

**MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 6TH AUGUST 2025 AT 7.00PM AT THE ALTON ASSEMBLY ROOMS**

Present: **Councillor** **Annette Eyre (Town Mayor)**
 Matthew Bayliss
 Mark Boyce-Churn
 Don Hammond
 Graham Hill
 Matthew Kellermann
 Richard Moore
 Nick O'Brien
 John Quincey
 Barbara Tansey

In attendance: **Tom Horwood** - **Town Clerk**
 Hayley Carter - **Deputy Clerk**
 208 Members of the public and press

37 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillors Roger Lamb and Janice Treacher

38 Town Mayor's Announcements

1. The Mayor welcomed councillors and the public and thanked everyone for attending.
2. She then reminded all those attending that in accordance with the Council's published Recording of Meetings Policy, as displayed on the doors and the table at the back of the hall, anyone wishing to make any recording of a meeting must let the Chair of the meeting know prior to or at the start of the meeting. If anyone does not wish to be recorded, they must make the Chair of the meeting aware. No filming of any member of the public is allowed without their consent, or of any child or vulnerable person without the consent of them and their parent, guardian or carer.

In accordance with the Local Government Act 1972 Schedule 12 paragraph 41 (1) only the official signed minutes of the council and its committees will be recognised as the formal, statutory and legally binding record of a meeting.

3. The Mayor reminded everyone that this is a council meeting, and that there is time provided for the public to speak during agenda item 4, but after this anyone wishing to remain to observe the proceedings should please remain quiet. During item 4 all those who have registered to speak will be allowed 3 minutes each.
4. Finally, she reminded everyone about Fun Fridays and Picnics in the Park, the ATC-organised events running in the Public Gardens throughout the Summer. The next Fun Friday is with Mini Explorers on 8th August and the band performing at Picnics in the Park on 10th August is the South Berks Concert Band.

39 **Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensation**

No declarations of interest were received.

40 **Correspondence Received and Questions to the Council**

40.1 A message was received through the ATC website contact page regarding agenda item 4, which was circulated to councillors on Tuesday 5th August 2025 and which read as follows:

“I am unable to attend the extraordinary meeting tomorrow 6/8/25 regarding planning applications in Holybourne due to a prior commitment. I would, however, like to make ATC aware of my objection to the application for 160 houses on the London Road site, primarily on over development, traffic congestion, damage to the historic nature of the village, flooding and sewerage issues. I have made my comments to EHDC but I hope the village of Holybourne will be supported by ATC in opposing this unacceptable over development in the village.”

40.2 Items 40.2 to 40.7 are several emails which were received from residents regarding agenda item 12, and which were circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting:

“Good evening,

I am writing to you regarding the traffic order proposal affecting 14-22 Spitalfields road.

To say how upset I am to have not even had any contact whatsoever from the council regarding this is extremely disappointing.

The new proposal is an accident waiting to happen, we have 80cm from our front door to the start of the curb, 90cm including it and a height of 6cm which makes it even easier for cars to mount the pavement.

The cars parked on the south side act as a buffer to the residents, their visitors and the general public including the vast amount of school children walking past twice a day.

I have seen cars approaching Spitalfields road from youngs road mounting the extremely narrow corner onto the pavement, if this proposal was to go ahead it's only a matter of time before someone is seriously hurt especially with the increasing amount of electric cars that you can barely hear coming.

I also have elderly parents, my father requires wheelchair assistance and with this proposal makes it terribly worrying as even at present it can be difficult to enter the property with the lack of width space but having the cars as they are now it acts as a safety net, my father is worrying about visiting in the future if this goes ahead as he says he won't feel safe which is very upsetting.

I myself have lived at this property for over 13 years and in that time not once has any of the residents had any problem with how it is.

I am strongly against this as I really do not see any benefits whatsoever, just more noise, fumes, and a much higher chance of an accident happening.

PLEASE do not let this absolutely insane proposition go ahead!"

40.3 *"Dear councillor Eyre,*

With reference to the proposed changes in parking regulations as above ref, I strongly object. In the interest of safety, the south pavement is 31 inches wide and in poor repair, children, pushchairs etc. Will be walking there with traffic rushing by, if parking is that side it provides a shield for pedestrians, close to several schools.

I live at X Youngs Road and have done for 33 years, I rented a garage in the now Marlow Court until we lost these despite objections. I am sure you know parking is at a premium, vehicles from Victoria Road spill into Youngs Road which forces us into Spitalfields Road and further. On a personal level, I am nearing 80 and although now fit and well wonder how long I will be able to walk a long distance to park. The situation at the moment works as well as anything can so we all wonder why it needs to change. I just hope common sense will prevail."

40.4 *"Hello Barbara and Annette*

Barbara may recall a conversation with me last year, in the graveyard, regarding the concerns of some Spitalfields Road residents after one resident wrote to me to say she had complained about cars parking outside our houses and was working with the County Councillor to have double yellow lines painted outside our homes.

This has now escalated to a proposed traffic order, which has instigated strong negative feeling from the other residents in the affected part of Spitalfields Road.

I know neither of you cover the Eastbrooke Ward but Richard Moore's email does not seem to be working. Please may I ask that you forward this email to the person who is covering the Eastbrooke Ward as I feel the town councillor needs to be aware of what is being proposed and see an example of an objection to this. I understand from the county councillor Andrew Joy that, as a statutory requirement, the town council will be consulted on this traffic order proposal.

Many thanks

Forwarded email:

Dear Sirs

My name is XXX and I live at X Spitalfields Road, Alton

I am writing to object to the Traffic Order Proposals for Spitalfields Road, Ref A2083/DL as follows:

No Waiting At Any Time:

Spitalfields Road – North Side. Between a point 40 metres west of its junction with Youngs Road and a point 16 metres south-west of that point.

