



WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

A Meeting of the **EXECUTIVE** will be held in David Hicks 1 - Civic Offices, Shute End, Wokingham RG40 1BN on **THURSDAY 27 JULY 2023 AT 7.00 PM**

Susan Parsonage
Chief Executive
Published on 19 July 2023

Note: Members of the public are welcome to attend the meeting or participate in the meeting virtually, in accordance with the Council's Constitution. If you wish to participate either in person or virtually via Microsoft Teams please contact Democratic Services.

The meeting can also be watched live using the following link:
<https://youtube.com/live/DLkSYioFkGU?feature=share>

This meeting will be filmed for inclusion on the Council's website. Please note that other people may film, record, tweet or blog from this meeting. The use of these images or recordings is not under the Council's control.

Our Vision
<i>A great place to live, learn, work and grow and a great place to do business</i>
Enriching Lives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Champion excellent education and enable our children and young people to achieve their full potential, regardless of their background. • Support our residents to lead happy, healthy lives and provide access to good leisure facilities to enable healthy choices for everyone. • Engage and empower our communities through arts and culture and create a sense of identity for the Borough which people feel part of. • Support growth in our local economy and help to build business.
Providing Safe and Strong Communities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect and safeguard our children, young and vulnerable people. • Offer quality care and support, at the right time, to reduce the need for long term care. • Nurture our communities: enabling them to thrive and families to flourish. • Ensure our Borough and communities remain safe for all.
Enjoying a Clean and Green Borough
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play as full a role as possible to achieve a carbon neutral Borough, sustainable for the future. • Protect our Borough, keep it clean and enhance our green areas for people to enjoy. • Reduce our waste, promote re-use, increase recycling and improve biodiversity. • Connect our parks and open spaces with green cycleways.
Delivering the Right Homes in the Right Places
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offer quality, affordable, sustainable homes fit for the future. • Ensure the right infrastructure is in place, early, to support and enable our Borough to grow. • Protect our unique places and preserve our natural environment. • Help with your housing needs and support people, where it is needed most, to live independently in their own homes.
Keeping the Borough Moving
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain and improve our roads, footpaths and cycleways. • Tackle traffic congestion and minimise delays and disruptions. • Enable safe and sustainable travel around the Borough with good transport infrastructure. • Promote healthy alternative travel options and support our partners in offering affordable, accessible public transport with good transport links.
Changing the Way We Work for You
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be relentlessly customer focussed. • Work with our partners to provide efficient, effective, joined up services which are focussed around our customers. • Communicate better with customers, owning issues, updating on progress and responding appropriately as well as promoting what is happening in our Borough. • Drive innovative, digital ways of working that will connect our communities, businesses and customers to our services in a way that suits their needs.
Be the Best We Can Be
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be an organisation that values and invests in all our colleagues and is seen as an employer of choice. • Embed a culture that supports ambition, promotes empowerment and develops new ways of working. • Use our governance and scrutiny structures to support a learning and continuous improvement approach to the way we do business. • Be a commercial council that is innovative, whilst being inclusive, in its approach with a clear focus on being financially resilient. • Maximise opportunities to secure funding and investment for the Borough. • Establish a renewed vision for the Borough with clear aspirations.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE EXECUTIVE

Stephen Conway	Leader of the Council and Executive Member for Housing and Partnerships
Prue Bray	Deputy Leader and Children's Services
Rachel Bishop-Firth	Equalities, Inclusion and Fighting Poverty
Lindsay Ferris	Planning and Local Plan
Paul Fishwick	Active Travel, Transport and Highways
David Hare	Health and Wellbeing and Adult Services
Sarah Kerr	Climate Emergency and Resident Services
Clive Jones	Business and Economic Development
Ian Shenton	Environment, Sport and Leisure
Imogen Shepherd-DuBey	Finance

ITEM NO.	WARD	SUBJECT	PAGE NO.
21.		APOLOGIES To receive any apologies for absence.	
22.		MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING To confirm the minutes of the Executive Meeting held on 29 June 2023.	9 - 18
23.		DECLARATION OF INTERESTS To receive any declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests, other registrable interests and any non-registrable interests relevant to any matters to be considered at the meeting.	
24.		STATEMENT FROM THE LEADER To receive a statement from the Leader of the Council.	
25.		PUBLIC QUESTION TIME To answer any public questions A period of 30 minutes will be allowed for members of the public to ask questions submitted under notice. The Council welcomes questions from members of the public about the work of the Executive Subject to meeting certain timescales, questions can relate to general issues concerned with the work of the Council or an item which is on the Agenda for this meeting. For full details of the procedure for submitting questions please contact the Democratic Services Section on the numbers given below or go to www.wokingham.gov.uk/publicquestions	

25.1

David Ireland has asked the Executive Member for Environment, Sport and Leisure the following question:

Question:

'Over the past five years litter has increased significantly at Chalfont Park , mainly due to the increased number of local food and drink takeaway outlets, Mc Donald's, KFC, Costa coffee, Domino's Pizza, Greg's, Subway, Asda. All outlets are only a few minutes' walk to Park area.

This increase has resulted in needing three bin collections a week for the summer months, just to keep the volume of litter from overflowing from the bins onto the surrounding areas.

Health and Safety issues going forward.

The Summer School holidays are coming soon and the park area will increased in usage, this in turn will increase the volume of litter also the weather forecast is to get much hotter.

Apart from the unsightly overflowing bins, two factors will have the following H&S effects.

1. Food spillage from the bins, increase in rats attracted to the increased food source
2. Given the increase in summer temperatures, overflow of dog waste and increase smells

What is the justification with no local consultation of reducing the waste bin collection at Chalfont Park from three times a week to once a week; given the significant negative effect this will have on the park area as outlined?

