

## **NORTH WHITELEY DEVELOPMENT FORUM**

**Monday, 15 July 2024**

Attendance:

Councillors

Cllr Achwal V (Winchester City Council) (Chairperson)

Cllr Achwal S, Winchester City Council  
Cllr Lee, Winchester City Council  
Cllr Miller, Winchester City Council  
Cllr Porter, Winchester City Council  
Cllr Small, Winchester City Council

Cllr Wallace, Hampshire County Council  
Cllr Evans, Whiteley Town Council  
Cllr Cooper, Botley Parish Council  
Cllr Bodger, Curdridge Parish Council

Apologies for Absence:

Cllr Burton (Fareham Borough Council) and Cllr Pretty (Eastleigh Borough Council)

Deputy Members:

Cllr Foot (as deputy for Cllr Burton)

[Video recording of the meeting](#)

1. **APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRPERSON FOR THE 2024/25 MUNICIPAL YEAR**

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Evans be appointed vice-chairperson for the 2024/25 municipal year.

2. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were noted as above.

3. **DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS**

None

4. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON THE 15 FEBRUARY 2024**

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on the 15 February 2024 be approved and adopted.

5. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.**

David Leslie addressed the forum and raised several points regarding local bus service and the associated travel plans, which could be summarised as follows.

1. He referred to the Section 106 agreement and the framework travel plan, which he understood was subject to agreement by Hampshire County Council, but he could not find any amended versions of it.
2. He noted the travel plan mentioned potential bus services W1 and W2, which were forecast to run every 30 minutes to Hedge End and Botley Station, but did not.
3. He referred to Hampshire County Councils travel consultation, which indicated public dissatisfaction with the current bus services.
4. He highlighted financial allocations within the Section 106 agreement, including a £40,500 audit fee and a £2,698,000 travel plan deposit, questioning why these funds had not resulted in better service.

Jeff Davis from Tetra Tech responded, explaining the complexities of the travel plan and the bus service issues which could be summarised as follows

1. The plan was commissioned by developers to support the planning application. A travel plan coordinator from Hampshire County Council was appointed last year to produce the successor to the framework travel plan, expected by September 2024.
2. National issues, including COVID-19, delayed the bus service's start, leading to low take up. Efforts to tender a more attractive service had limited success, receiving only one bid from First Bus. The service was recommissioned for another year to evaluate its viability.
3. Despite attempts to improve the service, low passenger numbers and viability concerns persist, however the service would be reviewed again.

Other members of the Forum provided further input to the issue, including the following:

1. Concerns were raised about the new timetable no longer including the train station.
2. Suggestions were made to explore a bus service between Botley and Park Gate, which could meet demand for travel to the GP surgery, schools, and the train station.
3. It was emphasized the need for better connectivity and more proactive measures to integrate bus routes with existing transport and services, such as the Solent Transport travel app.
4. Better connectivity between Botley and Whiteley, highlighting the area's potential benefits and the necessity for joined-up transport solutions to reduce car journeys and support Hampshire's active travel initiatives.
5. A request for detailed information on the current bus service routes and schedules to ensure alignment with school times and to gather resident feedback for potential improvements.

6. **GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE FUTURE OF THE TOWN FORUM  
- VERBAL UPDATE - CHAIR**

The Chairperson introduced the agenda item on future governance arrangements for the Forum.

She advised that at the previous meeting of the Forum in February, it was agreed that discussions would be held among leaders of Fareham Borough Council, Winchester City Council, and Whiteley Town Council. These discussions, involving councillors representing Whiteley, aimed to determine a way forward following changes to Whiteley Town Council's parish responsibilities, which had expanded to cover the entire North Whiteley area in April 2023. The goal was to ensure the needs of North Whiteley residents were given greater consideration in future development discussions.

The general election had delayed these discussions. However, at the Winchester City Council Cabinet meeting on May 22<sup>nd</sup> 2024, it was agreed to trigger the six-month dissolution of the current forum. This decision was made in preparation for handing over to the new North Whiteley Forum, which would be supported by Winchester City Council officers and convened by Whiteley Town Council. The transition is subject to finalising the terms of reference for the new forum and any other necessary arrangements for the wider Whiteley area. The closure of the current forum and the transfer to Whiteley Town Council would be confirmed at the Winchester City Council September Cabinet meeting.

The Chairperson thanked all members, officers, and development partners on behalf of the Forum. Councillor Evans thanked Councillor Achwal, the officers and development partners for their contributions and hard work within the forum over the years and expressed a commitment to continue working closely with all in the future.

7. **DEVELOPMENT UPDATE - VERBAL UPDATE - JEFF DAVIES AND HILARY OLIVER**

Jeff Davis (Tetra Tech) provided the forum with a presentation which had been made available on the council's website. ([available here](#)) The presentation covered a range of issues, which included the following:

1. Development context and local highways.
2. Work on the Southern roads around Whiteley Way.
3. Phase 1 of the bus service which began in January 2023.
4. The potential proposal for additional double yellow lines to address parking issues.
5. Issues with legal agreements causing delays in construction, particularly for the strategic cycleway.
6. Visibility issues and legal complications had delayed the start of certain works until autumn 2024.
7. Significant culvert replacement works were ongoing, with completion expected by late 2025 or early 2026.

8. Phase 3 roads (Whiteley Way and Curbridge Way) had opened to through traffic in September 2023.
9. Housing delivery included detailed planning permissions and ongoing construction, with over 1500 houses occupied.
10. Secondary school construction was anticipated to start in spring 2025.
11. Updates on allotments, play areas, and landscape works were provided.
12. Review of bus services, focusing on optimizing usage and aligning with school journeys.

Hilary Oliver, Implementation Officer, Winchester City Council, addressed the forum and provided updates on the following

1. Youth sports pitches, community building applications, and allotment development.
2. The quicker-than-expected infrastructure developments, including adult sports pitches
3. The secondary school planning application.
4. The development of footpaths to improve accessibility and support infrastructure for the community.

Members asked several questions and made comments regarding the following:

1. Regarding cycle path lighting, it was asked about the non-functional lighting posts on the cycle path from North Whiteley to Botley station.
2. Regarding water leakage at Campion Road and Curbridge Way, it was questioned why there was water leakage in a newly built area with new water pipes etc.
3. Path Maintenance and Long-Term Infrastructure Management, it was suggested that a map indicating key infrastructure to ensure long-term maintenance could be useful.

These points were responded to by Jeff Davis, and Hilary Oliver accordingly.

Chairperson