Any additional no waiting zones on Spitalfields Road will reduce parking space.

Whilst I understand that there is no right to on road parking, any loss of spaces will have a negative impact on the residents of Spitalfields Road. This will have a knock-on effect on the residents of Chauntsingers Road, Youngs Road, Victoria Road, Victoria Road East, Eastbrooke Road, Nursery Road, Edward Road, St Lawrence Road as people seek parking spaces. The residents in and visitors to all these roads compete for parking spaces which often results in elderly people having to walk and carry shopping some distance to their homes from their cars.

When the schools are starting and finishing each day - Alton Infants School, Anstey Junior School, Bushy Lease Play Groups and Amery Hill, residents find it very difficult to park near the roads they actually live in. Spitalfields being one of the worst affected roads. To reduce parking spaces will make this even more chaotic and dangerous for the many pedestrians at this time.

No Waiting At Any Time:

Spitalfields Road - South Side. Between its junction with Youngs Road and a point 58 metres south-west thereof.

I object to this proposal for the following reasons:

A live lane of traffic would be located 90cm from the front doors and windows of nos 14 - 22 Spitalfields Road due to narrow footpath (90cm including curb) on the south side. This will bring increased traffic fumes, noise, and dirt to my house.

None of the houses directly affected by this proposal have front gardens. I rely on the parked cars as a 'buffer' between my house and moving traffic. The parked cars protect me when leaving my house on to a narrow footpath. The family dog, visiting children and visitors entering and leaving with pushchairs are also protected by having moving traffic located on the north side of the road.

Pedestrians walk daily along narrow footpath towards Anstey Junior school and Bushy Leaze Children and Family Centre with pushchairs, toddlers and young school children at a very busy time. The pavements are also busy with teenagers walking to and from Amery Hill. As the footpath is so narrow, pedestrians have to step into the road to get past each other. I walk to work during both school runs and this affects me directly. The recommended pavement width for two passing adults is 1.5m, the widest width of the pavement outside nos 14 to 22 is 90cm including curb. Pedestrians are currently protected by the parked cars and do not need to consider that they are stepping out into moving traffic. Parents often let their children run or scoot ahead, which means they would not always next to their parent when faced with the potential risk of a moving car or van so close to them.

Some residents on the south side have windows that open outwards, people, including myself, sometimes have to step close to or into the road to avoid walking into them.

The refuse trucks reverse down Spitalfields Road, stopping outside outside nos 20-21. They then idle whilst the refuse collectors work around Plevna Place and Spitalfields Road houses. Whilst currently not an issue, the refuse truck would be idling 90cm away from my front door and windows.

People, including myself, crossing over the junction of Spitalfields Road with Plevna Place, a very busy pedestrian walkway at school opening and closing, will have reduced visibility of oncoming traffic. Less time to react to oncoming traffic which can sometimes be fast moving (online shopping delivery vans in particular).

Residents of Marlow Court and Plevna Place who have parking behind their houses will have reduced visibility when pulling out of Marlow Court driveway if vehicles are parked on the north side.

Larger vehicles including delivery vans will have difficulty getting round the corner from Spitalfields Road to Youngs Road and from Youngs Road to Spitalfields Road. The only way to solve this would be to introduce more yellow lines on the north side of Spitalfields Road by Marlow Court and on the East side at the top of Youngs Road - reducing parking space. I am not aware of any other way to allow vehicles to swing left on Spitalfields Road to then allow them to successfully turn the corner. Currently, they are already positioned on the left hand side. When coming up front Youngs Road, they will need to swing to the north side of Spitalfields Road then angle across to the south side proposed live traffic lane. This concerns me hugely as, at this point, they will be driving towards my house.

Approaching vehicles will meet head-on on the same lane at the corner of Youngs Road and Spitalfields Road. If this does not result in a collision, vehicles need to reverse back along Spitalfields Road to give access as the traffic coming from Youngs Road cannot do this. This dangerous manoeuvre will be taking place unacceptably close to the houses due to the narrow 90cm footpath - and will result in even more risk if people are walking along the footpath.

Delivery vans, supermarket food delivery vans, taxis and takeaway delivery drivers often pull up on the pavement on the north side to make their deliveries or pick-ups. This will now transfer to them mounting the narrow pavement outside 14-22 Spitalfields Road, blocking access to the homes and emitting idling traffic fumes centimetres from doors and windows.

Some of the vulnerable residents on the north side, in the social housing, have sensitivity to noise and change.

It will be unsafe for the home owners of 14-22 Spitalfields Road to perform routine exterior cleaning and improvements eg window washing, exterior painting and repairs, gutter cleaning etc to the front of their homes. This will affect me directly. Although we have no right to perform these activities, they are normal needs of any homeowner and should be taken into consideration as currently there is no issue.

My Response to the Reasons given by the County Councillor for this Proposed Traffic Order

The reasons given for the changes to the no waiting at any time restrictions are to “address the concerns of vehicle exhaust fumes entering nearby properties and make improved access for pedestrians due to the narrowness of the pathway”.

