

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF
THE COUNCIL
HELD ON THURSDAY 22 MAY 2008 FROM 7.00PM TO 9.25PM**

Present:- Malcolm Armstrong, Alistair Auty, Keith Baker, Chris Bowring, Andrew Bradley, Prue Bray, Malcolm Bryant, Phil Challis, Steve Chapman, David Chopping, UllaKarin Clark, Stephen Conway, Gary Cowan, Matthew Deegan, Annette Drake, Chris Edmunds, Michael Firmager, Lee Gordon-Walker, Mike Gore, Norman Gould, Pauline Helliard-Symons, Emma Hobbs, Tim Holton, Norman Jorgensen, Pauline Jorgensen, John Kersley, Dianne King, David Lee, Debbie Lewis, Perry Lewis, Jenny Lissaman, Abdul Loyes, Julian McGhee-Sumner, Kirsten Miller, Philip Mirfin, Denis Morgan, Stuart Munro, Barrie Patman, Anthony Pollock, Sam Rahmouni, Angus Ross, Beth Rowland, Patti Sherratt, Liz Siggery, Rob Stanton, Malcolm Storry, Claire Stretton, Pam Stubbs, Paul Swaddle, Dee Tomlin, Simon Weeks and Bob Wyatt.

1. MAYOR'S ADDRESS

Annette Drake, the outgoing Mayor made a farewell speech to the Council during which she referred to the highlights of the past Municipal Year. During the year a total of £30,726 had been raised for the Mayor's charity, the newly registered 'Building for the Future'.

Gifts were presented by the Mayor to Tim Drake, Anne Hunter and Annmarie Bonwick in recognition of their hard work and support to her as Mayor's Escort, Democratic Services Manager and Mayor's Secretary during the 2007/2008 Municipal Year.

(Note: The full text of Annette Drake's speech is attached to the minutes as Appendix A).

2. ELECTION OF MAYOR FOR 2008/2009

The Mayor called for nominations for the office of Mayor for the 2008/2009 Municipal Year.

It was proposed by Annette Drake and seconded by Angus Ross that Pauline Helliard-Symons be elected Mayor for the 2008/2009 Municipal Year.

RESOLVED: That Pauline Helliard-Symons be elected as Mayor for the 2008/2009 Municipal Year.

Annette Drake then presented the Mayor's Chain of Office to Pauline Helliard-Symons who took the Chair and made the statutory acceptance of office pursuant to Section 83 of the Local Government Act 1972.

Pauline Helliard-Symons thanked the Council for electing her and addressed the Council. During her address she paid tribute to Annette Drake and presented her with a Past Mayor's badge and two photo albums as a reminder of all the good work she had done for the Borough during her time as Mayor.

Pauline Helliard-Symons announced that she had two choices for Mayor's charity for the 2008/2009 Municipal Year. The first would be the Link Visiting Scheme, which worked with older people to try to make sure they did not become isolated and lonely by arranging outings and visiting people in their homes. Her second charity for the year would be Life Education, which had an educational bus that visited Primary Schools in the Borough to promote healthy living. Pauline Helliard-Symons said that more information about both

charities would be available in The Mall shortly. Alan Ward, Pauline Helliar-Symons husband, would be the Mayor's Consort for the 2008/2009 Municipal Year.

(Note: The text of Pauline Helliar-Symons' speech is attached as Appendix B).

3. APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY MAYOR FOR 2008/2009

The Mayor called for nominations for the office of Deputy Mayor Council for the 2008/2009 Municipal Year.

It was proposed by Pauline Helliar-Symons and seconded by Annette Drake that Barrie Patman be elected as Deputy Mayor for the 2008/2009 Municipal Year.

It was proposed by Stephen Conway and seconded by Prue Bray that Malcolm Storry be elected as Deputy Mayor for the 2008/2009 Municipal Year.

Upon being put to the vote, the Mayor declared that Barrie Patman had been elected as Deputy Mayor for the 2008/2009 Municipal Year.

RESOLVED: That Barrie Patman be elected as Deputy Mayor for the 2008/2009 Municipal Year.

Barrie Patman then made the statutory declaration of office pursuant to Section 83 of the Local Government Act 1972 and addressed the Council.

Barrie Patman thanked the Council for making him Deputy Mayor for the 2008/2009 Municipal Year and announced that his wife, Pamela, would be his Consort.

At this point of the meeting, The Reverend Nick Thompson of Rose St Methodist Church in Wokingham, attending on behalf of the Chairman of the Wokingham Churches Together, led the Council in prayers.

4. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 27 March 2008 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Mayor, subject to the correction of Minute No. 153 in relation to Motion 301, which had been seconded by Dianne King, but had been left blank in the Minutes.

5. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were submitted from Councillors Gerald A Cockroft and Kay Gilder.

6. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Lee Gordon-Walker declared a personal interest in respect of Agenda Item 16.00, Appointment to Outside Bodies, by virtue of his partner being employed by Berkshire Maestros. Councillor Gordon-Walker took part in discussion of the item and voted on the matter.

7. REPORT OF THE RETURNING OFFICER

The Council noted the report of the Returning Officer setting out the names of those Members elected to Wokingham Borough Council following the local government elections held on 1 May 2008.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

8. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor indicated that she had nothing additional to add to her previous speech given under Item 2, apart from congratulating Members on their election/re-election at the recent Local Government Elections and she asked new Members to stand up as she called out their names to identify them and welcome them to the Council.

