been received from Wokingham Borough Council regarding the proposed installation of a toucan crossing on Spitfire Way, Woodley. The notice and a map showing the location of the proposed crossing are attached at **Appendix 9**.

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Any representations or objections to the proposal are required by 30 May 2019.

10. **CITIZENS ADVICE WOKINGHAM**

To note correspondence received from Citizens Advice Wokingham regarding the new Help to Claim service for people making a Universal Credit claim. (**Appendix 10**)

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11. **WOODLEY AND NORTH EARLEY COMMUNITY FORUM**

To note the report of the Woodley and North Earley Community Forum held on 10 April 2019. (**Appendix 11**)

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12. **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

To consider suggestions for future agenda items.

13. **PUBLICITY/WEBSITE**

To consider suggestions for items to be publicised.

14. **EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS**

To resolve that, in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted in relation to legal matters, it is advisable in the public interest that the public and press are temporarily excluded and they are asked to withdraw for item 15 on the agenda.

15. **ENFORCEMENT ISSUES**

To note any enforcement issues.

New Applications Received Between 17/04/2019 and 16/05/2019

<u>Application No</u>	<u>Date Recd</u>	<u>Applicant Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
New Application			
190711	01/05/2019	Mr & Mrs Humphries	5 Cody Close Cody Close Woodley RG5 4XN
Proposal : Householder application for the proposed erection of single storey front extension to form a porch, and first floor side extension to existing dwelling.			
Observations :			
190750	18/04/2019	Mr & Mrs Jones	Acorns Waingels Road Charvil RG10 0UA
Proposal : ADJOINING PARISH CONSULTATION Householder application for the proposed conversion of existing garage to create habitable accommodation, plus changes to fenestration.			
Observations :			
190916	29/04/2019	Unknown	Unit 5, E Reading Retail Centr Shepherds Hill Woodley RG6 1FE
Proposal : Full planning application for a proposed change of use from A1 retail to Sui Generis (Tanning Salon).			
Observations :			
190919	17/04/2019	Mr & Mrs Hillyard	4 Retford Close Retford Close Woodley RG5 4TP
Proposal : Householder application for the proposed erection of a single storey rear extension including three rooflights, a first floor side extension, and internal alterations to dwelling.			
Observations :			
190922	09/05/2019	Mr & Mrs Brandon	25 Copse Mead Copse Mead Woodley RG5 4RP
Proposal : Householder application for the proposed erection of part single/part two storey side/rear extension following demolition of existing single storey rear extension.			
Observations :			
190950	18/04/2019	Mr & Mrs Walker	64 Tippings Lane Tippings Lane Woodley RG5 4RY
Proposal : Householder application for proposed part conversion of garage to habitable accommodation and raising of roof of garage.			

New Applications Received Between 17/04/2019 and 16/05/2019

<u>Application No</u>	<u>Date Recd</u>	<u>Applicant Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Observations :			
190955	18/04/2019	Mr & Mrs Lowe	20 Mitchell Way Mitchell Way Woodley RG5 4NQ
Proposal : Householder application for a proposed erection of a single storey front extension to form a porch plus garage conversion to create habitable accommodation.			
Observations :			
190988	23/04/2019	Mr Hopping	2 Rothwell Gardens Rothwell Gardens Woodley RG5 4TJ
Proposal : Householder application for the proposed erection of single storey front extension, single storey side extension with rooflight and alterations to fenestration, following demolition of existing car port/ garage/store.			
Observations :			
191050	09/05/2019	Mr G Bertram	29 Duncan Road Duncan Road Woodley RG5 4HR
Proposal : Householder application for a proposed conversion of an existing garage to create habitable accommodation.			
Observations :			
Applications Received :- 9			

NOTIFICATIONS OF PLANNING DECISIONS FROM Wokingham Borough Council

Thu 16 May 2019

' C ' Contrary to Borough

Page No : 1

' E ' Endorsed by Borough

GRANTED PLANNING PERMISSIONS

C 180988

Approved

Pitts Works

Local COMMENT Eight residents were present at the meeting to voice their concerns and four letters of concern had been received.

