

PANNETT PARK | WHITBY | YO21 1RE
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Dear Councillor,

14 December 2023

You are **summoned** to attend a meeting of the **TOWN DEVELOPMENT AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE** to be conducted at the **Pannett Gallery**, on **Tuesday 19 December 2023 at 6:00pm**, the agenda for which is set out below



Michael King
Town Clerk

To: Councillors Mrs Brown, Mrs Coughlan, Dalrymple,
Harston, Nock and Mrs Wild

Cc: Sub. Councillor Jones

NOTICE OF MEETING – Public notice of the meeting is given in accordance with schedule 12, paragraph 10(2) of the Local Government Act 1972.

AGENDA

- 1. APOLOGIES**
To receive apologies for inability to attend.
- 2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS & REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION**
To declare any disclosable pecuniary interests or any other interests which members may have in the following agenda items and consider any dispensation requests.
- 3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**
Standing Orders will be suspended for up to 15 minutes to allow for questions or statements about business items on the agenda, submitted by members of the public (limited to 3 mins per person).
- 4. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 17 OCTOBER 2023** **page 3**
To approve as an accurate record the minutes of the Town Development and Improvement Meeting held on 17 October 2023.
- 5. CLERK'S UPDATE ON MATTERS RAISED PREVIOUSLY**
Verbal update
- 6. RESPONSE TO HARBOURSIDE PUBLIC REALM CONSULTATION** **page 5**
To approve a response on behalf of the town council.
- 7. REQUEST**
Submitted by a resident of the sheltered housing scheme at Meadowfields Court, Pannett Way, would like to apply to NYC for a disabled bay outside the property and is seeking the town council's support.

Agenda

8. REFERRAL FROM PANNETT ART GALLERY COMMITTEE

To ensure that the Park-and-Ride bus makes a scheduled stop at Pannett Park.

9. MATTERS OF REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE REQUIRED IN TOWN

Opportunity for members to highlight areas of concern which may be brought to the attention of the appropriate department of North Yorkshire Council.

WHITBY TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the **TOWN DEVELOPMENT AND IMPROVEMENT** Committee held in the Pannett Gallery on Tuesday 17 October 2023 at 6:00pm.

Present: Councillors Mrs Coughlan (Chair), Mrs Brown, Harston, Jones and Nock.

Also: M King, Town Clerk, and eight members of the public.

NOTICE OF MEETING – Public Notice of the Meeting was given in accordance with Schedule 12, paragraph 10(2) of the Local Government Act 1972

224/23 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Dalrymple, Mrs Turner and Mrs Wild. Councillor Jones substituted.

MOVED by Cllr Jones, seconded by Cllr Harston.

RESOLVED that the apologies of Councillors Dalrymple, Mrs Turner and Mrs Wild are accepted.

225/23 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS & REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION

None.

STANDING ORDERS SUSPENDED

226/23 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Three members of the public spoke to item 229/23. Two felt that not all traders had been consulted. Another reiterated the concerns which had inspired the notice of motion. One member of the public raised the issue previously resolved to investigate a memorial to all those who supported the community through the Covid pandemic and requested progress on the resolution (229/21).

STANDING ORDERS REINSTATED

227/23 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 22 AUGUST 2023

MOVED by Cllr Mrs Brown, seconded by Cllr Nock.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Town Development & Improvement Committee held on the 22 August 2023 are approved as a correct record.

228/23 CLERK'S UPDATE ON MATTERS RAISED PREVIOUSLY

The Clerk reported a response from NYC on the Made in Yorkshire markets. It was noted that this item was referred to full council. NYC had reported no work programme in respect to maintenance of the footpath on Murrayfield Gardens. Further enquiries were being made.

MOVED by Cllr Jones, seconded by Cllr Mrs Brown

RESOLVED That the position be noted.

229/23

NOTICE OF MOTION

Members considered the submitted notice of motion and the information shared by members of the public. It was recognised that the issues were the responsibility of North Yorkshire Council, but that it would be appropriate, given the redevelopment of the Old Town Hall and marketplace that there was greater understanding of how existing rules were enforced and what protections were in place. In discussion, the motion was amended by the proposer to include a site visit and to ensure that traders were invited to attend.

MOVED by Cllr Jones, seconded by Cllr Harston

RESOLVED The Town Development & Improvement Committee notes the concerns of local residents and business owners regarding potential breaches of North Yorkshire Council's 'Whitby market regulations' and damage to listed buildings surrounding the market area. The Committee requests a site visit to include both the Market Superintendent and Regeneration Services Manager to answer questions around the recording and reporting of incidents and the potentially serial breaching of market regulations by traders.

230/23

REQUEST

Submitted: a request from a resident for a pedestrian crossing to be put in place on Castle Road YO21 3NJ into the new estate Convent Way YO21 3UF.

MOVED by Cllr Jones, Seconded by Cllr Mrs Brown

RESOLVED that the request from a resident for a pedestrian crossing to be put in place on Castle Road YO21 3NJ into the new estate Convent Way YO21 3UF is endorsed and referred to North Yorkshire Council Highways.

