

Western Area Planning Committee

MINUTES OF THE WESTERN AREA PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 15 JULY 2026 AT COUNCIL CHAMBER - COUNTY HALL, BYTHESEA ROAD, TROWBRIDGE, BA14 8JN.

Present:

Cllr Stewart Palmén (Chairman), Cllr Christopher Newbury (Vice-Chairman), Cllr Ernie Clark, Cllr Andrew Davis, Cllr Andrew Griffin, Cllr Bill Parks, Cllr Mike Phillips, Cllr Chris Vaughan, Cllr Nigel White, Cllr Peter Wragg and Cllr Julie Vine (Substitute)

Also Present:

Cllr Boaz Barry, Cllr Chris Brautigam, Cllr Mel Jacob, Cllr Liz Alstrom, Cllr Robert Smith, Cllr Clare Cape and Cllr Ian Thorn

39 **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllr Charlie Stokes, who was substituted by Cllr Julie Vine.

40 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 June 2026 were presented for consideration, and it was,

Resolved:

To approve and sign the minutes as a true and correct record.

41 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of disclosable interest.

42 **Chairman's Announcements**

There were no announcements.

43 **Public Participation**

The rules on public participation were noted.

44 **Planning Appeals and Updates**

An update on planning appeals received or determined since the last meeting was provided, including the dismissal of two permission in principle appeals. The Committee was advised that the council's five-year housing land supply

had increased from 2.42 years to 2.8 years, but it remained significantly below the 5-year requirement.

Resolved:

To note the update.

45 **Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981: The Wiltshire Council Parish of Longbridge Deverill Path No.15 (part) Definitive Map and Statement Modification Order 2026**

Public Participation

Alison Da Silva spoke in objection to the Order.

Craig Harlow, Definitive Map Officer, presented a report recommending that the listed order be forwarded to the Secretary of State with the recommendation it be confirmed without modification. Details were provided of the council's legal duty to keep the definitive map and statement under review, the history of the order application, the legal tests which must be applied and considerations which could not be taken into account such as cost, environment concerns and public safety, and historical information relating to the application including evidence dating back to 1795.

One member of the public then addressed the Committee with their views, as detailed above.

The Local Member, Cllr Christopher Newbury, spoke in support of the Order.

Members of the Committee had the opportunity to ask technical questions. Details were sought on the number of other Orders awaiting determination and the age of the application.

In a short debate, a comment was made that the objections from the landowner were noted, but it was considered the evidence for the Order was clear and there was no material reason to object. Accordingly, it was appropriate to forward the Order to the Secretary of State as required, with a recommendation it be approved without modification.

At the conclusion of debate, and on the motion of Cllr Newbury, seconded by Cllr Bill Parks, it was therefore,

Resolved:

The Wiltshire Council Parish of Longbridge Deverill Path no.15 (part) Definitive Map and Statement Modification Order 2026 is forwarded to the SoSEFRA with the recommendation that it is confirmed without modification.

PL/2026/02958: Wiltshire Council, County Hall, Bythesea Road, Trowbridge, BA14 8JN

Public Participation

Kellie-Jay Keen spoke in objection to the application.

Tanya Maidment spoke in objection to the application.

Phoenix Stewart spoke in support of the application.

Liz Alstrom spoke in support of the application.

Andrew Thomas, Planning Officer, presented a report which recommended approval be granted for display of a Progressive Pride flag for no more than five days in a calendar year, for the next five years. The legal requirements for advertising consent and policy considerations were explained, along with summaries of the comments from the public. The key issue for advertising consent was impact upon amenity or public safety, and officers considered there was no unacceptable impact on those grounds.

Members of the public then had the opportunity to address the Committee with their views, as detailed above.

The Local Member, Cllr Stewart Palmén, then spoke in support of the application, highlighting the very limited material considerations that applied for advertising consent.

Members of the Committee then had the opportunity to ask technical questions of the officer. Details were sought on why officers considered there was no impact on highways safety, the visibility of the proposed new flag and whether it would have any unique impact compared to other flags, the distance from the flagpole to the public highway

In debate it was noted that there was already an existing flagpole at the application location, which was set well back from the public highway and had flown a variety of different flags for many years. It was argued there were therefore no material grounds for objection, and personal views towards the symbolic meaning of a particular flag were not relevant considerations for the committee, which would make any decision purely on planning terms. It was commented that any council policy on which flags should be flown from council buildings would be a matter for another body.

On the motion of Cllr Palmén, seconded by Cllr Ernie Clark, at the conclusion of discussion it was then,

Resolved:

That advertisement consent be granted subject to the following conditions:

1. The Progress Pride flag hereby approved shall only be displayed for a cumulative period of no more than five [5] days in any calendar year. This

consent shall expire at the end of a period of five [5] years from the date of this Notice.

REASON: To comply with Regulations 14 (7) and (8) of the Town and Country Planning (Control of Advertisements) (England) Regulations 2007.

2. The development hereby permitted shall be carried out in accordance with the following approved plans:

Application Forms, Location Plan, Progress Pride Flag detail received on 7th May 2026

REASON: For the avoidance of doubt and in the interests of proper planning.

3. No advertisement is to be displayed without the permission of the owner of the site or any other person with an interest in the site entitled to grant permission.

REASON: In exercise of Regulation 14(1) of The Town and Country Planning (Control of Advertisements) (England) Regulations 2007 to ensure adherence to the standard conditions set out under Schedule 2 of the Regulations.

4. No advertisement shall be sited or displayed so as to:

- (a) endanger persons using any highway, railway, waterway, dock, harbour or aerodrome (civil or military);
- (b) obscure, or hinder the ready interpretation of, any traffic sign, railway signal or aid to navigation by water or air; or
- (c) hinder the operation of any device used for the purpose of security or surveillance or for measuring the speed of any vehicle.

REASON: In exercise of Regulation 14(1) of The Town and Country Planning (Control of Advertisements) (England) Regulations 2007 to ensure adherence to the standard conditions set out under Schedule 2 of the Regulations.

5. Any advertisement displayed, and any site used for the display of advertisements, shall be maintained in a condition that does not impair the visual amenity of the site.

REASON: In exercise of Regulation 14(1) of The Town and Country Planning (Control of Advertisements) (England) Regulations 2007 to ensure adherence to the standard conditions set out under Schedule 2 of the Regulations.

47 **Urgent Items**

There were no urgent items.

(Duration of meeting: 3.00 - 4.25 pm)

The Officer who has produced these minutes is Kieran Elliott - Democratic Services,
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