After listening to the residents' concerns, the Committee considered the proposal and recommended that the application be refused on the following grounds:

- Overdevelopment of the site.
- Overlooking and loss of privacy to properties in Consul Close and Hudson Road.
- Current problems due to lack of capacity in the local sewerage system will be exacerbated. Residents in Consul Close report that manhole covers are regularly displaced and the sewers overflow and cause flooding when the capacity is exceeded.
- The development will cause additional surface water runoff and will lead to an increased flooding risk in the area. Residents report that there is currently a stream running across the site, which collects water from the site.
- Part of the site is currently an overgrown garden area and development of this will result in harm to the local ecology and loss of habitat for wildlife.
- The extra traffic generated by this development will increase the existing traffic problems on Colemans Moor Road, especially during the morning and evening rush-hours.
- The development could lead to increased parking in Colemans Moor Road if the proposed number of parking spaces proves to be insufficient.

Local residents also had concerns regarding the clearance of the site, which contains industrial waste and hazardous materials, and the possible damage to surrounding buildings, by vibration and by excavation close to buildings located adjacent to the site boundary. The Committee asked that these concerns be addressed if planning permission is granted.

REVISED PLANS FOR THIS APPLICATION WERE RECEIVED ON 20/12/2018.

The Committee considered the revised plans at a meeting on 08/01/2019. Seven residents were present at the meeting to voice their concerns.

The Committee noted that the number of proposed dwellings had been reduced from 20 to 17, but reiterated their previous comments and recommended that the application be refused.

There is an inhabited annex, known as 7A Consul Close or Holly Cottage, located in the garden of No.7

NOTIFICATIONS OF PLANNING DECISIONS FROM Wokingham Borough Council

Thu 16 May 2019

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Consul Close. This annex is very close to the proposed units 11 and 12 as well as unit 10 and the car park. The impact of the site clearance and construction of the new development on this annex must be considered, as well as the effect of new large buildings in such close proximity. The proposal does not recognise this inhabited dwelling.

The effect of lights and engine noise of cars using the car park accessed under units 10 and 6 on the residents at Nos. 6, 7 and 7A Consul Close must be considered and appropriate light and noise blocks installed.

E 190002	Approved	47 Enstone Road
190146	Approved	4 Harris Close
190288	Approved	6 Eastwood Road
E 190324	Approved	46 Duffield Road
C 190457	Approved	24 Western Avenue Local COMMENT After consideration of the proposal, the Committee recommended that this application be refused on the following grounds: - Out of keeping with the original house. - Out of character with the street scene. - The top of the proposed flat roof side dormer is at ridge level of the existing roof.
E 190567	Approved	32 Carrick Gardens
E 190596	Approved	130 Colemans Moor Road
E 190610	Approved	71 Quentin Road
E 190632	Approved	12 Crockhamwell Road
E 190636	Approved	8 Keswick Gardens
E 190664	Approved	148 Loddon Bridge Road
C 190670	Approved	Loddon Vale House Local COMMENT The Committee considered the proposal and recommended that the application be refused on the following grounds:

NOTIFICATIONS OF PLANNING DECISIONS FROM Wokingham Borough Council

Thu 16 May 2019

' C ' Contrary to Borough

Page No : 3

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GRANTED PLANNING PERMISSIONS

- The proposed structure cannot be considered to be an extension of the existing building; it is a separate building linked by a staircase.
- The proposal will result in the loss of 9 car park spaces adjacent to Loddon Vale House.
- The proposal will also require 2 car park spaces to be lost from the adjacent retail area, where the car park is already full for much of the time.
- Concern about overlooking of the adjacent nursery play area.
- Overdevelopment of the site.
- Massing effect and detrimental to the street scene.
- The developer has not consulted with local residents.

E 190690 Approved 25 Telford Crescent

E 190703 Approved 78 Beechwood Avenue

E 190836 Approved 268 Kingfisher Drive

REFUSED PLANNING PERMISSIONS

C 190574 Refused 149 Nightingale Road
Local COMMENT No objections.

C 190668 Refused 21 Denmark Avenue
Local COMMENT One resident was present at the meeting to voice concerns. The applicant and the builder were also present at the meeting.

The Committee was pleased to see that the plans had been changed from those submitted with the previous application for this property, and the Committee's previous concerns had been addressed. The Committee therefore had no objections to this proposal.

C 190674 Refused The Homestead
Local COMMENT No objections.