25.2

Peter White has asked the Executive Member for Climate Emergency and Resident Services the following question:

Question:

My decarbonisation plan:

solar panels, £9000 pounds, generation of 5Mwh of electricity per year. 1 ton CO₂E equivalent, about the same as a medium sized tree. Developer near me cut down two large trees to widen a drive.

Environmental impact survey request for 155 houses in Three Mile Cross. Approximately 15k tonnes of CO₂ (mostly Scope 3, so WBC doesn't need to count that!).

Electric Vehicle, £18000. Milage 6000 per year, 3 tons of Co₂e equivalent . A development like Hall farm (4500 homes) might have half a million tons of embodied Co₂e. I could drive a gas guzzler for 150000 years to emit that much.

Heating (ongoing): IR panels £6000, or an Air source heat pump £15000 to £20000. These are big numbers again, and I'm wondering is it all worth it ?, will it make a difference? Am I the only person who sees it this way?

Does WBC have a coherent, realistic strategy for explaining to residents why they should engage with the Climate Emergency Action Plan, considering the cost of even attempting to become carbon neutral, and that fact that development in WBC wipes out any gains we might make individually ?

26.

MEMBER QUESTION TIME

To answer any member questions

A period of 20 minutes will be allowed for Members to ask questions submitted under Notice

Any questions not dealt with within the allotted time will be dealt with in a written reply

26.1

Councillor Gary Cowan has asked the Leader of the Council the following question:

Question:

At the Planning meeting on the 13th of July the Council's legal representative the Town and Country Act only applied to Part II issues which I found surprising. My comments then are recorded in the minutes of that meeting.

The Town and Country act was written to prevent corruption by creating greater transparency. An example of corruption was John Poulson, jailed for five years for corruption after being found guilty of bribing public figures in a web of corruption that encompassed 23 local authorities and 300 individuals.

I make no allegation against the Council but perhaps it explains why the Planning Committee accepted the legal advice and approved the planning application.

My questions to Officers had led to an email from the legal department suggesting I may want to consider declaring an interest and the Chair of the committee asked the same question. I stayed and I immediately resigned from the Planning committee at the end of the discussion.

My question is as it has been reported that the project

is to be cancelled as its costs have risen by £6.5 million how much has already been spent including design costs.

26.2 Councillor Pauline Jorgensen has asked the Leader of the Council and Executive Member for Housing the following question:

Question:

Could the Leader explain what he is doing to prevent council changes to key services, for example caddy liners and litter bin service reduction, being implemented without following due process and proper approval.

26.3 Councillor Peter Harper has asked the Executive Member for Climate Emergency and Resident Services the following question:

Question:

In the 2022-23 Medium Term Financial Plan the Barkham Solar Farm capital cost is shown as £8m but in the Climate Emergency Progress Report from September 2023 it is shown as £26.8m. Which is the correct figure?

26.4 Councillor Charles Margetts has asked the Executive Member for Health & Wellbeing and Adult Services the following question:

Question:

In March 2022 the council had a plan to close Suffolk Lodge and build a new care home at Toutley. I understand the council is buying the Four Seasons Care Home on Barkham Road and has been looking to purchase other homes. I also understand the council plans to proceed with a reduced scale Toutley Home. Please can you advise the overall plan with the acquisition of care homes? How many homes / beds are you planning to purchase or build and what is the future of Suffolk Lodge.

26.5 Councillor Shahid Younis has asked the Executive Member for Environment, Sport and Leisure the following question:

Question:

There was a recent Council press announcement that the number of rubbish bins in the borough will be reduced, and the remaining bins will be emptied less frequently.

There are already reports of bins being covered with black bags and waste piling up around overflowing bins.

Inevitably, this will result in piling up of litter around the streets, footpaths and children's play areas and risks encouraging vermin. Who will be responsible for clearing up this mess and what extra costs will it incur?

26.6 None Specific

Councillor Graham Howe has asked the Executive Member for Children's Services the following question:

Question:

The Bohunt school expansion was unanimously agreed by Full Council in March 2022, including Sixth Form, SEND provision and extra year 7 places.

The budget was £4.5 million.

Following the Liberal Democratic/Labour Coalition last year, costs were forecast at £6.5 million. The increase was partly change in specification for the extra provisions and material cost increases due to COVID.

We then learned that there were delays with contracts.

Councillors Shenton and Cornish said, presumably informed by the Executive Member, that the Bohunt facilities would open September 2023 but then published a public apology saying it was not going to happen. The Wokingham Paper stated from Liberal Democratic sources that the Bohunt Trust was not going ahead with the project. This was not the truth. The Bohunt Trust were considering what extra contribution they could make to the project, not to abandon it.

We now learn that costs are nearer £10.5 million, an extraordinary 2 1/2 times the original estimate.

Can the Executive Member put an end to opaque, changing stories so that residents of Bohunt community can be informed but also other Wokingham schools impacted, and can she give a clear explanation of the provision, the costs, and timelines?

27.

MATTERS REFERRED TO THE EXECUTIVE

Matters for Consideration

28. Emmbrook

DELIVERY OF WELLINGTON ROAD AFFORDABLE HOUSING SCHEME

19 - 30

29.	None Specific	CAPITAL MONITORING 2023/24 - QUARTER 1	31 - 38
30.	None Specific	REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2023-24 QUARTER 1	39 - 54
31.	None Specific	SHAREHOLDERS REPORT	55 - 60
32.	None Specific	BOHUNT WOKINGHAM SCHOOL SIXTH FORM: UPDATE AND BUDGET	61 - 64
33.	None Specific	LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME 2023	65 - 74

A decision sheet will be available for inspection on the web site no later than two working days after the meeting.

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