

MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER COUNCIL MEETING
OF BIRCHWOOD TOWN COUNCIL,
HELD ONLINE, ON TUESDAY 27TH OCTOBER 2020, 6PM

Present: Councillor Reeves in the Chair
Councillors Atkin, Bowden, Breslin, D. Ellis, Evans and Fitzsimmons

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

1 Resident for part of the meeting via dial-in

Apologies: Councillors J. Ellis, T. Hearldon, M. Hearldon (dispensation) and the Police

A resident attempted several times to access the meeting online, but was unable to, due to technical issues.

152/20-21 **SEPTEMBER COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

Councillor Fitzsimmons proposed, Councillor D. Ellis seconded, and it was resolved that: the Minutes of the September Council Meeting held on 22nd September 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.

Councillor D. Ellis – Climate Change Environment Committee

153/20-21 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

(a) **Police Report**

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

Birchwood Parish August/September 2020

Incidents:

12 x Reports of ASB of note

9 x Reports from John Keeney park - large groups of youth gathering and drinking alcohol and causing a nuisance near to McColl's

1 x Greenfinch Grove of youths knocking on the windows

1 x Whitethroat Walk - youths on stairwell banging and making noise

1 x Noggin Pub - youths in insecure premises

6 x Reports of theft

1 x Shoplifting QVC - offender charged with theft

2 X Shoplifting from Aldi - offenders charged with Theft

1 x Theft from a business still under investigation

2 x other domestic thefts under investigation

2 x Report criminal damage

1 x window damage at McColl's - awaiting cctv from store

1 x glued house door locks - no lines of enquiry

0 x Theft of Motor Vehicle

3 x Reports of Burglary

1 x Theft of car keys and vehicle Oakwood area

1 x burglary reported but nothing taken

3 x HGV trailers with goods

2 x Sexual Offences

Walled Garden still under investigation

Admirals Road still under investigation

To be updated by PC Frith when next on duty

1 x Robbery

McColl's Admirals Road still under investigation

Brock Road - attempted robbery - aggrieved not wanting to pursue

Other

2 x unauthorised encampments now moved on

Road Safety

Tru Cam was used on the below roads at various times through the last few weeks:

Glover Road x 0 activations - very light traffic still

Gorse Covert Road x 0 activations - traffic very light

Re Graffiti - I have been making enquiries at Birchwood High school re any (comparable) drawings on textbooks with similar styles, as its now in all the underpasses and prominent location. I would suggest a cleaning programme while we are trying to identify the offender.

(Gareth to provide an update when he returns to duty later on in the week.)

The main areas for local policing will continue to be around the John Keeney park and McColl's, especially on a Friday evening when the ASB is reported to be taking place. Speed enforcement will be on the main through fares unless any other roads are highlighted during the month; we can always have a look at the concerns.

The Clerk informed Members that PCSO Bingham is leaving the Police. We expect to have another PCSO allocated to Birchwood, but we do not know who that will be at the present time.

The Clerk added that PC Frith will be back on duty later in the week, when he will update the Town Council regarding the two reported sexual offences.

The Clerk said that we will contact WBC regarding the Police request for the underpasses to be cleaned of the increasing amounts of graffiti by an individual, the identity of whom is being investigated.

Residents have also expressed concern about the John Keeney Play area, and graffiti in the area.

The play area, bus shelter and shops are on the Police regular patrol plan.

- (b) The resident who had been attempting to access the meeting sent his queries via email, which the Clerk read out to the meeting.

Some of the content of the email could not be addressed by the Town Council, as there were some political points raised.

However, the resident had questions regarding co-option, which had already been discussed and addressed at the September 2020 meeting (see Minute 129/20-21 (b)) when, for the reasons given in the discussion at that meeting, "*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.*"

Members reiterated the decision made at the September meeting, for the reasons given. They believe that as there are still three out of four Councillors serving the Locking Stumps ward, that the residents remain well represented.

They confirmed that given the current Covid situation and its effect on elections, and Birchwood Town Council's position within the electoral process, the Council has determined in this instance not to exercise its ability to co-opt at the present time.

