

**PLANNING & HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE**

**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> August, 2023 at 10am held in the Council Chambers, London Rd, Halesworth**

**Present:** Councillors: P Hedges (Chair), M Took, D Fosdike and A Cackett.

In Attendance: P Welby (Assistant Town Clerk) and Cllr A Dunning.

**Minutes**

1. **Apologies** – Cllr Took entered the meeting at 10:55
2. **Declarations of Interests** - None
3. **Minutes of the last meeting** – The minutes of the last meeting on the 26<sup>th</sup> July 23 were agreed.
4. **Matters arising** – Cllr Hedges will write to the District Cllrs to ascertain whether they would take up the matter of developers clearing sites before conducting biodiversity surveys for planning applications. He will also ask why the Wissett Rd site was not referred to the Planning Committee.
5. **Highways Working Group** – Cllr Dunning in her SCC role would like to work with members of the Town Council to change the Traffic Regulation Orders for Norwich Rd and parts of Blyth Rd industrial estate. The suggested change would be to add double yellow lines to the bridge on Norwich Rd to prevent parking and single yellows near the school to prevent parking there all day. This would make the traffic flow better along Norwich Rd and prevent congestion at school drop off and pick up times. The Traffic Regulation Order for Blyth Rd industrial estate would prevent cars from being left all day in certain parts of the estate which will help the delivery HGVs and large machinery being moved around. Cllr Dunning would also like to see a Community Self Help group being formed which would take on the tasks of cleaning road signs and highlighting broken signs for replacement. There is training and funding available through the scheme that will also cover the equipment. Cllr Hedges proposed that the two suggested TROs would be explored by the Highways Working Group and that this group would look to establish a Community Self Help group. This was seconded by Cllr Cackett. All agreed. The Highways Working Group would consist of Cllrs Dunning and Fosdike with the addition of members of the public to form the Community Self Help group. Clerk to help with terms of reference.
6. **Planning Applications:** To consider the following:  
  
[DC/23/3166/FUL](#) Change of use from class sui generis (c) linen service to C3 residential 41 Mount Pleasant Halesworth – *No objections from the Committee.*

[DC/23/2936/VOC](#) Variation of Condition Nos. 8, 9, 10, 18, 34 and 35 of DC/21/0027/FUL - Hybrid Planning Application for Retirement Community development Halesworth Campus (Former Halesworth Middle School Site – *The Committee were disappointed with the new layout and agreed with the ESC Officer that the plans were less*



*aesthetically pleasing having been revised for cost reasons. However, there were no material planning reasons for objections.*

[DC/22/3313/FUL](#) Temporary ground mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) farm with battery energy storage; along with continued agricultural use, ancillary infrastructure, security fencing, landscaping provision, ecological enhancements and associated works. | Land To The North Of Gray's Lane Wissett – *The plans for this had been altered with a reduction in the number of panels, however this did not change the Committee's concern with construction traffic using the Wissett Rd/Norwich Rd junction and the single track bridge on Halesworth Rd. The Committee also supported both Wissett and Rumburgh Parish Councils with their overall concerns.*

7. **Thoroughfare Working group** – The working group has now written to the Thoroughfare businesses regarding the enforcement of the TRO. The permits for residents are still being discussed. There is a leaflet to go to businesses, residents and for information in the Library to outline the TRO and what it means for drivers in the Thoroughfare.  
The Bollard Project has stalled slightly with the loss of the original artist. The group will be advertising for another to take the lead on the project.  
The Marketing Coordinator for Halesworth has been appointed.
8. **Wayfinding Project** – Tenders for the project have been received from a wide range of companies who have completed work on a local level and nationally. There is a meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup> September to go through these and start shortlisting.
9. **Correspondence** – an email had been received by Cllrs regarding repairs to the road in Old Station Rd. Cllr Cackett will forward the email to Cllr Dunning's SCC address.
10. **News Items:** None this month.