I have worked from home since I bought my home in 2004, twelve years of these as an Ofsted Registered Childminder. During this time, I cared for babies and small

*children in my home aged 3 months +. The children slept in my downstairs front room. If there had been any issue regarding traffic fumes entering my home, noise from illegally idling vehicles or any issues regarding safety of the pavement outside the house, I would have spoken up many years ago. Not only for the protection of the children I cared for but to comply with the regulations I had to abide by under Ofsted. I continue to work from home in a different capacity and still do not suffer from traffic fumes or noise from idling vehicles. In addition, I do not understand how 'traffic fumes' from **parked** cars are solved by putting traffic fumes moving traffic in their place.*

I have never known access to the properties to have ever been an issue. Not even in medical emergencies. We have all managed to get sofas larger than ourselves into our houses. As a Registered Childminder, I would access my house with a double pushchair, two toddlers, a dog and several primary school children. I never experienced access issues and felt safely protected by the parked cars outside my home, separating me from moving traffic.

I rely on the parked cars and the fact that moving cars pass on the other side of the road for safety for myself and my home, particularly as I have no front gardens and the footpath is very narrow. Because of the narrowness of the pavement (the widest point is 90cm including curb) my house does occasionally gets knocked by a carelessly opened car door. However, my house is over 100 years old and bears no visible damage. I prefer the occasional knock of a car door to the prospect of a reversing vehicle, a vehicle mounting the pavement or a speeding delivery vehicle crashing into it, as they have regularly done into the wall outside 1 Plevna Place.

I wrote to the County Councillor over a year ago voicing my concerns after a Spitalfields Road resident informed me, in writing, they were "working with" him to change the current parking arrangements. I was assured, in writing, that no decision would be made until the following process had been followed:

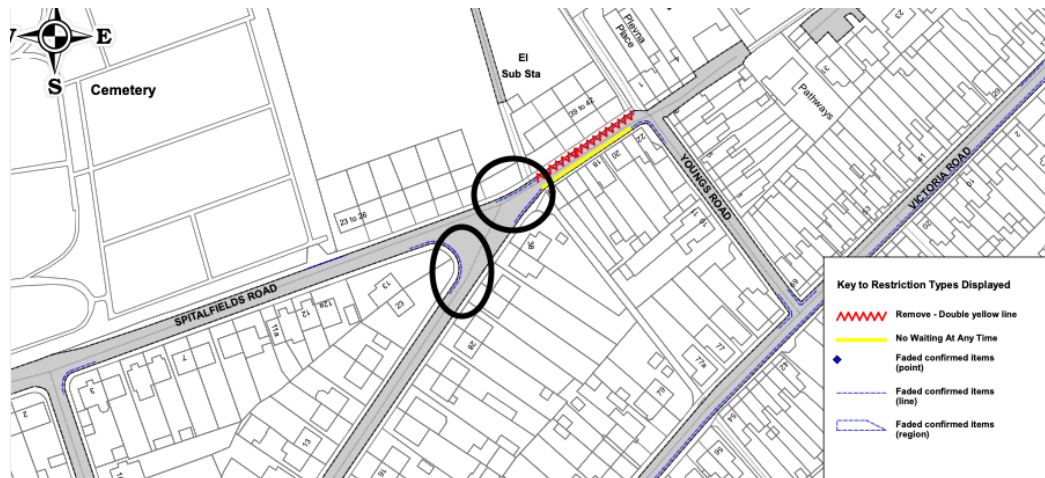
"Some thoughts/concerns regarding parking constraints on Spitalfields Rd, and elsewhere for that matter, have been brought to my attention but no conclusions or decisions have been reached. It will now be for the Traffic Management team to assess the situation objectively and decide whether or not and how to present any change for formal consultation. Statutory consultees include the Police and Emergency Services, the District and Town Councils and Ward Cllrs plus, of course, residents and the public. Safety and accessibility are always prime concerns. Contrary to the suspicion of some, decisions on matters of public safety and concern are made in accordance with professional assessment and the law."

In light of the above, I request that the reports issued by the traffic/road engineers, the Police and Emergency Services and the reports submitted by the District and Town councils and Ward Councillors are supplied to the residents of nos 14-22 and nos 39-42 Spitalfields Road and made available to the public.

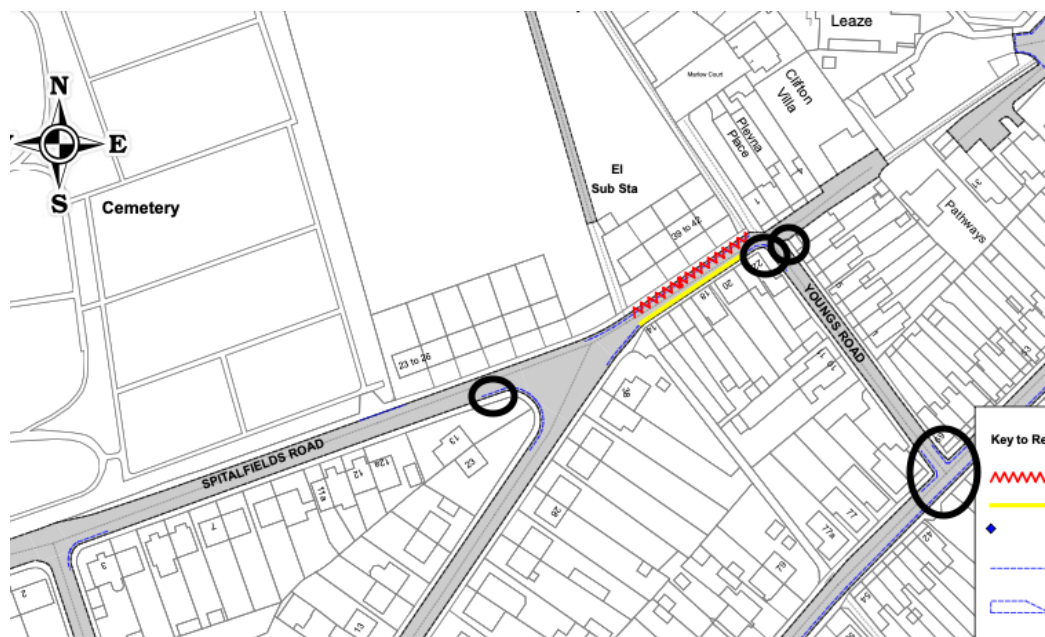
Other Items Relevant to Spitalfields Road Traffic and Parking

Whilst writing, I would also like to object to any reinstatement of double yellow lines in the following ringed areas below. The junction is very wide and offers excellent visibility and access, even when cars or vans are parked in these areas.