9. ELECTION OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

The Mayor then called for nominations for the Office of Leader of the Council for the 2008/2009 Municipal Year.

It was proposed by Simon Weeks and seconded by Rob Stanton that David Lee be elected Leader of the Council for 2008/2009.

There being no other nominations, the Mayor declared that David Lee had been elected as Leader of the Council for the 2008/2009 Municipal Year.

RESOLVED: That David Lee be elected Leader of the Council for the 2008/2009 Municipal Year.

At this point it was proposed by the Mayor that Rule of Procedure 4.2.12q relating to the time limit for speeches be suspended in respect of the speeches of the leaders of the two political groups on this item only. This was unanimously agreed.

David Lee then addressed the Council, during which he presented to Council a written report, containing information relating to a number of changes to the composition and areas of responsibility of the Executive and information as set out in Chapter 5.2 of the Constitution. The report also set out the names of Members appointed by him as Deputy Executive Members and information as set out in Chapter 5.3 of the Constitution.

In his address to the Council, the Leader reported the challenges for the Council in the year ahead and the Administration's proposals. He also spoke about his new Executive arrangements, including the abolition of the role of Champions and the creation of Deputy Executive Members.

(Note: The text of David Lee's speech is attached as Appendix C).

Prue Bray responded to the Leader's speech on behalf of the Liberal Democrat Group. During her address she commented that the Liberal Democrat Group would like to see the two Groups working together more and commented on various items that were of particular concern to the Liberal Democrat Group at the current time.

(Note: The text of Prue Bray's speech is attached as Appendix D).

RESOLVED:

- 1) That the Council notes the changes to the composition and areas of responsibility of the Executive as set out by the Leader of the Council, (Chapter 5.2 of the Constitution).
- 2) That the Council notes the Leader's appointment of Deputy Executive Members (Chapter 5.3 of the Constitution).

10. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

In accordance with the agreed procedure, the Mayor invited Members of the Council to submit questions to appropriate Members.

10.01 Question

Dee Tomlin asked the Leader of the Council the following question, the reply to which is set out underneath:-

Many of our most vulnerable residents were devastated to learn that the Council has axed the grass cutting and hedge trimming service to those people who are not able to do it for themselves and are not able to pay for such a service. I understand that some people have been told that they will continue to receive this service. Will you please clarify what the criteria are for people to continue receiving this service?

Answer

Thank you very much for your question. I am sorry but there has been no agreement to continue the grass cutting service for any of the Council tenants living outside sheltered housing. All tenants living in houses or flats with gardens must now look after their gardens themselves in line with their tenancy agreement.

With regard however to some hedges forming a boundary to Council properties and public highways, the Head of Tenant Services has agreed that where a hedge is so large or difficult to manage, that an assessment will be carried out and it may be agreed that Tenant Services will maintain such hedges. Assessments are ongoing and this work will be undertaken by existing Tenant Services staff and will not be outsourced at this time.

Supplementary Question

Yes, thank you very much for that. If there is a problem because of an overspend in Tenant Services would it not have been better to keep the services for residents and cut comforts for Councillors?

Supplementary Answer

This is something that we hope we will be able to address in the future with the new Tenant Services Board, which I believe Prue has indicated that she might join. The Housing Revenue Account however cannot supply comforts for anyone else, it is legally protected so it does not provide any comfort for me I am afraid or anybody else. So I have answered to the best of my ability, the Housing Revenue Account has a very difficult time, as I have outlined earlier on, we receive £12m in rents and the Government takes £5m million. It is very difficult to do anything with that, we are doing our best and with the new manager in place we hope that the situation will improve.

10.02 Question

Stephen Conway asked the Leader of the Council the following question, the reply to which is set out underneath:-

The recently published Inspection report on Tenants Services concluded that while day to day services are adequate, the service lacks direction and strategy, its performance is not monitored properly, its IT systems are not good enough, and there is not enough focus on value for money. We appreciate the efforts being made by the staff to improve the service but, one year on from your first realisation that there were serious problems, tenants have yet to see improvements. When can they expect them?

Answer

Thank you very much Stephen, as you are aware Tenant Services has been through a difficult time over the last year with staff leaving. This has left gaps in the key areas of Asset Management and senior management in the service.

The Audit Commission inspection highlighted many areas for improvement. To address the Audit Commission report we have taken the following action:

- The new Head of Tenant Services started in January 08, who has plans to implement the updated Tenant Services Improvement Plan over the next 12-18 months. The process of improvement will take time with priorities being recruiting staff to the eight key vacant posts within the service, introducing a performance management framework for the service, and ensuring the service meets its statutory requirements around health and safety for its assets. It is planned that the Authority will become a two star authority within three years.
- The Head of Tenant Services is keen for both Councillors and tenants to monitor the improvement work via the Tenant Services Advisory Panel which had its first meeting on 14 May. At the meeting a chair and tenant representatives were elected, with both political groups agreeing to attend meetings in future.
- The Saffron housing management database is in need of a review. The Head of Tenant Services has authorised the suppliers of the system to carry out a health check. The results will be used to help with the ongoing feasibility study into the replacement of Saffron. The study also needs to take into account the 'Customer First' project and how it integrates with other council systems.
- Value for money is a major focus for the Head of Tenant Services and it is clear the service requires an up to date Asset Management Strategy and plan, alongside a Procurement Strategy to improve this area of work. However, until we recruit an Asset and Maintenance Manager this work will not develop. The advert for all vacancies goes out 20 May 2008.