OTHER PLANNING DETAILS

183229 Withdrawn The Former Adwest Western Site

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Wokingham Borough Council
Notice of Intent (2019-02)
Proposed Installation of Controlled Pedestrian Crossings
Norreys Avenue, Murray Road, Keephatch Road, Wokingham and Spitfire Way, Woodley

Notice is hereby given that, Wokingham Borough Council ("the Council"), pursuant to its powers under Section 23 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (as amended), intends to install two (2) controlled (Zebra) crossings on Norrey's Avenue and Keephatch Road (Wokingham) and two (2) controlled (Toucan) Crossings on Murray Road, Wokingham and Spitfire Way, Woodley.

The locations of the proposed Zebra crossings are:

- i) Norrey's Avenue approximately twenty four (24) metres east of the centre of its junction with Ashbridge Road.
- ii) Keephatch Road approximately eighteen (18) metres south of the centre of the roundabout with Hughes Road.

The location of the proposed Toucan crossings are:

- iii) Spitfire Way approximately eighty five (85) metres south of the centre of its roundabout with Hurricane Way.
- iv) Murray Road, approximately seventy seven (77) metres south west of its junction with Oxford Road

The works are in connection with the proposed increase in pedestrian footfall to nearby developments and to improve pedestrian and cyclist's safety.

Any person requiring more information in connection with this proposal should contact the Council's Traffic and Network Management Section, during normal office hours on telephone number 0118 974 6000.

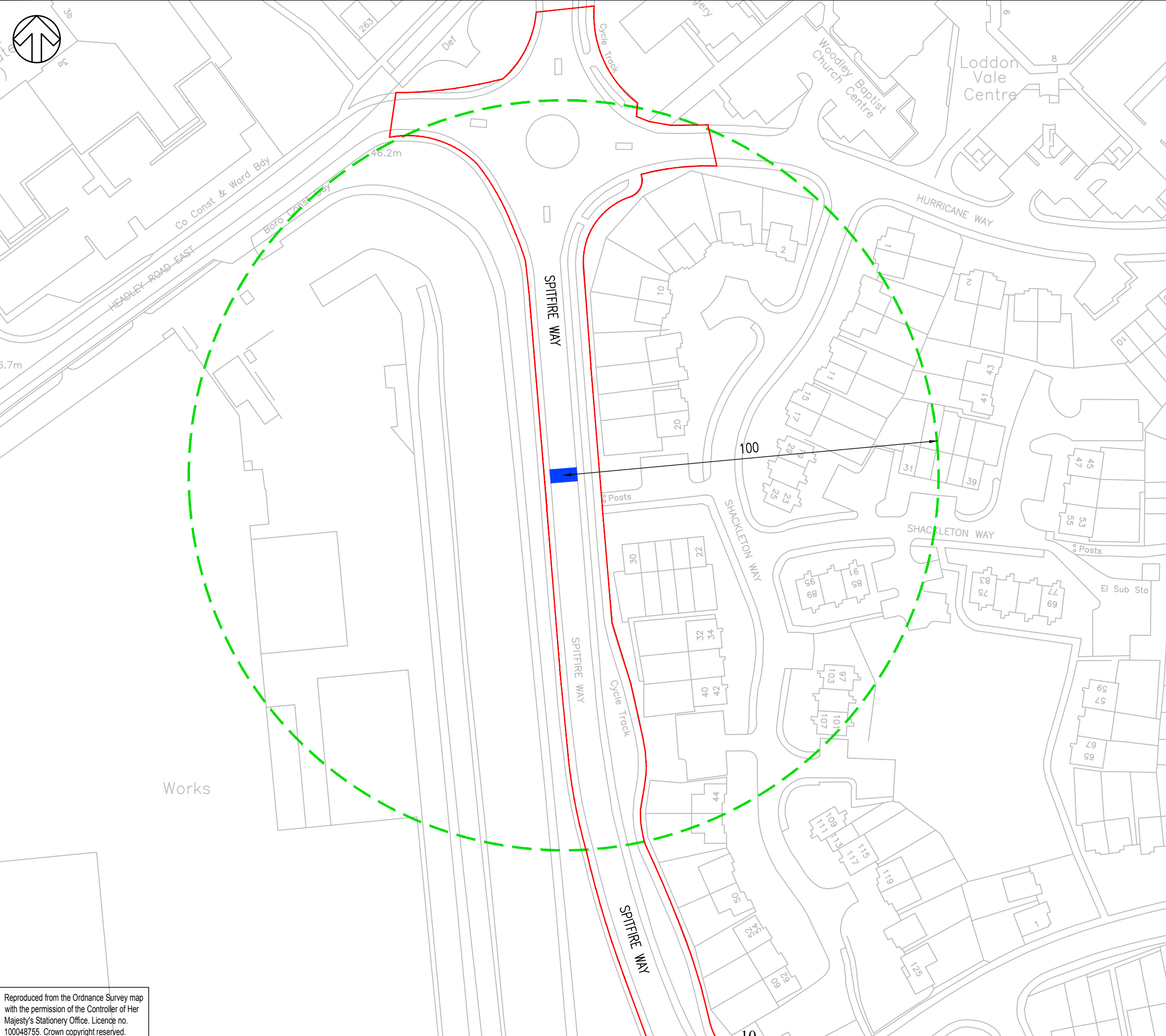
A copy of this Notice and a plan detailing the location of the said crossings may be inspected at Wokingham Borough Council, Shute End, Wokingham (Environment) for a period of 21 days from the date of this Notice. These documents are also available online at www.wokingham.gov.uk/tro