The yellow lines were covered in tarmac in 2018 and there have been no accidents, incidents or issues with vehicles parking in these areas:



I do however support no waiting at any time in the ringed areas below to improve traffic access and safety:



My suggestion to improve the traffic in the Spitalfields Road Area between nos 14 and 22

No waiting in the marked areas of my bottom map above, only.

Keep parking between nos 14 and 22 (39 to 42) as it is now.

Make Youngs Road and the section of Spitalfields Road between nos 14 and 22 (39 to 42) one way.

Two Final Comments to support my Objection

When I purchased my house at X Spitalfields Road, I was aware of the fact it was an older house, with a narrow pavement and vehicles parking right outside it. I made my decision to purchase my house with these factors in mind and remain happy with that decision. Anyone moving to this area will have carried out necessary due diligence and bought their property in acceptance of the same factors.

*The yellow lines outside nos 39 to 42 Spitalfields Road (the north side) were tarmac'd over in 2018. Since that time, they have simply not existed. If traffic fumes and engine idling were a true issue, if the residents had felt that safety of themselves, their houses or the passing families/children could have been improved, if we felt that vehicle access around the corner to Youngs Road would be made safer or easier or if access into our homes needed improving... no matter how small that improvement was ... **we would have just started parking that side of the road anyway!***

XXX

Resident of:

*X Spitalfields Road
Alton*

Since 2004"

40.5 "Good Afternoon,

I have been asked to send in a copy of our objection letter to you.

I would also like to add 2 points following our conversation with Mr Joy,

1: no cars have crashed into Spitalfields houses as he seems to believe or has been led to believe.

2: we are not related to anyone in the Spitalfields houses but a resident of nearly 13 years in Youngs road.

Regards,

Attached letter:

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Objection to Proposal A2083/DL – Spitalfields Road / Youngs Road

We are writing to formally object to the proposed amendment outlined in reference A2083/DL concerning Spitalfields Road and Youngs Road.

This proposal appears illogical and raises significant safety concerns, while offering no alternative provision for the loss of essential resident parking. We understand that this amendment may have been initiated by a single resident of Spitalfields Road on aesthetic grounds; however, it is important to note that the overwhelming majority of residents are strongly opposed to this proposal.

Safety Concerns

The proposed changes would render the corner of Spitalfields Road and Youngs Road extremely difficult to navigate. The turning radius required would be inadequate, particularly for larger vehicles such as emergency services (fire and ambulance) and refuse collection lorries. The corner is already problematic, and this proposal would worsen the situation, potentially increasing the risk of traffic incidents. Furthermore, during peak school drop-off and pick-up times, the narrowing of this junction would likely force drivers to mount the pavement in order to complete their turn, placing pedestrians – including schoolchildren – at significant risk.

Parking Impact

Parking availability in and around Spitalfields Road, Youngs Road, and Victoria Road is already severely limited, with residents frequently having to circle the area multiple times to find a space. This proposal is expected to result in the loss of approximately 14 parking spaces. There appears to be no provision within the plans to address this loss, which will only exacerbate an already challenging situation for residents.

From a personal perspective, we are both paramedics, one of us for the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Air Ambulance. Driving round looking for parking at unsocial finish times, after traumatic 12-hour shifts is already an added stress, not to mention the need for parking during the day post night shifts whilst asleep and an on-call duty manager component to the air ambulance role. These proposed restrictions would cause further harm to our wellbeing, far beyond an individual's aesthetic concerns for their property.

Conclusion

In light of the serious safety implications and the lack of consideration for affected residents, I respectfully urge you to reconsider this proposal. The current plans appear to be driven by the preference of a single individual and do not reflect the needs or concerns of the broader community.

I look forward to your response and to the opportunity for this matter to be reviewed with full consideration of resident input and safety data.

Yours faithfully,"

40.6 "Hi,

I am a resident of Youngs Road and have concerns about the proposed change to the double yellow lines in the Spitalfields road area.

As you may already know parking around here is very limited and I think the change is only going to make the matter worse from what I can see in the plans.

Driving up our road on the left and then round a tight corner to drive along Spitalfields road on the left where the cars are currently parked will mean vehicles have to cut the corner up the pavement on the left not only getting close to the house on the corner (no.X) but putting the pedestrians at risk of getting hit (my daughter will be walking that way to Amery Hill and is obviously my primary concern).

Having cars parked along the narrow pavement is also better for pedestrians than cars driving along it, I'm sure larger vehicles/delivery vans will mount the narrow pavement again putting pedestrians and the houses along there at risk.

*What are the reasons for the change?
Can you let me know your thoughts on the concerns I have please.*

Many thanks”

40.7 “Dear Annette

*I am writing in response to the Traffic Order Proposals for Spitalfields Road,
Reference: A2083/DL*

My property is X Spitalfields Road, Alton, Hampshire GU34 2DU

Firstly, I do not understand what has necessitated this proposal as the present system has operated very well since I bought my property in 2012. I understand that living in a terraced property can involve parking issues but when I purchased the property I understood that there would be potential parking directly outside the house and in addition I was able to rent a garage in what has now become Marlow Court.