231/23

MATTERS OF REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE REQUIRED IN TOWN

The following areas of concern were identified to be brought to the attention of the appropriate body.

1. **Street gullies** – It was noted that Beck Yard (34/35 Baxtergate) was unresolved and that there are similar problems in Vipond Yard/Vipond's Lane (13/14 Baxtergate).
2. **Damage to the Lilly Pond in Pannett Park** members noted the information shared by the Friends of Pannett Park that there had been vandalism in the park, of which NYC and the police were aware. Both organisations were addressing the issue.

MOVED by Cllr Nock, seconded by Cllr Mrs Brown

RESOLVED That issues be progressed by the Clerk through the NYC portal and with the relevant officers.

Draft Response

This project was identified by the Whitby Town Investment Plan and has been granted £2.3 million of funding through the government's Towns Fund.

Its purpose is to improve the public realm in and around the swing bridge, improving the experience for both residents and visitors. It will also improve non-motorised links between the east and the west of the town, supporting other Whitby Town investment plan projects.

This consultation aims to explore people's views on how the scheme could look. No changes are currently proposed to on-street parking, on-street loading or when the swing bridge will be closed to traffic. There will be a separate consultation in the future looking at this.

All responses will be presented to a meeting of the corporate director for environment in consultation with the executive member for highways and transportation, where a decision will be taken on how the scheme proceeds. Once approved, it would start in late 2024/early 2025 with a scheduled completion by spring 2025.

We are asking for your views on six separate public areas:

- Zone 1: New Quay Road at the junction with Langborne Road and Station Square
- Zone 2: West of the swing bridge
- Zone 3: Swing bridge north east corner
- Zone 4: Church Street at the junction with Bridge Street
- Zone 5: Tin Ghaut, the former car park adjacent to Grape Lane
- Zone 6: A171 New Bridge/Spital Bridge junction

Draft answers in **blue**

Zone 1 – New Quay Road at the junction with Langborne Road and Station Square

1. Do you agree with making Station Square/Langborne Road the main road, encouraging casual traffic towards the harbour car parks?

No

2. Do you agree with introducing an area that is easier for people to move around by widening pavements and adding informal raised crossing points?

Yes

3. Do you agree with the introduction of additional new seating?

Yes

Zone 2 – West of the swing bridge

4. Do you agree with pavement widening and the proposed informal raised crossing places for pedestrians on New Quay Road, one near the former bank and one near the swing bridge, to create a space that is easier for pedestrians to move around?

Yes

5. Do you think the area would benefit from additional seating?

Yes

6. Would you like to see the existing ammonite-shaped seating outside the former bank to stay where they are, to be moved somewhere else in the scheme, or to be removed completely?

Stay where they are

7. Would you like to see raised planting beds in this area?

No

8. Do you support the inclusion of carefully positioned trees, that don't block views of the harbour?

No

Zone 3 – Swing bridge north-east corner

9. Do you think seating is needed in this area?

Yes

10. Would you like to see any planting in this area?

No

Zone 4 - Church Street at the junction with Bridge Street

11. Would you like to see a feature tree (such as a monkey puzzle tree, that is inspired by Whitby Jet) in this area?

No

12. Would you like to see this area of pavement flagged instead of tarmac, to strengthen the historic character?

Yes

Zone 5 – Tin Ghaut (the former car park adjacent Grape Lane)

13. Do you like the idea of introducing planting at Tin Ghaut?

Yes

14. Do you agree with upgrading the railings to match the railings on New Quay Road?

Yes

15. Do you think the tiled community art seating on New Quay Road would be better placed at Tin Ghaut?

No

16. Do you agree with the idea of having an archway sculpture, inspired by Whitby Abbey?

No

Zone 6 – Junction at A171 New Bridge/Spital Bridge/Larpool Lane/ A171 Helredale Road

17. Do you like the idea of introducing traffic signals here?

Yes

General questions

(Please do not include any personal or sensitive information in your answers)

18. What do you like or dislike about the current layout in Zone 1?

Removing the roundabout here limits options for drivers needing to U-turn when car parks are full, for busses and commercial vehicles in this area, and vehicles coming from New Quay Road at any time. Additional space for pedestrians to the west of the junction is welcome but should not be compromised by additional street clutter. If the taxi rank is to be maintained, this needs to be shown in context and blended into the design of the scheme.

What will be the impact of trees in this location on street cleansing, due to dogs, bird fouling, leaf sap and autumn? Will this cause additional nuisance and cost? What species of trees are proposed. Will these be hardy to the location and maritime climate? If planting is proposed into the ground, what will be the effect on pipes, cables and other services and to the maintenance of the footpath? Any additional pedestrianisation outside Trenchers will have to demonstrate that it assists free flow and doesn't create additional obstruction or pinch points when this area is busy. Any planting must be maintained at all times and plants changed, when necessary, with dead plants and rubbish picked out daily, to avoid pavements being made slippery with wet, dead leaves. Bird- guano on the ground will need to be cleared away every day.