I would just like to mention Madam Mayor, in this weeks Wokingham Times there is an article which quite rightly refers to the Council receiving only one star in our recent audit, but we as an Authority despite the tremendous efforts of our staff, are disappointed by this assessment.

However, I would like to remind everyone that the main issue is one of finance which was identified by the Audit Team. To this end Prue, I would like to make reference on your comment in the article, where Prue you said that 'one star is only slightly better than no stars' and I think that is very unfair on the staff. You then go on to say 'I think the staff are doing their job well but what is missing is input from the Administration, there is no quality control'. That is certainly not true, what is missing is this Governments excessive take of our Council House rents. So it is not that there is no quality control but rather that point about the £5m.

However, I am delighted Prue that you have agreed to sit on the new Tenant Services Board and I am sure you will become an active supporter in getting our £5m back to actually provide a full service to our tenants that we would all wish to do.

Supplementary Question

Thank you for your very full answer David, you will have probably noticed that in the original question I did flag up our appreciation of the efforts being made by the staff in that department, but may I highlight two brief passages in the Audit Commission report. It is a big report but they are both on page five and I would like to quote from them. 'The approach to value for money in the housing service is under-developed with limited understanding of service costs', it goes on 'an effective approach to value for money has yet to be firmly imbedded in the housing service'. Given the measured tone usual in such reports, would you agree that these comments constitute a damning indictment of the failure of your Administration effectively to oversee this Council's housing service?

Supplementary Answer

I would certainly not agree with that. We have a very clear improvement plan which will be put into place and it will be published very soon. We have an excellent team there, so I think the criticism which you appear to be levelling at the team, I would dispute that most whole heartedly. We are moving forward as I have explained; we are paying £10m back to Government each year; we have no money in our coffers. If you also had read this week's Wokingham Times, you would have seen an article all about the tenants and how satisfied they were with the service. In fact on the last two occasions when this Authority tried to dispose of its housing stock, the tenants wished to stay with us so all I can say is that the tenants seem happy. We are one star and we are going to be two stars in three years. We have an improvement plan in place, we have a new Head of Service and things are progressing well and I would hope that you will continue, as you said earlier on, to work with us to improve that.

10.03 Question

Prue Bray asked the Executive Member for Community Development the following question, the reply to which is set out underneath:-

There have been reports recently in the local press about the stalled redevelopment of Wokingham town centre. The reports suggest that the Council and the developer are not in agreement as to how to move the project forward. Can you please tell us what the latest situation is?

Answer

I can assure you that we are committed to seeing improvements made to Wokingham town centre to improve its vitality and viability and will do everything within the Council's power to see these improvements happen. However, the Council does not own or control the Peach Place development site.

The Council has been in discussions for the best part of a decade with Rock Investment Group (as they are now known) to help it bring the proposed redevelopment of Peach Street to fruition.

In November 2006 the Council's Planning Committee agreed that permission should be granted subject to the signing of a legal agreement. Unfortunately, as the developer has not met a number of key milestones, including being able to sign this agreement, discussions on any further support the Council is able to give have currently stalled.

I am sure my colleague Matt Deegan, in his new role, will be giving this matter much attention in the future.

Supplementary Question

This question was submitted before I was aware that the composition of the Executive was changing and I do welcome that change as I said earlier, but as you will probably be aware Dianne, there are more empty shops appearing and it is not looking good. I am hoping that Matt can do something to sort it out, can you give me your assurance that absolutely everything that can be done, including things that you have not tried before, because clearly we have been trying for a long time and it has not made any difference.

Supplementary Answer

Thank you Prue, we have done lots of things in the past to try and encourage things and you know at Christmas time there are lots of short term lets etc, but the problem is that the developer has been trying to close down leases and take control of properties, so it is not because businesses are rushing to leave Wokingham, it is because the developer is desperately trying to acquire all the sites and pull it all together, and I think you know that. Yes, I can assure you that, as I have already said, we will do everything we possibly can to bring this to fruition, it certainly is something that I want and have tried to work to in the past and certainly something that all my residents want and so yes I agree we need to get something done about it.

10.04 Question

Jenny Lissaman asked the Executive Member for Environment the following question, the reply to which is set out underneath:-

In his manifesto, the newly elected London mayor, Boris Johnson, promised that environmental issues would rank high on his mayoral agenda. Will the Conservative administration at Wokingham be following his lead?

Answer

Thank you for your question Jenny and thank you also for reminding the Members present about the recent success of the Conservative London Mayoral candidate, Boris Johnson, in the recent London elections. Of course the Conservatives were also very successful in the Wokingham elections earlier this month where we further consolidated our already strong position and now have 44 of the 54 seats. I am convinced that this strong mandate was no small part as a result of the clear environment related pledges that were prominently included in our local manifesto, in fact they were the lead item in our manifesto. I do hope I will be able to continue to rely on the Liberal Democrats continued support of this administration current and future environmental initiatives.

Supplementary Question

One of Boris's commitments was to, I quote, 'protect and preserve our beautiful open spaces', can you please give your commitment to the same for Elms Field?

Supplementary Answer

Thank you for your supplementary, we are as you know, looking at Elms Field in conjunction with other projects in the town centre and we have never said that we are going to concrete over Elms Field. We have said all along that we believe that there are better uses for Elms Field that would incorporate significant quantities of better quality public open space.

