

THORNBURY TOWN COUNCIL

REPORT of the Meeting of the Planning & Town Development Committee
held on Tuesday 26 October at Council Chamber, Town Hall at 7:30pm

Present: Cllr Maggie Tyrrell (Chairman)
Cllr Bob Griffin
Cllr Shirley Holloway
Cllr Chris Davis
Cllr Jayne Stansfield
Adrian Savery (Chamber of Commerce)

Cllr Clive Parkinson (non-committee member)

Louise Powell (Town Clerk)
Hannah Cornford (Minutes)

Absent: Cllr Martin Trueman
Cllr Ashley Bijster
Cllr Eva Fielding

1. **TO RECEIVE ANY APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr James Murray (another work commitment)

2. **TO RECEIVE ANY MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none.

3. **TO RECEIVE ANY REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

There was one present who wished to listen and not speak.

4. **TO APPROVE THE REPORT OF THE MEETING HELD ON 26.10.21 AND
CONSIDER ANY MATTERS ARISING THAT ARE NOT CONSIDERED
ELSEWHERE ON THE AGENDA**

Cllr Davies proposed the minutes to be an accurate record, seconded by Cllr Stansfield and all were in favour.

5. **TO CONSIDER FURTHER THE TOWN COUNCIL RESPONSE TO SOUTH
GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNCIL'S PROPOSALS FOR THE HIGH STREET**

Cllr Parkinson introduced the item, having proposed that it should be put on tonight's agenda, following comments from the last full Council meeting and also those made at the Town Meeting of electors on 06.10.21. He felt there was a lot of misunderstanding from some people in the town as to the extent that Thornbury Town Council can have a say in what happens. Thornbury Town Council has no duty, scope or power over highways in the Town – this is within the remit of South Gloucestershire Council. We objected strongly when the High

Street was closed without asking for any comment from Thornbury Town Council. The Town Council had first heard about the closure at the Town Centre Partnership meeting last June. We had no forewarning and have no power to stop it now, as long as South Glos Council follow correct procedures. Following the closure, Thornbury Town Council asked South Gloucestershire Council for a series of meetings with the aim of getting a menu of options for residents. They had agreed to these meetings, but none were forthcoming. The Town Council have had no more meetings with South Glos than other interest groups. We have no further ability for input than other interest groups, but Cllr Parkinson was pleased that these groups had been able to make comments.

Cllr Parkinson had attended the Town Meeting of electors on 06.10.21 and a query had been raised by attendees concerning whether South Glos Council had followed their own rules on traffic regulations. He outlined a course of action that he would like the Committee to take forwards: that Thornbury Town Council write to South Gloucestershire Council asking if they have carried out the necessary assessments in relation to the traffic orders on the High Street and in particular:

- Traffic Impact Assessment – to include the effect on adjacent roads i.e. the mini roundabout at the Rock Street/Midland way junction
- Environmental Impact Assessment – to include increased traffic fumes on adjacent roads
- Economic Impact Assessment – to include the effect on the Thornbury economy and particularly the High Street and associated businesses.

If South Gloucestershire have undertaken these assessments, copies are requested by Thornbury Town Council.

Cllr Holloway would like to feel that people of Thornbury understand that we have taken care over our response. She had received a letter from a resident which had been heart-breaking. She felt we had done nothing to cause such unpleasantness and would like to come to a halfway agreement. She would like a one-way solution to be considered, which may stop the flooding of traffic onto Rock Street. People would then understand that we are trying to find an answer. Cllr Holloway felt there was no point working against the public and felt strongly that we should be working to help.

Cllr Stansfield explained there were two sides to the argument. She had personally dealt with letters from people who like it closed to through traffic and recognised that a significant number of these people felt intimidated by others in the town. There was bad behaviour happening from people who are intimidating those with another point of view.

Cllr Davies felt it was difficult to reach an accommodation with the town. He did have sympathy with those negatively affected and was surprised at the strength of feeling. The original proposal, developed in haste, was very different to what we have now. We may or may not be able to get any more out of South Gloucestershire Council, e.g. disabled bays, but the current proposal is much more accommodatory than the original.

Cllr Tyrrell stated that South Glos Council have made their decision. We now have to work with that decision to try and make the best of it. South Glos cannot legally reverse that decision unless they have new information that requires it, within 6 months of making the order. We now have to comment on the current traffic orders, as if we ignore them, South Gloucestershire Council can do what they want. We have to make sure that they are doing things properly and work with them to reflect the varied views of the town. Cllr Tyrrell proposed to proceed with Cllr Parkinson's outlined action, seconded by Cllrs Stansfield and Griffin and all Councillors were in favour.

Cllr Holloway acknowledged that there were two strongly opposing opinions. She felt that it was not helpful that the South Gloucestershire Council were all Conservatives who don't live in the area. They don't understand the depth of feeling in Thornbury and are disconnected

from the area their decision concerns. There are no ward councillors on the Cabinet and the ward councillors had not been consulted either.