Considering the roundabout at the bottom of Bagdale. - how will traffic flow? The town council will need to see a detailed plan to understand the implications of this proposed change.

Has consideration been given to what happens when coloured, raised tarmac becomes unsightly when worn and dirty.

19. What do you like or dislike about the current layout in Zone 2?

The raised crossing points are welcome. Surfaces should be used throughout to emphasise that pedestrians have priority, where this is the case. The layout does not show the location of any retained accessible parking spaces. The layout does not show the layout of priority markings and traffic lights to control traffic movement on the Swing Bridge. Both are necessary to see the practical effect of the proposed layout. Any additional seating on the end of Baxtergate/New Quay Road should not compromise existing structures and established uses. It should also face the harbour, and hence the view, not a brick wall. Will traffic still be able to access Baxtergate from New Quay Rd at 4pm every day as is the practice now? Benches in this location will see vehicle movements close to these benches.

What will be the impact of trees in this location on street cleansing, due to dogs, bird fouling, leaf sap and autumn? Will this cause additional nuisance and cost? What species of trees are proposed. Will these be hardy to the location and maritime climate? If planting is proposed into the ground, what will be the effect on pipes, cables and other services and to the maintenance of the footpath? It is not clear that trees in this location will not add visual clutter and obscure established views to and across the river/harbour.

20. What do you like or dislike about the current layout in Zone 3?

This is a constrained space, which is a bottleneck whenever the bridge is closed to road traffic and open to river traffic. Additional clutter in this area will be unwelcome.

The schematic does not show the layout of priority markings and traffic lights to control traffic movement on the Swing Bridge, to see the practical effect of the proposed layout. Any additional seating at the end of Bridge Street should not compromise existing structures and established uses or exaggerate the bottleneck at the entrance to the bridge.

What will be the impact of trees in this location on street cleansing, due to dogs, bird fouling, leaf sap and autumn? Will this cause additional nuisance and cost? What species of trees are proposed. Will these be hardy to the location and maritime climate? If planting is proposed into the ground, what will be the effect on pipes, cables and other services and to the maintenance of the footpath?

21. What do you like or dislike about the current layout in Zone 4?

The monkey puzzle tree is inappropriate in this location, will create a hazard and is unlikely to survive here. It will be an obstruction to pedestrians particularly those with mobility or sight impairment. Moving the telephone box is inappropriate and will create an obstruction to the access passage shown to right in the sketch.

22. What do you like or dislike about the current layout in Zone 5?

The original rationale for the remodelling of Tin Ghaut was to provide a turning point for vehicles during times when the bridge is shut to road traffic. Without an understanding of how the road layout, signage and signalling is to work in this

location, it is difficult to comment on the scale or shape of the proposed loop. It does appear that the car illustrated on it is facing in the 'wrong' direction – but this may be unintentional. It is nevertheless unclear if there is sufficient room for larger vehicles to manoeuvre in this space to make a U-turn.

The suggested 'arch' is sketchy and gimmicky. It is difficult to assess the rationale for this or to see how it contributes to the positive impact of these proposals.

The 'tiled benches' currently on New Quay Road and other locations around the harbour are not appropriate in their current locations and certainly should not be relocated or replicated here. Whatever landscaping is undertaken must ensure that the area is not used for drinking or as a potential focus for antisocial behaviour.

What will be the impact of trees in this location on street cleansing, due to dogs, bird fouling, leaf sap and autumn? Will this cause additional nuisance and cost? What species of trees are proposed. Will these be hardy to the location and maritime climate? If planting is proposed into the ground, what will be the effect on pipes, cables and other services, to potential subsidence affecting neighbouring buildings and to the maintenance of the footpath?

23. What do you like or dislike about the current layout in Zone 6?

The junction improvements, particularly for exit from Larpool Lane and Spital Bridge are welcome. It is important that the lights at this junction are demand sensitive so that disruption to through traffic on the A171 is constrained to times where demand is high from the two side-roads.

This has to be done competently as a highway project or chaos will ensue here. The town council needs to see the plans in close detail to ensure that it will not cause more frustration and anger as happens now when the bridge is closed to traffic.

24. Do you think the overall design will improve your experience of Whitby?
Please explain your answer

The design of road and pavement surfaces, street furniture and signage will be the determining factor. We expect a harmonious approach, in keeping with the conservation area principles, which promotes sympathetic and inspiring design and includes detailing which enhances Whitby's public realm for residents and visitors alike.

In particular, the improvement of signage to inform and manage vehicle movements on the east and west sides, which intercepts motorists at appropriate points to guide them effectively to their destinations, depending on the status of the Swing Bridge, and which is updated with information about congestion and parking is fundamental to making this scheme work effectively.

After three years of intrusive and shoddy temporary signage, this scheme must demonstrate first class design principles and best quality materials throughout. The artist's impressions that are part of the consultation are inadequate and provide unsatisfactory assurance that the detailing and finishes will be suitable or appropriate.