We have guidance from the Borough Council regarding casual vacancies in the office of Councillor. These confirm that the decision of whom to co-opt to fill a casual vacancy rests with a Town or Parish Council. '*However, that person must be qualified to serve as a councillor.*'

Those qualifications include, "*A person is qualified to be elected and to be a councillor if they are a British, Commonwealth, Irish or European Union citizen and on the relevant day (that is, the day of nomination or election) they are 18 or over.*"

Action Clerk's office to contact the resident regarding the Town Council's response to their email.

154/20-21 **YOUR HOUSING GROUP (YHG) – UPDATE**

BTC continues to send/receive various emails / online reports following contact from residents regarding flytipping, overhanging trees, overgrown footpaths, etc.

The Clerk reported that she had attended an online meeting with YHG representatives on 12th October 2020, and that it was agreed that future MS Teams meetings be held quarterly. Issues can still be raised between these meetings.

The Clerk informed Members that YHG have made some new personnel appointments:

- Aaron Hammersley – Head of Housing
- Paula Marshall. Director of Customer Contact & Experience at Your Housing Group.
- There is a new Compliance Agent named Steve. He is meeting with BTC's Senior Maintenance Operative, also Steve, tomorrow, to talk through a few things, including what his responsibilities are.

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

Container:

- Various issues but the main one has been the container.
 - The area was cleared of flytipping and debris last Monday. A couple of days later there were more items there, including a couple of boxes with someone's name on them. YHG contacted the person who said that they had paid someone to move it. YHG Property Agent has contacted this person directly to investigate the matter.

- YHG is exploring the possibility of having CCTV in the area.
- Fix 360 will attend the container on a Monday and Friday each week.
- BTC staff will attend the container on a Wednesday to put any items inside.

Emptying Bins:

- The Village Green and the Birches (YHG) bins are the main problems.
- YHG to arrange for these bins to be emptied asap.
- We were asked by YHG if it might be possible for our staff to empty them if they (YHG) pay for this service.
- Our staff would be able to empty the additional two bins each week.
- Before BTC take on emptying these bins, they would need emptying by a specialist contractor as they have been full since March.
- BTC would also need the right key(s) for the YHG bins – as they have different locks to the BTC and WBC bins we currently empty.
- The Greenfinch Grove bin should be emptied by YHG, as this was something that BTC asked YHG to put in the contract at the time that the development was being built.
- The process for disposal of the waste needs to be sorted out before any formal agreement is put in place or further discussions take place.

The Clerk said that this would have to be discussed further.

The Clerk said that, although the BTC operatives would not have to go too far out of their way to empty the two bins, two or three times a week, however, we would have to take into consideration costs for BTC staff time, fuel, additional wear and tear on the vehicles, bin bags, etc. This may have to be addressed via a Service Level Agreement and a fee levied to cover costs.

The Clerk asked Members for their views.

Councillor Atkin **proposed** that if YHG are paying for the team to empty the two bins, and the team has capacity, then it would be better for the residents for the bins to be emptied regularly by BTC. This was **seconded** by Councillor D. Ellis and **unanimously resolved**.

Action Clerk's office to look into this further, and to bring options to a future BTC meeting.

155/20-21 **GRASS CUTTING**

The grass cutting has now finished for the year. The mowers have been returned to WBC. There were a number of issues with the mowers throughout the mowing season, which meant that on occasions we were only able to have one mower out at a time.

Our insurance company has been informed that the mowers are now back with WBC and they have removed them from our policy.

156/20-21 **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, it was agreed that the initial option proposed by WBC was a bit ‘over the top’, and that Councillor D. Ellis should continue to negotiate with WBC and suggest some more moderate options.

At September's meeting, Councillor D. Ellis said that he had spoken directly with a WBC Officer by telephone to explain the Town Council's preferences for less drastic measures.

The WBC Officer said they would discuss this further with colleagues and would then contact Councillor D. Ellis.