Cllr Griffin asked the Clerk if we'd had a response to the list of questions asked at the previous Planning & Town Development Committee meeting. The Clerk responded that we had not. South Glos Council had acknowledged her email and replied that they were working with consultants to give a formal response and would do so in due course. They would, if wished, also attend the next Planning & Town Development Committee meeting in November. It was agreed that all Town Councillors would be made aware of their upcoming attendance.

Cllr Tyrrell explained the process at South Glos Council of responding to such queries. She stated there had been no consultation at all of the ward councillors before making the decision to close the High Street. They had been told by an officer and had never had a meeting with the members of the Cabinet. They had one meeting with Toby Savage who agreed that we could have a working group but it never happened. They had two meetings with different officers each time and nothing had happened afterwards.

Cllr Tyrrell also felt that people don't realise what they can do on the High Street – traffic can come through if it has business in the High Street.

Adrian Savery wanted the answers to the questions asked at the last Planning & Town Development meeting as quickly as possible for the Chamber of Commerce. The Clerk assured him they would be published when received.

The Monday after the High Street was closed to through traffic, Cllr Griffin had attempted to talk to South Glos Council about it, but reported he had been told it was not his business.

6. TO CONSIDER THE SCHEDULE OF PLANNING AND LICENSING APPLICATIONS

The planning applications were considered and commented on, as per the attached schedule.

7. TO NOTE THE SCHEDULE OF PLANNING APPLICATION DECISIONS MADE BY SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNCIL

The decisions were noted. Councillors noted that the land at Crossways had been signed off, and that South Gloucestershire Council had refused the application for 19 Ashgrove, which the Committee had objected to.

8. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN FOR THORNBURY

The Clerk updated Committee that the plan was with the inspector. They had made one query that the secretary, chair and Lemon Gazelle had replied to with relevant evidence.

Cllr Parkinson felt that we should extend immense thanks to the secretary and chair for the huge amount of work that they had put in, especially during lockdown. We will need a review group soon and he hopes that the original people will stay on board for that.

9. TO CONSIDER AND AGREE ANY COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE COMMITTEE

It was agreed to communicate that the Committee is writing to South Gloucestershire Council again about the response to the questions asked surrounding the traffic orders, and that Donna Winham would be coming to the next Planning & Town Development meeting in November.

DRAFT

THORNBURY TOWN COUNCIL

PLANNING APPLICATIONS considered at the meeting of 26.10.2021

DATE	REF NO	LOCATION	PROPOSAL	COMMENT	PLANNING DECISION
06.10.21	P21/06528/TCA	30 Gloucester Road, Thornbury, South Gos, BS35 1DG	Works to trees as per the attached schedule of works (section 5 of application form) received by the Council on 6th October 2021	No objection, subject to the Tree Officer's approval	
13.10.21	P21/00611/PDR	23 Foxglove Close, Thornbury, South Gos, BS35 1UG	Erection of single storey rear extension to form additional living accommodation	No objection	
18.10.21	P21/06631/F	32 Cumbria Close Thornbury South Gloucestershire BS35 2YE	Erection of 2 no traditional rear dormer windows and installation of 3 no front roof lights to facilitate loft conversion. (Amendment to previously approved scheme P20/16951/F)	Object: poor quality of design, out of character with the area and overlooking neighbours.	
18.10.21	P21/00132/F	Vine Cottage, Clay Lane, Thornbury, South Gos, BS35 3UA	Erection of an agricultural storage building	No objection	
18.10.21	P21/06672/F	8 Elmdale Crescent, Thornbury, South Gos, BS35 2JH	Demolition of existing conservatory and detached garage. Erection of a single storey rear extension and two storey side extension to form additional living accommodation	Object: over development	
20.10.21	P21/06663/F	Crossways Junior School, Knapp Road, Thornbury, South Gos, BS35 2HQ	Installation of Multi Use Games Area with 2m high metal mesh fencing and associated works	No objection	

26.10.21	P21/05249/F	Plough Inn, 3 Quaker Lane, Thornbury, South Glos, BS35 2AD	Erection of first and second floor extensions to form self contained flat and internal alterations to existing skittle alley to facilitate the conversion to self contained flat, and associated works	No objection, subject to approval of the Conservation Officer for the design and materials, as the building is listed and adjacent to a Conservation Area.	
26.10.21	P21/05248/LB	Plough Inn, 3 Quaker Lane, Thornbury, South Glos, BS35 2AD	Erection of first and second floor extensions to form self contained flat and internal alterations to existing skittle alley to facilitate the conversion to self contained flat, and associated works	No objection, subject to approval of the Conservation Officer for the design and materials, as the building is listed and adjacent to a Conservation Area.	

DRAFT