Any representations or objections to the proposals should be made in writing and state the grounds on which they are made and should be sent to Sara-Louise Allman, Traffic Management Team, WBC, Shute End, Wokingham, RG40 1WL or via email to TM.consultations@wokingham.gov.uk no later than 30th May 2019. Please note that all representations or objections received in response to this Notice are public documents and may be viewed by anyone.

Sarah Hollamby
Director, Localities and Customer
Wokingham Borough Council
Shute End
Wokingham
RG40 1WL

9th May 2018

File name \\UK.WSPGROUP.COM\CENTRAL DATA\PROJECTS\700438XX\70043887 - WOKINGHAM HIGHWAY ALLIANCE\SPITFIRE WAY\02 WIP\DEVELOPMENT\02 MODELS AND DRAWINGS\02 DRAWINGS\SPIT_SK_001.DWG, printed on 21 March 2019 10:07:40, by Dave, Dwij



DO NOT SCALE

- NOTES:
1. ALL DIMENSIONS ARE IN METRES UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED.
 2. INDICATIVE SKETCH BASED ON ORDNANCE SURVEY MAPPING.
 3. DO NOT SCALE, IF IN DOUBT CONTACT WSP UK LTD.

- KEY:
- PROPOSED SCHEME EXTENTS
 - INDICATIVE PROPOSED PEDESTRIAN CROSSING LOCATION
 - C2 UTILITY SEARCH 100m BUFFER

A	08/03/2019	DD	FIRST ISSUE	GW	GW
REV	DATE	BY	DESCRIPTION	CHK	APP

DRAWING STATUS: **S2 - FOR INFORMATION**



Regus House, Southampton Int. Bus. Park, George Curl Way, Southampton, SO18 2RZ, UK
 T+ 44 (0) 2380 302 529, F+ 44 (0) 2380 302 001
 wsp.com

CLIENT: **WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL**

ARCHITECT:

PROJECT: **SPITFIRE WAY, WOODLEY
 NEW PEDESTRIAN CROSSING INSTALLATION**

TITLE: **SPITFIRE WAY DETAILED DESIGN -
 C2 UTILITY INFORMATION**

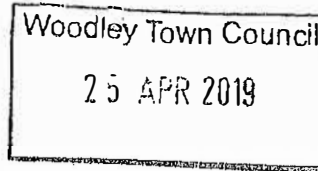
SCALE @ A3: 1:1000	CHECKED: GW	APPROVED: GW
PROJECT No: 70043887	DESIGNED: DD	DATE: March 19
DRAWING No: SPIT_SK_001		REV: A

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Wokingham



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Wokingham
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RG40 2YF

Tel: 0118 978 7258

Email: admin@citizensadvicewokingham.org.uk

citizensadvicewokingham.org.uk

23 April 2019

Town Clerk
The Oakwood Centre
Headley Road
Woodley
Berkshire
RG5 4JZ

Dear Ms Mander,

Citizens Advice's new Help to Claim service

I am just getting in touch to provide information about the new Help to Claim service, which we started providing from 1 April to help the residents of Wokingham, Woodley and the neighbouring areas make a Universal Credit claim. This service replaces the old Universal Support offer. I have included information below about the service, and we would be delighted if that information could be displayed on your official website.