At tonight's meeting Councillor D. Ellis said that whilst he understands that WBC has to prioritise resources, he is unhappy with the latest response from WBC, the majority of which appeared to be a standard reply, and did not answer the question asked. WBC had concentrated on injury collision history, and speeding which were not the only aspects of the request for traffic calming measures.

Members agreed that the reply was unsatisfactory. Councillor D. Ellis asked if Members wished him to contact WBC again regarding this matter.

Councillor Fitzsimmons **proposed**, Councillor Atkin **seconded**, and it was **unanimously resolved** that Councillor D. Ellis ask WBC to re-assess their findings, in relation to the specific question asked, and not send, what appears to be, a standard response about collision data and Cheshire Police being responsible for enforcing speed limits.

Action Councillor D. Ellis to contact WBC again, regarding the above issue.

157/20-21 **UPDATE ON MEMBER'S REFERRAL FROM SEPTEMBER 2020**

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

As requested, the Clerk contacted Warrington Borough Transport and Warrington's Own Buses regarding this matter. Warrington's Own Buses will be asking their drivers to slow down and prepare to stop at the two stops, in case there are any passengers who might be waiting inside.

The Clerk said that costs quoted for each replacement bus stops range from £2,500 to £4,000 for a basic shelter, to £15,000 for stops which include real-time information boards. This is not a cost that has been budgeted for.

Councillor D. Ellis said that a number of parishes have been able to get grants for bus shelters by applying for community funds.

The Clerk said that she has investigated the possibility of applying for grants, but it appears to be only very rural areas that qualify for grant funding for bus shelters.

Following further discussion, it was resolved to put 'bus shelters' as an item on the Budget and Strategy Meeting agenda.

Action Clerk's office to add this as an agenda item for the Budget and Strategy meeting.

158/20-21 **UPDATE ON PLANNING MATTERS**

- (a) 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).

At the September meeting, Members unanimously resolved to object to the application and a letter was sent as requested.

We have since received correspondence from Planning Enforcement, which was not what we were expecting, and Members were concerned that the objection might not be being considered as a new, separate objection.

Residents have been advised to send their 'noise diaries' to WBC if they wish to raise further complaints about the levels of noise at the site.

Councillor D. Ellis said that he has been contacted again by a resident about this matter and will send a copy of the correspondence to the Clerk, with the resident's permission.

Action Clerk's office to contact the Planning Department to ask for clarification regarding the above.

- (b) 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).

At the September meeting, Members discussed the above application, and raised a number of concerns.

Councillor Bowden had offered to speak to Martin O'Rourke, Commercial Director at Birchwood Park, to ask for further information and clarification about the application, and Members unanimously accepted this suggestion.

At tonight's meeting, the Clerk reported that Councillor Bowden had circulated a response from Martin O'Rourke, which had answered those Members' queries that had been put to him.

A number of Members had already indicated that they were happy with the response and did not now wish to put forward any objection to the application.

The Clerk asked if all those Members present were happy that their concerns had been answered.

Members **unanimously resolved** that their concerns had been answered. and that no further action was necessary.

159/20-21 **TRAVELLER ENCAMPMENTS**

The Clerk reported that Councillors Bowden and Fitzsimmons, and the office had received further representations from members of the public who remain concerned about the ongoing issue of unauthorised encampments and the related issues that they bring.

The Clerk stated that (temporary) concrete blocks were placed on Powell Avenue when the encampment left that area, and that a clean-up was undertaken by WBC straight away.

160/20-21 **ASSOCIATION OF NEW TOWN ARCHIVES AND MUSEUMS**

At the September meeting an email was received, asking if any Councillor would be interested in joining a steering group for the newly formed Association of New Town Archives and Museums. It was suggested that we ask if the invitation could be extended to local historians.

The Clerk's office sent an enquiry, as requested, but we have not received a response.

161/20-21 **CANCELLATION OF THE ANNUAL COMMUNITY SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE**

The Clerk stated that, as Members are aware, commemorating Remembrance Day 2020 is going to be very different this year with many services being cancelled or severely pared back.

The Clerk added that she sent an email about a week ago informing Members that three wreaths were to be laid on behalf of the community by the management of Birchwood Shopping Centre on 6th November; Birchwood Town Council, the Lions and the shopping centre.