10.05 Question

Malcolm Armstrong asked the Executive Member for Community Development the following question, the reply to which is set out underneath:-

I have been appointed by this Council to the Winnersh Village Management Initiative. It has not met since I became a councillor in 2004, I have no papers relating to it and my enquiries as to how to call a meeting have led nowhere. Can I please have your commitment that the WVMi will start meeting again?

Answer

The Winnersh Village Centre Management Initiative is an outside body responsible for its own affairs, including the convening of meetings, and therefore I cannot speak for them. Each year following Annual Council, the details of the Council's appointed representatives are supplied to them and they are asked to contact representatives direct regarding meetings etc.

As a result of your question contact was made with the Winnersh Village Centre Management Initiative, who responded that meetings have not been convened for a while because of the organisation's procedures concerning a quorum, although they indicate that informal discussions have taken place.

The Winnersh Village Management Initiative has stated that they would wish for the Borough Council to continue to appoint representatives.

Supplementary Question

In respect of the Winnersh Village Centre Management Initiative, when it does meet, and I understand that there are some fairly strong personalities who are going to be appointed to the Initiative, could you assure us that you will make every necessary step forward to support that Initiative with regards to the application for grants?

Supplementary Answer

We did for a couple of years give the Winnersh Village Centre Management Initiative a very small grant which was what they asked for, this year they asked for no grant and if you do not ask you certainly do not get. We did give them some officer support and our Economic Development Officer Andy Nichols' worked with them and tried to organise some business sponsor etc for the event, the fete which is coming up shortly in June. So, the only thing I can suggest is that the organisation tries to apply for a grant, and we will see what the situation is when we look at the grants at the end of the year.

11. POLITICAL BALANCE OF THE COUNCIL AND ALLOCATION AND APPOINTMENT TO SEATS ON COUNCIL COMMITTEES/BOARDS

The Mayor referred to the report in the Agenda, Item 10.00 and the revised Appendix 1 which had been circulated at the meeting, on the political balance of the Council and allocation and appointment to seats on Committees/Boards. Members were informed that the revised Appendix 1 replaced the appendix as set out on Agenda pages 35 to 37.

The report set out a number of recommendations which the Council was asked to consider.

RESOLVED:

- 1) That having reviewed the representation of the political groups, the Council confirms that there are 44 Conservative Group Members and 10 Liberal Democrat Members, (as set out in Item 10.00 Para 1.1, Agenda page 31).
- 2) That the appointment and composition of Committees/Boards be approved, as set out below:

Audit Committee
6 Members

Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee
10 Members

Licensing and Appeals Committee
14 Members

Personnel Board
7 Members (together with up to 8 substitute Members from each Group)

Planning Committee
9 Members

Scrutiny Committee
9 Members

Special Council Executive Committee
6 Members

- 3) That the Council approves the allocation of seats on Committees/Board on the basis that of the 61 seats (as set out in Para 3.3 as amended), 50 be allocated to the Conservative Group and 11 be allocated to the Liberal Democrat Group;
- 4) That the Council approves the proposals submitted by the Group Leaders and those Members be appointed to the Committees/Boards as set out in Appendix 1;
- 5) That the Council agrees that the principles of proportionality be applied when Members are appointed to Sub-Committees, Panels or Working Groups;
- 6) That the Council agrees the appointment of the Independent and Parish Representatives on the Standards Committee (as set out in Para 5.2).

12. ADJOURNMENT TO CONSIDER ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES/BOARDS

At this point, 8.40 pm, the meeting adjourned to allow for the election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the various Committees and Boards.

13. RECOMMENCEMENT OF MEETING

At 8.50 pm the meeting recommenced.

14. APPOINTMENT TO JOINT COMMITTEES

Members were asked to refer to a list of each political Group's nominations to the Various Joint Committees as circulated at the meeting.

Where more nominations had been received than places available, individual votes were taken in respect of the individual Joint Committees.

RESOLVED: That Members be appointed to Joint Committees as set out in Appendix 2.

15. APPOINTMENT TO VARIOUS BODIES

Members were asked to refer to a list of each political Group's nominations to Various Bodies as circulated at the meeting.

Where more nominations had been received than the places available, individual votes were taken in respect of the individual Various Bodies.

RESOVED: That Members be appointed to Various Bodies as set out in Appendix 3.

16. APPOINTMENT TO PANELS/WORKING GROUPS

Members were asked to refer to a list of each political Group's nominations to Panels/Working Groups as circulated at the meeting.

RESOLVED: That Members be appointed to Panel/Working Groups as set out in Appendix 4.

17. APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODIES

Lee Gordon-Walker declared a personal interest in respect of Agenda Item 16.00, Appointment to Outside Bodies, by virtue of his partner being employed by Berkshire Maestros. Councillor Gordon-Walker took part in discussion of the item and voted on the matter.

Members were asked to refer to a list of each political Group's nominations to Outside Bodies as circulated at the meeting.

Where more nominations were received than the places available, individual votes were taken in respect of the individual Outside Bodies.

RESOLVED: That Members be appointed to Outside Bodies as set out in Appendix 5.

18. CHAMPIONS' REPORT TO COUNCIL ON THEIR ACTIVITIES

The Council received reports from the following Champions who addressed the Council for up to three minutes each: Chris Bowring; Malcolm Bryant; Matthew Deegan; Julian McGhee-Sumner; Philip Mirfin; Angus Ross and Bob Wyatt.