Through Help to Claim at Citizens Advice Wokingham, we can provide people with advice on how to apply for Universal Credit and support them through the application process. The support provided will vary depending on individual need, but the main guidance is as follows:

Citizens Advice Wokingham can guide you through a step-by-step process to help you with your Universal Credit claim. First of all, we can explain exactly what Universal Credit is and which benefits it replaces. Following that, we can help you to prepare for an interview in a Jobcentre appointment regarding a Universal Credit application, set up an online email account, and verify your identity online if you are comfortable doing so. Then, we can help clients to set up their Universal Credit account and to manage their claim online.

Chief Executive Jake Morrison

Citizens Advice Wokingham is an operating name of Wokingham & District Citizens Advice Bureau.
Charity registration number 1027729.

Company limited by guarantee - registered number 2862148 England.

Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority FRN: 617802.

Registered office: Waterford House, Erftstadt Court, Wokingham, RG40 2YF

Other assistance provided might include things such as helping someone gather evidence of their housing or childcare costs, and ensuring that people know that Alternative Payment Arrangements are available.

The service was designed using evidence from the 230,000 people Citizens Advice has seen across England and Wales with issues related to Universal Credit since rollout began.

We have been working closely with Jobcentres, local authorities and other local organisations in preparation for providing the service. This close working relationship will continue throughout the operation of the service.

Locally, the service is available in Woodley between 9:30am and 2:30pm on Tuesdays, and in Wokingham between 9am and 3pm from Mondays to Thursdays.

In addition to this, full support is available through our free phone line between 8am and 6pm from Mondays to Fridays.

- England: 0800 144 8 444

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Yours sincerely,



Jake Morrison
Chief Executive

Chief Executive Jake Morrison

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Wednesday, 10th April, 2019, 7.30 – 9.30 pm

The Maxwell Room, The Oakwood Centre, Headley Road, Woodley, RG5 4JZ

1. **Present:** Mary Bather (in the chair), Mike Evans (Vice-chair), PC Tracey Mills (TVP), Cllr K Baker (WBC, WTC), Mary Holmes (Chair – TCMI), Cllr S Rahmouni (WTC mayor), Cllr S Matthews (ETC), Cllr D Bragg (WTC), Residents: B Graham, R Heather, A Loyes, B Cutler, C Lawley, A Hine, A Scott, Mr & Mrs Haggerty, R Maslin, J Layhe, K Read, C Lander, P Farrington, I Hills,
Apologies from: Cllr A Swaddle, Cllr C Doran, Cllr M Firmager, Cllr S Younis, J Lissaman, S Boyt, Cllr L Blumenthal, D Provins, M Shaw
2. **Minutes of the previous meeting – 06.02.19 / matters arising not on the agenda**
 - **Public safety leaflets:** These have been completed and have been printed. The chair has a delivery plan and delivery to vulnerable residents, GP surgeries and other organisations will take place over the next 2 months.
ACTION: MB to oversee delivery of leaflets
 - **TVP events – information cafes:** PC Mills reported that these had been postponed until next year.
 - **Neighbourhood Watch:** Chair had contacted Julie Susel at TVP about the possibility of obtaining some NW leaflets for the area. J Susel had replied to say that NW has been taken over by Thames Valley Alert (TVA). Discussion followed on how effective the new system was in providing residents less able to access the internet with relevant information. PC Mills replied that local police were aware of vulnerable groups and were working with these. It would be interesting to know the proportion of local residents were signed up to TVA.
ACTION: MB to contact Karen Collins at TVP to find out.
3. **Chair's Report** – See attached.
Ian Hills thanked the retiring chair (Mary Bather) for her input to the forum over the last 2 years.
4. **Vice-chair's Report (finance):** Forum had £45 in the bank (from donations) in spring 2018. It had since received a grant of £240 from WTC for the printing of leaflets. Currently £217 had been spent on printing leaving a balance of £67. A further grant of £40 from ETC would be paid into the account in May. The chair and vice-chair thanked ETC and WTC for the grants.
5. **Election of chair and vice-chair for 2019/20**
 - **Elections: Chair:** there were no nominations or volunteers for chair. **Vice-chair:** Mary Bather nominated Mike Evans as vice-chair, seconded by Cedric Lander.
 - **Volunteers for committee:** There was some discussion regarding the need for a committee of about 5 members to help run the meetings, deal with minutes and publicity and keep the website up-to-date. M Bather, C Lander and D Provins were interested in being members of the committee. Ian Hills volunteered to help with specific projects.