Since then the Clerk has been liaising with the Manager of the Shopping Centre and Birchwood Lions.

We are all disappointed that we are in this position but we will do the best we can, within restrictions.

Pam Dyson of the Lions is writing to the local organisations that usually attend the Birchwood service and we have agreed that if any of these organisations wish to have a wreath laid at the memorial on their behalf, a representative should bring it to Parkers Farm by 30th October. We will open the self-contained room (in the barn) where the person representing the group can put their wreath. This room is a very large open space with lots of ventilation. The period of time between 30th October and 5th/6th November should allow for them to be adequately quarantined. Our team will then take these wreaths, together with the Town Council's wreath to the shopping centre.

Members then discussed how they wish to lay the wreath at the Memorial on Cross Lane South. The Chair would like to lay this wreath on behalf of the community.

It was suggested that the wreath is placed at the Cross Lane South memorial at 10.50am on the Sunday, Covid guidance permitting.

162/20-21 **STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN UPDATE**

- (a) At the September meeting, Councillor D. Ellis asked whether it would be possible to publish a copy of a cycle map of Warrington on our website.

A link to the cycle map has been published on the home page of our website.

- (b) As agreed at the September meeting, Councillor D. Ellis had circulated a short document prior to tonight's meeting, regarding engagement with the community, using digital tools such as Citizenlab, Create Streets, Pol.is, CONSUL, and others.

It was **resolved** that this document be fully considered at a future Policy, Strategy and Engagement Sub-committee meeting.

- (c) Councillor D. Ellis said that he would like to undertake a brief survey of the local community regarding attitudes to the climate emergency declared by the Town Council. He said it would only be a few questions and could be done using the free version of Survey Monkey.

Councillor D. Ellis added that there are other options for community engagement, which would be discussed at a future Policy, Strategy and Engagement Sub-committee meeting (see (b) above) that other Councils across the country are using successfully. Some of these are free to use, others have some cost attached.

Members **resolved** that they were happy for Councillor D. Ellis to put together a short survey about climate emergency, for the Council to consider putting to our residents.

Action Councillor D. Ellis to put together a draft survey, as agreed above.

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

163/20-21 **WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL**

- (a) Sent/received – various emails / online reports following contact from residents re: flytipping, concerns about trees, overgrown footpaths, height of shrubbery, footpath maintenance, incorrect road signage (this is being replaced by WBC).

- (b) Email correspondence and telephone calls have been exchanged regarding ongoing flooding issues on Roberts Fold. The Clerk reported that WBC no longer has contact details for anyone at Torus Housing, who we think might own the footpath. The Clerk completed an online form to report the flooding to Torus, over a week ago, but we have not received any response. She has therefore contacted a property agent at Torus and they said they will make enquiries regarding who we need to contact regarding this matter.
- (c) Sent/received – emails following a request from a resident asking for assistance in dealing with an issue they were having with WBC, which was possibly the result of a misunderstanding. This has now been resolved.
- (d) Received – notification that the next Parish Council Liaison Meeting will take place on Thursday, 12th November, 6pm. This will be a Microsoft Teams Meeting. The meeting notes from the meeting that took place on 5th March 2020 were attached.

The Clerk asked Members to contact her with any issues they might wish to be raised at this meeting.
- (e) Received – details of an unauthorised encampment on private land (Leacroft House, Leacroft Road). This was dealt with by the landowner.
- (f) Received – query regarding an insurance claim received by WBC, alleging a ride-on mower flicked up a stone causing damage to a vehicle. Reply sent, confirming our teams do not mow in the area in question.

164/20-21 **YOUR HOUSING GROUP (YHG)**

- (a) Sent/received – various emails / online reports re: flytipping and overflowing bin areas.
- (b) To note that the Clerk has been speaking to / corresponding with YHG about several issues, including ongoing and significant flytipping around the container (cleared by YHG on 19th October 2020) and a query about the compliance/safety checks on the four small play areas around the Redshank estate.