The proposals will impact parking which is already congested for residents and will be exasperated further if your plans come to fruition. Cars have become larger (reducing space) and many local residents have dropped the kerb which has reduced car parking spaces even further. One small illustration is when I teach an evening class in Farnborough and arrive home after 9.30 I often have to park several streets away from where I live. I am also concerned about the safety of my vehicle which has been “keyed” presumably for parking by the flats in Spitalfields Road. The suggested reinstatement of double yellow lines at the junction between Chautsingers and Spitalfields roads would also remove some additional parking spaces for local residents.

I am even more concerned to find that cars will now be driving past my front door which opens directly onto a narrow pavement and the road. This will increase the noise level and endangers residents and potential damage to property. A parent trying to negotiate a pram or pushchair would be pushing it into the road and potential traffic. A similar problem will occur for residents wishing to carry out repairs to their property such as painting and decorating as well as general maintenance. At the moment, the parked cars provide some protection for both residents and pedestrians.

I do feel very alarmed about the proposals and would therefore like my objections to be taken fully into account before introducing a scheme that will have a negative impact upon the quality of my life in Alton and many other local residents.

Yours sincerely,”

- 40.8 Re agenda item 5: Jerry Janes of the Holybourne Village Association (HVA) thanked the Council for meeting in August. He then thanked councillors, officers, and the hundreds of members of the public for coming out this evening and said it clearly demonstrates the level of concern in the village.

He went on to draw attention to the richness of variety in the UK that offers people different types of places in which to live; from hamlets and country villages to big cities and everything in between. The people in Holybourne choose to live in this small rural village, and do not want it to be overrun with houses and become just another part of the town. It is imperative that we hang on to this diversity and allow people the choice of where they live.

- 40.9 Re agenda item 5: John Bound had presented to the Council prior to the meeting as part of the HVA but summarised here that the key point is that this is a very constrained and special site. Despite the impression given in the media there is not a planning free-for-all and the HVA are asking the Town Council to object to this application. The application represents a disproportionate development of Holybourne.
- 40.10 Re agenda item 5: Tim Carmichael thanked everyone for their time this evening. He said they are not the kind to normally protest or 'say no'. "There is substance to what we are saying. We want the community's voice to be heard and respected". He went on to point out that the Alton Neighbourhood Development Plan (ANP) is the Town Council's policies, and they should not go against it. The playground is an open space in Holybourne and is identified as important in this plan. It also recognises Holybourne as a rural community. The ANP went through a referendum in order to be adopted, and it would be democratically irresponsible to go against it. He added "We are looking for something proportionate. You took issue with the Local Plan and challenged it in November and we would ask you to do this again and challenge this application. It's not about us saying no to growth, it's about us saying be fair, be proportionate".
- 40.11 Re agenda item 8: Maggie Thirlway said that she agreed with everything that had previously been said about Holybourne but was actually here to speak about King's Pond. She lives in Waterside Court and said she chose to live there because of the open space. As the Council is proposing to make changes to the pond, she says a flood risk assessment should have been done.
- 40.12 Re agenda item 8: Jill Jenkins is another resident of Waterside Court. She said that she is opposed to any major changes to the pond. She would like to see the silt dealt with and see all phase 1 work completed before moving onto phase 2. She would also like to see flood risk assessments.
- 40.13 Re agenda item 8: Jancine Potts spoke about the swans. Normally the swans lay 5-7 eggs and have a mortality rate of around 50%. This year they hatched 9 and 8 have survived. She added "I think this should be applauded. Any reduction in the size of King's Pond would get rid of the swans as they need a long stretch to take off from. That is very short-sighted and I'm sure if we petition the King as owner of the swans, he would not be happy".
- 40.14 Re agenda item 8: Pat Willder also lives at Waterside Court and wants to know if a flood risk assessment has been done before anything is considered for King's Pond.
- 40.15 Re agenda item 5: Charles Buckley from Redbrown then spoke. He reiterated the thanks from Jerry Janes to the Council for meeting in August. He said it would be silly of them not to recognise that there are a lot of objections to their proposals.

They have made a lot of investment in the estate and in the area. They are not wanting to do a conventional development but have done three pre-applications with the planning authority. Redbrown believe very strongly that it is incumbent upon them to work closely with neighbouring people to come up with a scheme that is suitable. They want to engage. They can continue to make changes and they believe they can deliver this scheme and do a really good job.