Further discussion on the future of the forum was held over until the end of the meeting.
6. **Update from Neighbourhood Policing Team on recent reported criminal activity in the local area**
Burglaries: There have been a number of distraction burglaries in the Woodley area recently. Local police have an operation running to tackle these, 3 arrests have already been made and target areas have been leafleted. Messages regarding home security and how to avoid distraction burglaries have gone out on TV Alert.
Theft from motor vehicles has increased lately mainly because vehicles are not secure. However, owners of cars with remote vehicle opener are reminded to keep the key in a strong metal box to avoid it being hacked. Advice has gone out on TV Alert and local police will run an operation on theft from motor vehicles from 18 – 24 April.

Ring doorbell CCTV – residents are reminded not to post CCTV footage from this on social media but to send details to the local police.

Local beggar (Woodley Town Centre) has been charged a number of times already. He has a CBO and residents should call the police if they are approached for money. PC Mills advised that the best way to help the homeless was to give to a charity which deals with this rather than giving money or food to an individual who will often throw the food away.

'Knockers' selling door to door: PC Mills was asked if these were allowed to ask for a donation if residents were not interested in buying. She advised that the organisation they worked for would have a policy on this and it would be best to ask who they were working with and contact them.

Contacting the police: 999 is for emergencies (a crime currently happening / someone in danger). If the caller is unable to speak for any reason there are a number of ways in which they can confirm that it is a real call. Dialling 55 is one of these, but callers should follow the instructions given at the time. 101 is for non-emergencies but at present response is slow due to staffing issues. Residents can also email the local police on woodleynhpt@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk if they have information / intelligence (e.g. regarding drugs)

Antisocial parking: There was a discussion regarding cars parked for lengthy periods (weeks) without moving on the roads as there had currently been instances the Whitegates area (The Drive, London Rd). PC Mills replied that if they were not taxed there should be reported to the DVLA – residents could check tax on the DVLA website. If they are taxed there is nothing the police can do about it. In cases where there appears to be a car dealing business operating and cars being traded are parked on the road residents should contact Planning Enforcement at WBC. The same applies to grass verges unless the car is causing an obstruction. If a car is parked on a road or verge or pavement with double yellow lines then it is a matter for Civil parking enforcement at WBC.

Stop and Search: This has not yet filtered down to the local area. Individuals cannot be stopped and searched if the police do not have information to support their doing so.

Police covering Woodley: There are currently 1.5 PCs and 4 PCSOs

7. Local policing priorities - Review of progress / agree actions with respect to:

- **Antisocial behaviour (ASB):** Local police have an operation running at the moment to tackle this as it is likely to increase during the school holidays. Police are out and about in plain clothes and in cars to keep a watch in the areas most likely to be affected.
- **Speeding:** Woodley independent speed-watch is up and running. Details of anyone caught go onto a police database and if caught again they are likely to get a fine. The information is also used by the police to determine which roads to target with speed checks etc. In the long term if the local and police measures did not work WBC would have to consider traffic calming measures. Butts Hill Rd, Colemansmoor Rd and Reading Rd have been monitored. There are currently 20 volunteers. It is understood that the police community speed-watch is also up and running. WTC were setting up a small committee for their speed watch and would like someone from the TVP community speed-watch to be on it to avoid duplication.

ACTION: MB to find out more about this possibility from the NAG Chairs meeting

PRIORITIES for the next 3 months to be ASB, Speeding and Burglary

8. Future of the forum was discussed. The following points were made:

- Possibility of joining with another group e.g. TCMI, another NAG. It was thought that the forum and the TCMI had different objectives (forum was public safety, TCMI was making Woodley a successful town centre). Joining with another NAG would make the group too big and marginalise specific areas (e.g. Whitegates)
- Having a specific theme for each meeting so that the forum could concentrate on problem solving.
- The police only coming for part of the meeting – with possibly more frequent meetings.

It was agreed that it was important to publicise the forum to as wide a group of residents as possible but acknowledged that having numbers much above the mid-20s at the meetings would limit the possibilities of meaningful discussions.