165/20-21 **MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE**

- (a) Received – Various update/information emails from Warrington Voluntary Action.
- (b) Sent/received – emails re: 70 tyres flytipped on a Woodland Trust owned piece of land, on Silver Lane. The Woodland Trust is dealing with this matter.
- (c) Received – email thanking the Town Council and specifically the Town Council's Maintenance Team for the work they do in the area, including the shrubbery trimming (where we have permission to cut) and the colour that the flower planters bring.
- (d) Received – from Birchwood Forum – details of a new cyber tool – Police Cyber Alarm.
- (e) Received – Update information from the South Warrington Councils Local Plan Group. This includes details of two Zoom meetings – one for the public on 27th October 2020, and one for Clerks and Councillors on 29th October 2020. Joining details will be confirmed nearer the time.

Councillor Bowden said that the issues being raised by the South Warrington Councils Local Plan Group have already been recognised by WBC, which is why WBC has paused progress on the Local Plan; to allow further consideration by WBC Officers. Any future 'finalised' plan will need to be approved by a Government Inspector.

- (f) Councillor D. Ellis and the Clerk has been liaising with WBC and Thomas Risley Church re: the Church's wish to place (short term) a 'poppy garden' under the notice board in Locking Stumps.

At this point in the meeting a resident was admitted. The Chair reminded the meeting that the 'Public Participation' section of the meeting was now closed. The resident was therefore unable to make any comments or raise questions at this point.

166/20-21 **CHESHIRE POLICE**

- (a) Received - Various Neighbourhood Alerts.
- (b) Received – Stakeholder Update from the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) – October 2020.
- (c) Sent/received – emails re: issues around John Keeney Play area and graffiti.

167/20-21 **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 – ChALC weekly e-bulletins with various attachments, details of training sessions, etc.
- (c) Received – from SLCC – details and Minutes of branch meetings, news updates, etc.

168/20-21 **PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED**

Various LGC magazines and e-mail briefings, LCR 'Summer 2020 Finance Special'.

169/20-21 **MEMBERS' REFERRALS MADE VIA THE CLERK PRIOR TO THE MEETING FOR CONSIDERATION AT THIS COUNCIL MEETING**

There were No Members' referrals received prior to the publication of the Clerk's Report.

170/20-21 **CURRENT PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR COMMENT AND OBSERVATION AND OTHER RELATED PLANNING ISSUES**

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

The DMCs that took place on 30th September 2020 and 21st October 2020 had no items of specific relevance to Birchwood on the main agenda for consideration.

- (b) **Query from Resident**

A query was received from a resident re: an extension being built in an area of Oakwood; whether it had, or required, planning permission. They are now liaising directly with WBC regarding this matter.

- (c) **Pre-application – Street Trading Consent**

To note that the Town Council received a pre-application for the grant of a Street Trading consent for Sal & Peppe Catering – Leacroft Road, Risley. Members opinions were sought and were included in a response sent to WBC.

A reply received from WBC confirmed that the vendor will not be selling alcohol at this site, if they are granted a Street Trader's licence.

(d) **Enforcement Cases**

Lists of enforcement cases recently opened/closed have been received.

(e) **Planning Decisions**

- (i) Application No. 2020/37540 31 Keyes Close, Birchwood, WA3 6RU. Retrospective consent for change of use from open amenity to private residential garden. **Approved with conditions.**
- (ii) Application No. 2020/37230 23 Palliser Close, Birchwood, Warrington, WA3 6RT. Proposed single storey front extension, two storey side extension. **Approved with conditions.**