- 40.16 Re agenda item 8: Madison Allen read out a note from Anthony Furnival who could not be at the meeting. He said he had previously been critical of councillors for not listening to the local people and that tonight, given the controversial items on the agenda the Council will be hearing from lots of people who are concerned for their local town. He wanted to object again to any more money being spent on the plans for the pond as he felt there had been no meaningful mandate from residents. He said that the people have not been given a voice. The Council should hold a referendum and agree to be bound by the result. This should not be the decision of councillors but should be the voice of the people.
- 40.17 Re agenda item 8: Will Seabury said that there was significant public opinion about King's Pond, and it would seem sensible to listen to the people of Alton before appointing contractors.
- 40.18 Re agenda item 12: Dian Sellers spoke about the proposed Traffic Order for the area around 14-22 Spitalfields, highlighting that the houses there have no front gardens and open directly onto the narrow pavement. She reiterated her objection which had already been copied to the Council and was in the correspondence received, above. She added that they rely on the parked cars to keep them and the children safe, and while they occasionally experience a car that leaves their engine running at school pick-up time it is normally someone with a baby in the car trying to keep the car warm and does not happen every day. She emphasised that she was not speaking about the whole proposal, only that for Spitalfields / Youngs Road. She added that the road is going to be highlighted as a safe walking and cycling route, but it would not be so if these changes were to go ahead, meaning moving vehicles were within 90cm of these houses.
- 40.19 Re agenda item 12: Brian Rubin is also a resident of Spitalfields Road and said he was not sure where this proposal had come from. Those who live there are really surprised and upset by this proposal. He reiterated Dian's point about how narrow the pavement is there and said he is about to become a grandparent and the thought of his daughter pushing a child down this pavement without the barrier of parked cars is very frightening. The proposals also remove parking from an area where there is already insufficient space.
- 40.20 Re agenda item 12: Heidi Stoodley said that she lives on the corner of Spitalfields Road and Youngs Road. This is a very busy corner with lots of schools. It is also a blind corner. The current situation is that, due to the cars parking along one side of the road it improves visibility when you come round the corner in a car. This proposal will mean you are going round a blind corner without being able to see what is coming and that will make it extremely dangerous. Cars clip the curb constantly at a point where families congregate with prams and pushchairs. With these proposals you will not be able to get round that corner without mounting the curb. Vehicles such as the bin lorry will be unable to get round it at all.

- 40.21 Re agenda item 8: Chris Morley thanked the council for the opportunity to address them. He said that Holybourne have his full support and added that the proposals were ‘absolutely bonkers’. He then asked the Council to put King’s Pond to a public vote before they spend any more money on it. He said, “you are spending public money hand over fist with no mandate, and it is madness”.
- 40.22 Re agenda item 8: Nathan Cuff spoke to say he is opposed to the current council’s strategy to pursue two options for King’s Pond. The pond should have been dredged five years ago, and this is just kicking the can down the road. He said he is curious why a referendum is being opposed or ignored and added that this level of detail is not needed to glean public opinion. He felt that nothing is being done in the meantime to maintain the pond.
- 40.23 Re agenda item 8: Steven Gough said that King’s Pond is an important place for him and his family and the idea of a clear chalk stream running around a smaller pond is a fallacy. Reducing the pond in size will impact all kinds of wildlife. All it needs is dredging. If silt traps were put upstream, he felt that the need for dredging would be reduced. He said that the pond should be maintained by a specialist in the first instance and then by a sympathetic Town Council. He finished by saying that he was not aware of any specialists reports and that is why he is opposed to the council moving onto the next stage.
- 40.24 County Councillor Andrew Joy said he was really privileged to be able to speak in front of this huge audience. He said a number of issues had been raised and it would be helpful to express a view on some of them from a Hampshire County Council perspective. He said there was a mistaken impression that he had asked for this traffic work to be done but that is not the case. He had just asked that when a review was done of areas in the town they consult fully with the public. That is now being done. HCC are consulting people on how traffic affects their lives and their ability to get around the town. He emphasised that it is really important that everyone’s views are heard and that residents’ views are fed in to officers to allow the proper assessments to be done and fed into the system.

With regards the Redbrown application he said that he has been trying to make sure that as a statutory consultee, Hampshire County Council comments on the traffic and drainage impacts of this application.

He finished by saying that he hoped he had allayed some of the concerns and that he is available on the phone or by email to anyone who wants to contact him directly to discuss anything further.

The Mayor, with permission of the councillors, moved item 12 up the agenda in light of the number of people who had attended to speak on the matter and the amount of correspondence received. It would therefore be considered just before item 8, following the three planning applications.

41 **Planning Application: EHDC-25-0748-OUT, Land To The Rear Of 136-150 London Road, Holybourne, Alton, Hampshire**

Councillor Hill proposed that councillors go through the planning checklist used for large applications to decide the Council's response to be submitted; this was seconded by Councillor Eyre.

The following comments were then recorded from Councillors:

Material Consideration	Designation / Issue	Response
Flood Zone	Environment Agency Indicative Flood Mapping and SFRA Area at Risk of Flooding	"Whole category of flood problems in this area. This proposal does not go far enough to mitigate the flood risk for this site."
Environmental Designations	Special Protection Area RAMSAR Site Site of Special Scientific Interest National Nature Reserve Site of Nature Conservation Importance	"This is a site of environmental sensitivity which is highlighted in the Local Plan. We should object on these grounds."
National Park and Landscape	National Park or AONB	N/A
Contamination or Unstable Land Issues	Land contamination or unstable land issues	N/A to this site
Noise Issues	Noise issues relating to existing land uses or transport corridors	No comments from councillors on this.
Residential Amenity	Location of site in relation to existing dwellings	"This development would change the character of the village completely from being a rural village to a suburb of Alton."
Historic Environment	Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM) Sites of Archaeological Importance Historic Park and Garden Conservation Area Listed building	"All five of these points apply to this site. There is a lot of history here and it is adjacent to the Conservation Area. 'Red' on all this!"
Highways	Traffic Impact Assessment Access to A and B roads Proximity to known points of traffic congestion	"Traffic counts need to be done over a period of time, with a reflection of a whole week, not just one day at certain times. Traffic impact assessments should be produced accordingly to give an accurate reflection of the impact on London Road. Access onto the site is extremely important and with only one way in this could be an issue, especially for emergency vehicles. There is an impact on safety along London Road as the pavements are very narrow."
Availability of community services such as Doctors Surgery, Dentist, Health Clinic	The scheme either provides for or has close access to community facilities	"The local NHS has declared that the two GP surgeries in the town have no spare capacity and there are no current plans to rectify that."