These are the Minutes of a meeting of the Council

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Valedictory Speech of Outgoing Mayor of Wokingham Borough Council, Annette Drake

To be Mayor is not just an honour, it is an enormous responsibility and gives an enormous opportunity to make a difference.

Wokingham Borough Mayor is a civic Mayor and elected by colleagues on the Council unlike the Mayor of London who is an Executive Mayor. Wokingham District became a Borough in March 2007, the Chairman of the Council, on behalf of the Council, petitioned her Majesty for Borough Status, the Queen gave her consent and we received the Royal Charter and we became a Borough which meant that our Chairmen of the Council were in future Mayors.

And there is another little fact that I did not know until quite recently, that the office of Mayor was introduced by the Normans in the 11th Century and that the word 'Mayor' derives from the Latin 'Magnus', meaning great.

My duties as Mayor have been by invitation and where possible it is for the Mayor to attend, on the rare occasions when I have not been able to attend my deputy or a past Chairman of the Council has been in my place, but really the residents expect to see their Mayor and when I tell you that in the last 12 months of my Mayoral year I have attended over 200 functions you will know that I have done my best to attend.

There have been the sad occasions when I have attended as Mayor, three funerals:- Our colleague Councillor Christopher Schutz died in July 2007, nearly a year ago, he was the Member for Wargrave and he died in office; Beverley Ruddick, an outstanding senior officer who worked as a child psychologist working to improve the outlook for our looked after children and who made a special study of Autism on which she lectured at the University of Reading, she was also a Deputy Lieutenant of the Royal County of Berkshire, she collapsed in this building and died before they could get her to hospital, a sad loss to us and our vulnerable children; and earlier this year, Ian Crail died, a long serving Councillor he was a Town and District Councillor, and a man who had a font of knowledge, I miss him because he was so knowledgeable and such a kind, gentle man.

My functions have varied from school exhibitions of paintings, prize giving, sports days, concerts, three Royal visits, I started the Wokingham Half Marathon, I have been to Town and Parish conferences, three 100 year old birthday parties, and so on and so forth. I do not want to bore you in the ground but I would mention that I have also given certificates to outstanding citizens who have given their time to voluntary service and we have officers who have been identified by their line managers for service above and beyond their normal duties.

Now somebody said to me, what was the happiest occasion and I think, thinking back the happiest occasions are always with the children, especially the primary school children and also the Berkshire Maestros concerts and the Citizenship ceremonies. Now that ceremony may not be familiar to some of you, it is when the new British citizens swear their allegiance to her Majesty the Queen, her heirs and their successors. They also swear to abide by our laws in the presence of the Registrar, the Lord Lieutenant of Berkshire who represents the Queen for the occasion and of course the Mayor. There are normally 20 to 30 attendees every month and they receive a certificate and have photos

taken with the flag, the Lord Lieutenant and the Mayor and then they have tea in the Mayor's office. Normally these citizens have a very good command of the language because they have been in the Country for at least six years, but sometimes I have had to hide a smile when someone has actually sworn allegiance to the Queen and her 'hair' as well as her successors, but that is sort of understandable.

My Mayoral duties have actually included 'making a difference' and traditionally one chooses a charity to support throughout the year in office. I had no problem in choosing a new local charity, formed by the parents and carers of disabled children; their dream is to raise enough money for a state of the art specially adapted building for their disabled children and their families and carers where they could meet and the children could have their birthday parties. There is no other parent run building of this sort that exists within the Wokingham Borough and we have approximately 350 disabled children, they are disabled physically, mentally or they have learning difficulties, they suffer from autism, in fact any special needs and remember these children do not recover.

Who better to run this purpose built building than their parents? So I decided on a grand launch, so last September I held a banquet to launch this newly registered charity called 'Building for the Future'. We sold 110 tickets at £50 each and held the function at Bearwood College. My guest speaker that night was David Mellor and he is a very amusing speaker and we actually made £5,000 which was a really good start, and none of the money paid to the charity paid for the food, the money came from the ticket sales. Since that time I have had other events and in March this year I had another function, a dinner dance, at Bearwood College and this time the speaker was General Sir Redmond Watt who told us about his time when he was in charge in Northern Ireland, Afghanistan and Iraq. Many of you donated cheques and on behalf of the parents of the children of the Charity I thank you for your generosity. To date our contribution to 'Building for the Future' stands at £30,726. People have indeed been very generous and again I thank you.

However, when I tell you that a fully equipped sensory room for this project will cost in the region of £18,000, you will realise that we still have a mountain to climb, but parents of disabled children are used to climbing mountains and in all weathers. I often meet these amazing parents and if you look in the gallery, there are three of the six parent trustees - Beverley, with Bonnie her daughter who is now 14, and Melissa, and Jane. Remember these three ladies because I think one day they might well come and ask us for planning permission.

My admiration for these parents knows no bounds, the way that they cope day after day, 24/7, they love and care for their children, often as lone parents, because statistics tell us that when a disabled child is born to a family eight out of ten marriages fail. So look again at your families and remember that we are so blessed.

Now, finally, now that I am passing the Chain to my successor, I would like to record my thanks to all the Officers who have helped me, advised me, supported me, and often corrected me to set me on the right lines, and especially Anne Hunter of Democratic Services. Anne has given me many monosyllabic papers which I have gratefully received. To Annemarie, my very special secretary, a sympathetic adviser and organiser of my diary, thank you Annemarie. And to my friend and colleague Pauline, who has been my deputy throughout my 12 months in office, thank you very much for your help. And last and by no means least, my son Tim, who has been my Consort throughout the year, not only that but has represented the Council with me on many occasions.