(f) **Planning Applications** (*Already circulated – not copied in papers*) - all plans can be viewed via:

http://www.warrington.gov.uk/home/transport_planning_and_environment/Planning/Se_arch_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. 2020/37871 71 Woolmer Close, Birchwood, WA3 6TT. Proposed single storey rear extension with mono pitch roof – front porch addition.
- (ii) Application No. 2020/37744 42A Woodhouse Close, Birchwood, WA3 6QP. Lawful Development Certificate 192 – proposed single storey rear extension.
- (iii) Application No. 2020/37810 Temporary Car Park north of Cavendish Avenue, Birchwood Park, WA3 6YN. Proposed discharge of Condition 3 (Landscaping scheme), Condition 7 (Characterisation, Remediation and Verification), Condition 9 (Surface water) and Condition 10 (Surface water drainage scheme) on previously approved application 2020/36662 (Temporary Car Park).
- (iv) Application No. 2020/37784 31 Falstone Close, Birchwood, WA3 6SU. Lawful Development Certificate 192 – proposed single storey rear extension.
- (v) Application No. 2020/37819 57 Deanwater Close, Birchwood, WA3 6ER. Proposed front and side double storey extension.
- (vi) Application No. 2020/37928 1 Cross Lane South, Birchwood, WA3 7AQ. Works to Trees Covered (TPO 261) T2 Sycamore - request lower branches to be removed where due to size and weight they are hanging very low over our and neighbour's gardens, T1 Sycamore - request lower branches to be removed where due to size and weight they are hanging low over the road of Cross Lane South. T3 Lime - request lower branches to be removed where due to size and weight they are hanging low over the road of Cross Lane South and the pavement/road of Warrington Road.
- (vii) Application No. 2020/37962 Car parking areas adjacent to Buildings, 1 & 2 Kelvin Close, Birchwood, Warrington, WA3 7PB. Reserved Matters (Major) - Application for approval of reserved matters detailing Landscaping following outline approval 2020/36968 (multi-storey car park & associated works)

Members had no comments or objections to make at this point regarding the above applications.

- (viii) Application No. 2020/37866 Land adjacent to units 720 and 730 Birchwood Boulevard, Birchwood, WA3 7PS.

The Clerk stated that as some Members had raised concerns re: this application, we asked for a time extension, to allow it to be discussed by full Council at our October meeting. We have until 29th October 2020, to send any comments.

Members discussed the application and had a number of concerns and comments that they wish to make, and to formally object to the application.

The main concern is highways safety, regarding vehicles accessing / egressing the proposed site, and also pedestrian safety whilst accessing the site.

Dewhurst Road is a very busy main road and bus route, and Members wanted to flag up the potential for traffic problems and safety issues arising from a new turning off Dewhurst Road not far from the Benson Road junction and the ASDA petrol station. It is unknown how many vehicles would use a new drive-through, but if it became a popular outlet, there could be a lot of vehicles trying to cross steady streams of traffic on Dewhurst Road.

Councillor Atkin queried whether there should be electric vehicle charging provision in a new car park for a food and drink establishment, with eat in customers. He wondered if there are any requirements for new commercial developments to have electric charging points as none are shown on the plans.

Another main concern is that this proposed development will create another source of litter in Birchwood. This has been the experience of the Town Council's maintenance team following the opening of all new takeaway-type outlets in the Birchwood area. Members asked for consideration of a Section 106 commitment to be applied if the development was to be approved, to fund additional community litter bins in the vicinity of the site; and for a formal waste management plan to be in place around the premises.

Councillor D. Ellis raised concerns about the number of trees that have been lost locally to development in recent months. He said that this application would result in a substantial loss of trees on this site if the development goes ahead.

Members accepted that a few of the trees may be poor quality, but most are category B or C (11 are category B, which have potential to become category A). Category B trees are good examples of their species and their retention is preferred. The plans appear to be to replace them exclusively with shrubs.

Councillor D. Ellis added that both Birchwood Town Council and Warrington Borough Council have declared a climate emergency, and stricter control of any tree loss is an important aspect of this.

It was noted by Councillor Atkin that, although not strictly a planning consideration, there are already a number of facilities within the Birchwood Centre which provide coffee, one of which is drive-through (McDonald's), with a further drive-through within a few hundred yards (Starbucks). This is a point that has been made by a number of residents on a local social media site, querying the need for another similar development in Birchwood.

Councillor Atkin **proposed**, Councillor D. Ellis **seconded**, and it was **unanimously resolved** that the Town Council objects to this application.

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

This part of the meeting concluded at 7 pm.