Infrastructure	The scheme either provides for or has close access to necessary infrastructure	"No infrastructure is being provided with this development. The playground is a replacement for a facility already in existence. The highways are not suitable for the increase in traffic."
Open Space	Provision of policy compliant Public Open Space (POS)	"The existing open space will be lost, and the replacement is simply a play space and not the public open space that the current one is with the views across the countryside. The current open space is identified in the Alton Neighbourhood Plan as being of particular importance and should not be lost."
Availability of utilities, Water, Gas, Electricity, Gas, Broadband, Telephone.	The scheme either provides for or has close access to a range of utilities	Unknown – no comments from councillors on this.
Availability of Educational facilities	The scheme either provides for or has close access to necessary education provision	"Andrews Endowed is an excellent school, but it is already at capacity. There do not appear to have been any comments yet from Hampshire County Council as statutory consultees about education provision or highways."
Foul and Surface water drainage	Adequate foul and surface water drainage must be in place	"Drainage is not sufficient in the village to cope with existing development and there is frequently flooding in Holybourne. The report from the drainage engineer shows that there are serious concerns over whether the system will cope."
Availability and conflict with other policies	Promoted sites, public land ownership, etc.	"The Public Open Space as highlighted in the Neighbourhood Plan."

Councillor Eyre therefore proposed an amendment to allow the officers present to pull together the comments and add in the relevant policy references to enable the objections to be submitted by the deadline of 11th August. This was seconded by Councillor Hill with all councillors voting in favour.

Thus, on the proposal of Councillor Eyre, seconded by Councillor Hill, it was

RESOLVED

To submit an objection to the application with officers pulling together the comments from councillors in the checklist above and relevant policy references, by the extended deadline of 11th August 2025.

Councillor Kellermann requested a recorded vote.

All councillors voted in favour.

Many members of the public chose this moment to leave the meeting and the mayor announced this would a good time to take a comfort break. The meeting was adjourned for ten minutes.

42 **Planning Application: EHDC-25-0718-FUL, The Queens Head, 20 London Road, Holybourne, Alton, Hampshire, GU34 4EG**

On the proposal of Councillor Eyre, seconded by Councillor Bayliss, it was

**RESOLVED to
Submit a response of NO OBJECTION to application EHDC-25-0718-FUL, The Queens Head, 20 London Road, Holybourne, Alton, Hampshire, GU34 4EG**

Councillor Kellermann requested a recorded vote.

All councillors voted in favour.

43 **Planning Application: EHDC-25-0711-FUL, Anstey Road Garage Anstey Road, Alton, Hampshire, GU34 2RD**

Councillor Bayliss proposed submitting a response, which was seconded by Councillor Eyre.

Concerns were raised over the increase in traffic movements at this location and the safety of pedestrians. This junction is already extremely busy, and the nature of this business would mean a high number of vehicles entering and leaving the premises. Hampshire Highways really need to do a proper assessment of the area prior to submitting a response. The Deputy Clerk was asked to contact the police to ensure they have responded and to ensure they submit any evidence of accidents at this section of road. A proposal was therefore put forward by Councillor Kellermann and seconded by Councillor Hammond that the response be an objection due to these concerns. All councillors voted in favour of this amendment. Thus, on the proposal of Councillor Bayliss, seconded by Councillor Eyre, it was

**RESOLVED
To submit an OBJECTION due to concerns over traffic movements and pedestrian safety.**

Councillor Kellermann requested a recorded vote.

All councillors voted in favour.

44 **Traffic Order Proposals – Prohibition Of Waiting, Various Roads, Alton, for consultation**

Councillor Moore proposed that a response be made from Alton Town Council, which was seconded by Councillor Hill.

As ward councillors, Councillors Moore and Tansey had received many emails from residents, objecting strongly to the proposals for Spitalfields Road and Youngs Road. Further emails had also been received by the Mayor. With several people also attending the meeting to speak during item 4, the strong feeling against these proposals was

acknowledged by councillors. An amendment was proposed by Councillor Bayliss: “to allow councillors to respond individually on the proposals and ATC to respond regarding Spitalfields Road and Youngs Road”. This was seconded by Councillor O’Brien. All councillors voted for the amendment and thus, on the proposal of Councillor Moore, seconded by Councillor Hill, it was

RESOLVED:

- 1. To submit an OBJECTION from Alton Town Council to the proposals for Spitalfields Road and Youngs Road**
- 2. For councillors to submit individual responses to any of the proposals as desired.**

Councillor Kellermann requested a recorded vote.

All Councillors voted in favour.

45 **To authorise a panel for contractors to present to with regards the next stage of the King’s Pond project**

Councillor Hammond proposed that Council authorise the Task and Finish Group (T&FG), along with officers, to form a panel (including councillors, up to two other members of the T&FG and the Town Clerk) to receive presentations from, and ask questions of, candidates for completing Stage 1 of the King’s Pond project, score the tenders, taking this information into account, and make a recommendation to the Full Council meeting on 3rd September. This was seconded by Councillor O’Brien.

In response to the public concerns raised earlier in the meeting, Councillor Hammond reiterated that, in accordance with a previous resolution by Council, ATC is investigating two options:

1. Dredging
2. Pond and River

Stage 1 is to do the designs and cost them in order to present both options to the people of Alton so they could make an informed decision. That includes a flood risk assessment.

This agenda item is only to form a panel to hear from the prospective candidates as part of the tender process and put a recommendation to Council in September.

He acknowledged that there are often people who speak passionately about the pond and the wildlife at the beginning of a meeting and it is good that they do come along and make their case. However, it was decided through democratic process to explore both options and allow the public every opportunity to contribute to any decision.

The recommendation and as such, this proposal, is to allow members of the T&FG who are not councillors to be involved in this process.