And now Members, I want to thank all of you for electing me and allowing me to be Mayor, it has been an enormous honour and quite frankly it has been great. So I leave with many happy memories and thank you and goodbye.

Acceptance Speech of Mayor of the Council Pauline Helliard-Symons

First of all I would like to thank Annette and Angus very much for their very kind words and for proposing and seconding me, and also to Members of both sides of the Chamber for endorsing my nomination as Mayor, I really do appreciate it and see it as a great honour and will do my very best to live up to the expectations that Wokingham has of its Mayor.

I would like to say something about the Robe that you will notice we have been using tonight, in fact I would like to say three things. Firstly, I want to make it clear that, like the Mayor's Chain, the Robe has cost neither this Council nor the community anything at all. The Chain and the Robe were given to the Council as sponsorship from a group of local companies and I regard their use as symbolic of our good relationship with commerce and industry that we have in this Borough and when I wear it I shall see it as a sign that those relations are important to Wokingham Borough. Secondly, I think that we should all do all that we can to make everyone feel proud of Wokingham Borough, this Borough is one of the most significant in the Country in terms of the size of its budget, the size of its population, the fact that it is the largest authority of all the six Berkshire unitaries, we should be proud of our educational standards and this area makes a very, very important contribution to the economy of the South East of England. So it is a Borough that its citizens can be proud of and the use of the Robe on appropriate occasions, is to my mind symbolic also of the high profile and the importance that Wokingham Borough has. Thirdly I want to make it clear that this Chair has its own authority and in all of the years that I have been on the Council Members have respected the Chair and therefore it needs no Robe to back up that authority. Therefore I shall not be wearing the Robe when I Chair the business part of any Council meeting and you will notice that before the business section of this meeting begins I will take it off.

I intend to use the role of Mayor to acknowledge and thank the many community groups that there are in our local life and to continue to develop our partnerships and build on the links that we have already made, especially with business and industry. I will be supporting events that enable our partners to meet and to network, both with each other, and with the Council and with the rest of the community, so that they can interact with each other to add value, not only to the Council, but to each other as well. Local Councils are not any longer going to be able to fund all of the things that we have to do and we are going to be utterly dependent on good relationships with our partners in order to deliver the services, or to commission the services that people expect of their local councils and their partners and so it is highly important that we raise the profile of this and develop the really good relations that have already been worked on over this last ten years, as we move into this new era of local government.

This year there will again be awards and competitions, both for our staff and for our residents and including some new ones. I would like to announce the first of these, which will be a photographic competition for adults and children which will be launched in June through the press and on our website and also at our front desk, so look out for some details of that later. It has become the custom to have a Minister of the Church associated with the Mayor's year in office, this year I have chosen to acknowledge the Churches Together movement and the Chairman of the three Churches Together groups in our Borough, in Wokingham, Earley and Woodley, will share this role. This evening I am very

pleased indeed to welcome the Reverend Nick Thompson from Rose Street Methodist Church who will be talking to us a little later.

This year I have two charities because they are both very good causes and I could not decide between them. They are at both ends of the age spectrum. In this Country over a million older people are lonely. That means that they have no family, very few friends, often cannot get out and very often do not speak to anyone from one week end to the next. They feel extremely isolated and some of these live in our Borough. The Link Visiting Scheme is run by volunteers who offer friendship and support to isolated older people across our Borough, by phone calls and visits. Link does receive some funding, but with more money it could add extra quality of life by organising outings to places of interest, such as the theatre, country parks, garden centres, national trust facilities and so on, or even just some afternoon teas in interesting locations. The object is to help them have contact with other people and so I will set aside a sum from my charity for the Link Project to enable them to develop this new aspect of their work.

Any further money raised will go to my other charity, the local work of an organisation called Life Education. This is a national charity, run locally by Rotary, which takes an educational bus to primary schools for a few days at a time and works with children from nursery age up to year six. It gives children the knowledge and skills to make informed choices about healthy living from diet and exercise to learning how to say no to alcohol and substance abuse. Its emphasis is on prevention, by educating them early, and it integrates with Every Child Matters. It is a fantastic visual programme that children can identify with, so far 23 of our 53 primary schools have signed up to it, but a subsidy is often needed to enable them to access it, and if all of our schools could become involved it would touch thousands of young lives and perhaps prevent dreadful things happening to them in later life.

So look out for more information on both of those charities in the Mall over the next few weeks.

And finally to Annette and the magnificent effort that she has made and her achievement in raising such a huge sum. She has sponsored and promoted so many events and this has been I am sure in everyone's memory what will become the year of the charity. Congratulations Annette, you will have touched some young lives for many generations to come and even if they do not know about you and your charity there will be children in many generations time who will live to thank you for what you have done today and this year. So I would like to thank you on behalf of all of us here and also for all of the work you have done as Mayor. You have represented this Borough in the community with absolute grace and charm and good humour wherever you have gone. Annette has worked incredibly hard, I think she has turned almost nothing down, she has gone to almost everything that was asked of her and she has been a real credit to this role. Aided of course by her charming and delightful family who it has been such a joy to meet on many occasions. Annette for everything you have put into being First Citizen, thank you very much, I think apart from her family and Annette, nobody knows better than I how tirelessly Annette has worked and I would like us to again express our thanks and appreciation to Annette for that.

My husband Alan has very kindly consented to be my escort again this year.