PC Mills stressed the importance of the forum to the local police as a means of finding out what residents considered to be local problems. The meeting was in agreement that the forum should continue but recognised the difficulty of doing this in the absence of a chair to oversee the organisation.

Cllr Bragg suggested that those present went away and considered what they would like the forum to achieve and how they could help and then come back to the meeting on 17th July to make some final decisions, including elect a committee and appoint a chair.

ACTION: Future of the forum, election of committee and appointment of chair to be included on agenda for meeting on 17th July.

9. Any Other Business

- **Cycling in the precinct:** C Lander mentioned a recent near miss with a cyclist. It was explained that there is a TRO making cycling in the precinct an offence. The council has no authority to stop cyclists. The police were the only body who could enforce it. In practice the police do not have the manpower to patrol the precinct all the time but it was agreed after the forum's survey last summer that they would work to tackle the problem through education in schools (for younger children), work on ASB (older children), regular patrols with words of advice (for adults). TCMI has had no recent complaints regarding cycling.
- **Signs on lampposts / railings / trees (e.g. for steam fair):** It was agreed that these could be dangerous. They are illegal and the council should monitor and ask the traders to take them down. In practice they did not have the manpower to do so.
- **Precinct public toilets:** Opening date still unknown – waiting for services to be connected.
- **Town Centre Manager:** Jacques was stepping down at the end of this month and a replacement had been appointed. Forum thanked Jacques for his support.

10. Date and venue of next meeting

Provisionally – Wednesday, 17 July, 7.30pm Maxwell Hall, Oakwood Centre

Background

The community forum first met in June 2017. The aim was to revive the Woodley Neighbourhood Group and at the same time bring in the Whitegates ward of Earley as the Woodley Neighbourhood Policing team now cover this area. The remit of the group is to provide a forum where neighbourhood groups can work together with the police to identify local policing priorities, discuss how these may be addressed, identify the groups who are most likely to be able to address the issues and agree some actions including the dissemination of public safety information.

Actions during 2018/9

The forum has met 4 times since the 2018 AGM: June 2018, September 2018, December 2018 and February 2019. All meetings have been open to residents of Woodley and the Whitegates ward of Earley. Local policing priorities during the year have been speeding, anti-social behaviour, burglary and promotion of Thames Valley Alert.

During the year the forum has:

- Worked with neighbourhood police, Woodley Town Council and other groups to address the policing priorities. Woodley Independent Speedwatch is now in operation and residents are able to notify them of roads of concern through the forum. The forum continues to distribute information regarding prevention of burglary and telephone scams / internet fraud.
- Used the Woodley Herald and the ACER (Whitegates residents' association) newsletter to distribute information regarding public safety, including prevention of burglary and promotion of Thames Valley Alert;
- Organised a survey of cyclists in the Woodley precinct and worked with the Town Centre manager and local police to consider a range of strategies to ensure public safety;
- Obtained grants from Woodley Town Council and Earley Town Council to cover the printing costs of public safety leaflets (aimed at those residents who are less able to access the internet). These leaflets should be delivered over the next couple of months;
- Held 2 'have your say' events at which residents indicated which areas of public safety were of most concern. Burglary and theft continue to be at the top of the list of concerns although generally not a big issue in Woodley;
- Sent representatives to the Wokingham NAG chairs meetings organised by TVP to discuss policing issues within Wokingham as a whole;
- Sent representatives to Earley Town Council Community and Youth meetings and Woodley Town Centre Management initiative meetings;
- Set up a forum website (with the help of Sam Chaher from the University of Reading).

The future of the forum

The forum is now well established with the support of the local police and Woodley and Earley Town Council. It has the use of the facilities of the Oakwood Centre and a good relationship with WTC communications officer and ACER allowing a communication network through WTC and ACER newsletters and websites. The forum has its own website and the leaflets about to be distributed should mean that details of the forum reaches an even wider audience. For the forum to continue to work effectively the new chair (and committee if it is agreed that that is what it should have) must continue strengthen these links and widen the net further to include the schools and other younger groups.

The chair wishes to thank the local police, Woodley and Earley Town councils, ACER, Sam Chaher (University of Reading) and all the residents who attend the meetings for their support and help over the past year.

Mary Bather

Chair

April 2019