Councillor Kellermann proposed an amendment that: “no further money be spent on King’s Pond until the public has had their say”. This was seconded by Councillor Moore.

Councillor Kellermann referred to an estimate for the offline option that he stated was shared with him by the-then Town Clerk in 2023. He said that people can make a decision now about what they want to be done. It does not have to be an informed decision. People simply have a desire to keep the pond.

Councillor Hammond emphasised how important it was that people be properly informed and stressed that Alton Town Council is not putting forward either option but is investigating both options with an open mind, as promised. He reminded the meeting that when the public engagement was carried out in late 2024 the outcome was much more even than Councillor Kellermann was suggesting. All of the work done so far serves both options. Nothing has been done needlessly. The ecological and other surveys have to be done and permissions must be sought whichever option is taken forward after public consultation.

Councillor O'Brien added that lots of engagement has been carried out over the last few years and while most of the public who have spoken about King's Pond this evening want to keep the pond, there has been a great number throughout who want to see the pros and cons of both options and so it is important that councillors keep an open mind and do not make guesses about what the public will decide.

Councillor Kellermann said that the details of the principal motion were inconsistent with other paperwork, which was refuted by Councillor Hammond.

Councillor Kellerman stated that he suspected some of the studies already paid for had now expired, which was refuted by Councillor Hammond.

Councillor Bayliss stated that there is a great deal of support for looking at both options.

Prior to moving to a vote the Town Clerk pointed out that as the time was now 9.30pm, in order for the meeting to proceed further Council would need to suspend Standing Order 3x. Thus, on the proposal of Councillor Eyre, seconded by Councillor Kellermann, it was

RESOLVED

To suspend Standing Order 3x to allow the meeting to proceed.

Councillor Kellermann requested a recorded vote.

All councillors voted in favour.

The amendment was then voted on and with two votes in favour (Councillors Kellermann and Moore) and seven votes against it was not carried. Councillor Quincey abstained.

Councillor Moore then proposed a further amendment: "to postpone any further spending until October in order to allow Stage 1 to be completed". This was seconded by Councillor Kellermann.

Councillor Hammond emphasised that this spending was to allow Stage 1 to be completed and the amendment was therefore impossible as Stage 1 could not be delivered without spending more money.

Councillor Bayliss said he was struggling to distinguish between the two amendments and councillors were now repeating the same arguments. In light of the fact that the meeting had already been extended past the two and a half hour point he asked that they just move to a vote. Councillor Kellermann outlined the differences between the two proposed amendments to Councillor Bayliss, who accepted the explanation.

With two votes in favour (Councillors Kellermann and Moore) and seven votes against, the amendment was not carried. Councillor Quincey abstained.

Thus, a vote was taken on the original motion, and it was

RESOLVED

That Council authorise the Task and Finish Group (T&FG), along with officers, to form a panel (including councillors, up to two other members of the T&FG and the Town Clerk) to receive presentations from, and ask questions of, candidates for completing Stage 1 of the King's Pond project, score the tenders, taking this information into account, and make a recommendation to the Full Council meeting on 3rd September.

Councillor Kellermann requested a recorded vote.

In favour: Councillors Eyre, Bayliss, Boyce-Churn, Hammond, Hill, O'Brien, Quincey and Tansey

Against: Councillors Kellermann and Moore

46 **To approve the signing of the S106 Deed of Variation to enable the money to be used to refurbish the two pavilions at Jubilee Fields**

On the proposal of Councillor Eyre, seconded by Councillor Kellermann, it was

RESOLVED

To approve the signing of the Deed of Variation to allow the S106 monies from the development on Land to the east of Will Hall Farm, Basingstoke Road, Alton, to be spent on the refurbishment of the two pavilions at Jubilee Playing Fields.

Councillor Kellermann requested a recorded vote.

All councillors voted in favour.

47 **Christmas Lights Improvements Proposal**

Councillor Eyre proposed the four recommendations on the agenda. This was seconded by Councillor Kellermann.

Councillor Kellermann then proposed an amendment: "that any newly acquired decorations reflect the Christian nature of the festival". There being no seconder, this amendment was not carried.

Thus, on the proposal of Councillor Eyre, seconded by Councillor Tansey, it was

RESOLVED to:

- 1. add lighting to some of the trees between Boots and M&S**
- 2. add icicle lighting, where we can get permission, from Timeless to Clarks**
- 3. relocate the large Christmas tree from the Assembly Rooms to Market Square**
- 4. allow officers to negotiate the sale or exchange of the current Market Square tree or relocate it to the Public Gardens, and implement.**

Councillor Kellermann requested a recorded vote.

All councillors voted in favour.

48 **Consultations on Local Government Reorganisation**

Councillor Kellermann proposed that Councillors individually may respond to the two parallel consultations. This was seconded by Councillor Hill.

Councillor Bayliss proposed an amendment in addition as follows: “That the Town Clerk be authorised to formulate a response to the two Local Government Reorganisation consultations on behalf of Alton Town Council”. This would focus on the role of the most local tier of local government, urging that any new arrangements put in place respect the local democratic mandate of town councils and are not competitive or inefficient.

This was seconded by Councillor Eyre and all councillors voted in favour, thus, on the proposal of Councillor Bayliss, seconded by Councillor Eyre, it was

RESOLVED that:

- 1. Councillors submit individual responses to the two Local Government Reorganisation consultations
and**
- 2. The Town Clerk be authorised to formulate a response to the two Local Government Reorganisation consultations on behalf of Alton Town Council.**

Councillor Kellermann requested a recorded vote.

All Councillors voted in favour.

The meeting closed at 9.50pm