Annual Council Speech of Leader of the Council David Lee

Thank you very much Madam Mayor and congratulations on your appointment, I hope you have an enjoyable year. And also congratulations and welcome to the new Members, I hope we all have an enjoyable year. Stephen as you said earlier on, we are all here to represent the views and wishes of our residents, a task I know we will all relish over the coming 12 months.

In terms of challenges, this year is no exception and to mention but a few of the challenges we will face I would just like to highlight some of the problems that we have. We have a continuing excessively low level of Central Government support, indeed Wokingham does not receive support, we are a net contributor to the Exchequer, of some £10m per year. We will, as an Administration, continue to fight this low level, or should I say negative level, of support at the highest level. It is my intention to work closely with our MPs to achieve the best possible outcome for our residents. It is grossly unfair that our vulnerable residents have to suffer because the Government perceives us as all being rich in Wokingham, a poor or lonely person, as it has been pointed out earlier on this evening, in Wokingham is just as disadvantaged here as in Reading, yet in Reading, a town with the same population as Wokingham, they receive some 45 per cent Government support, while we are a net contributor.

If you are interested in the numbers, we hand over to the Government each year business rates of £49m, a lot of people do not realise that. We actually have to give £5m of our Council house rents to Central Government and we also contribute £2m for the privilege of dumping our rubbish as a landfill tax. So that is £56m which we give the Government, they give us very kindly, in revenue support, £24m, and other grants of £21m being a total of £46m. That means we contribute ten million each year. So sometimes when we refer to us as being the second lowest funded Authority in the Country it is not strictly right.

This Government as decreed that we will build some 623 houses per annum, these are totally inappropriate numbers, however I can assure you that we will continue to fight these excessive housing numbers which come without any support from Central Government towards the huge infrastructure requirements we will have as a result. It is therefore vital that we make provisions in the Core Strategy, the document currently being produced by this Authority, for our future infrastructure requirements. The Core Strategy is a document which sets out our plans for where we will build our homes, schools, shops, doctor's surgeries, new roads, parks and other infrastructure. I would intend to again to work closely with our MPs to lobby at the highest level to obtain a fair allocation of capital grant monies, in addition to potential developer contributions through the Core Strategy to improve our schools and roads. At current levels of Government funding it will take many years, if not hundreds of years, to resurface our roads, or rebuild our schools.

As a result of the challenges and the work that lies ahead, I have this year done away with the role of Champions and introduced Deputies to the Executive to share the workload. The Executive Members and Deputies will continue in the same basis role as before but with more joint working to ensure we operate as one cohesive team. Having listened to the residents and Members concerns I have this year brought the whole of the town centre regeneration programmes and task of producing a Borough wide asset plan into one specific Executive portfolio. It is this Authority's intention to progress Peach Place

regeneration, an item which has blighted Wokingham Town Centre for some ten years. I am therefore delighted to announce that the Executive and Deputies for the coming year are:

- Environment and PR – Simon Weeks (also Deputy Leader) with Chris Bowring as Deputy;
- Corporate Services – Rob Stanton (also Deputy Leader) with Philip Mirfin as Deputy;
- Children’s Services – Norman Jorgensen with Deputy still to be appointed;
- Community Development – Dianne King with Malcolm Bryant as Deputy;
- Community Regeneration and Safety – Matthew Deegan with Deputy still to be appointed;
- Council Budgets – Anthony Pollock with Alistair Auty as Deputy;
- Highways and Transport – Keith Baker with Tim Holton as Deputy;
- Local and Regional Planning – Gary Cowan with Angus Ross as Deputy;
- Social Care – Chris Edmunds with Bob Wyatt as Deputy.

Picking up on a point that you made earlier Madam Mayor, that working together is so vital, we have the Woodley Baptist Befriending Scheme out of which the Link Organisation came, so I have asked Dianne King, and she has agreed, that she will develop a volunteer database and a contact strategy for the people of Wokingham, including establishing the needs and being a central focal point for everyone.

I would just like to finish Madam Mayor by paying special thanks to Barrie Patman for his excellent work on the Executive over the past number of years and who has this year taken on the challenge of being our Deputy Mayor. I believe Barrie will be a great Deputy Mayor and I wish you every success in your new role Barrie. I am glad to say that Barrie will be maintaining his crucial role on the Police Authority on our behalf and continuing with his work to ensure our Police spend more time on the beat and less in the office, another issue which a lot of residents have. This was another area of concern.

Thank you very much.

Opposition reply to Leader of the Council Prue Bray

Thank you Madam Mayor. Good evening everybody. Can I first of all congratulate David on becoming Leader of the Council and the new Executive Members and Deputy Executive Members on their appointment, and I would also like to welcome, on behalf of the Liberal Democrat Group, the new Members of the Council and I hope that they enjoy their time with us.

What I am going to do is, hopefully not speak for too long, but to give you a slightly modified version of what I said at the Members Welcome Evening on Tuesday, which some of the Members were present at. But before I continue with what I had prepared, which is about the role of the Opposition in the coming year, I would just like to make a few comments about what David has just said.

We are pleased to see the abolition of the Champions and I hope that the Champions of the past will not take that personally, it is simply that we did not think that it was correct to have a set of people who were appointed without properly defined roles and responsibilities on the whim of the Leader. So we are pleased to see that and we will reserve judgement on the Deputy Executive Members until we actually understand what their role exactly is going to be and what the implications of that are going to be for the Council budgets as well because we have not established whether they are going to have allowances yet so we will wait to see.

Among the other things David said, we absolutely agree with him on the need to do something about infrastructure and if there is anything we can do to assist with that we will. We also welcome, I think, the increased focus on the town centres, much needed and that is one of the reasons why my question is in the agenda later on tonight and so we look forward to some progress hopefully on that front.

To return to what I have prepared, we think as Opposition Councillors we have two roles. A role representing the communities that have elected us – just as Conservative Councillors do. We also have a role standing up for the values that we as Liberal Democrats believe in: values such as openness, fairness and inclusiveness. We strongly believe that our residents should be able to participate in decisions that affect them. And we are also keenly interested in protecting the environment. We have some other concerns too – such as the need to get value for money and the need to protect the vulnerable.

Now, we are the Opposition but we do not oppose the Administration for the sake of it, we oppose the Administration where we feel that the values we believe in are not being observed.

Quite often we do agree with what the Conservative group has decided to do, for example, on the whole on waste management, or on the community facilities at Gorse Ride, or on opposing post office closures or Reading's plans for the one-way IDR. But sometimes we do disagree. Quite often the disagreement is not just about the decision but about the way the decision has been reached, particularly where we feel that the council is doing something *to* people, rather than involving them in the decisions that affect them.

I would also like to say that we see disagreement and what you might call 'vigorous discussion' as healthy – a way to drive things forward and to get the best solutions for people by challenging assumptions, and by opening up to innovative ideas. One of the frustrations of being in opposition in this council over the past five years has been the lack of opportunities to have such discussions.

I do not believe that the Conservative group has anything to fear from opening up – after all you are the majority group you are always going to win the votes.

But this is not an occasion for looking back over what has gone wrong in the past. We believe that with a new Leader – and, if I may say so, with a new Chief Executive as well – this council has got an opportunity to make changes and improvements to the way it operates and to the services it offers our residents.

My group is committed to seeking to build a better relationship with the Conservatives and to opening discussions as to how we can work with them so that we can play our full part in the business of the council as elected Members.

Everyone needs to understand there will always be issues on which the two groups quite legitimately disagree. It may come as a surprise to some of you but we do fully accept that the majority group has the right to make the decisions – what we would like to see is that before making those decisions they at least hear what we have to say. I believe that David has indicated, on Tuesday night, that he would listen and I hope that he will.

In general terms there are three basic principles of what we would like to see going forward:

- opportunities for all Councillors to contribute to policy formation;
- open discussions and early and meaningful consultations with residents and all Councillors on big issues;
- respect for each other in the Council Chamber.

And we would welcome more contact between the groups. We believe part of the poor atmosphere that has developed over the past five years is the result of us ceasing to see each other as people and only meeting in the confrontational atmosphere of the Council Chamber.

We hope that this year we will be able to overcome some of the problems of the past few years and that the two groups will be able to work together better. After all, we have all been elected in the same way, and we are all here to do our collective best for the residents of the Borough.

So I wish you well with your new Administration David and anything that we can do to help run this Council better, we will do.

APPOINTMENT TO COMMITTEES/BOARDS

Audit Committee – 6 Seats

Conservative Group (5)	Liberal Democrat Group (1)
1. Philip Mirfin	1. Beth Rowland
2. Norman Gould	
3. Pauline Helliar-Symons	
4. Pauline Jorgensen	
5. John Kersley	

Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 10 Seats

Conservative Group (8)	Liberal Democrat Group (2)
1. Gerald Cockroft	1. Malcolm Armstrong
2. Julian McGhee-Sumner	2. Kay Gilder
3. Abdul Loyes	
4. Patti Sherratt	
5. Pam Stubbs	
6. Andrew Bradley	
7. Emma Hobbs	
8. Lee Gordon-Walker	

Licensing and Appeals Committee – 14 Seats

Conservative Group (12)	Liberal Democrat Group (2)
1. Gerald Cockroft	1. Kay Gilder
2. Barrie Patman	2. Malcolm Storry
3. Andrew Bradley	
4. Chris Bowring	
5. Pauline Helliar-Symons	
6. Kirsten Miller	
7. Denis Morgan	
8. Patti Sherratt	
9. Pam Stubbs	
10. Bob Wyatt	
11. Mike Gore	
12. Claire Stretton	

Personnel Board – 7 Seats

Conservative Group (6)	Liberal Democrat Group (1)
1. Rob Stanton	1. Prue Bray
2. Simon Weeks	
3. Chris Edmunds	
4. Alistair Auty	
5. John Kersley	
6. Annette Drake	

Substitute Members for Personnel Board

(to substitute for members of the Personnel Board in relation to the appointment or dismissal of or disciplinary action in respect of 1st and 2nd tier Officers)

Conservative Group (8)	Liberal Democrat Group (8)
1. UllaKarin Clark	1. Malcolm Armstrong
2. Chris Bowring	2. Phil Challis
3. David Chopping	3. Stephen Conway
4. Gary Cowan	4. Kay Gilder
5. Pauline Helliar-Symons	5. Jenny Lissaman
6. Barrie Patman	6. Sam Rahmouni
7. Anthony Pollock	7. Beth Rowland
8. Bob Wyatt	8. Malcolm Storry

Planning Committee – 9 Seats

Conservative Group (7)	Liberal Democrat Group (2)
1. Steve Chapman	1. Stephen Conway
2. Simon Weeks	2. Jenny Lissaman
3. Norman Gould	
4. John Kersley	
5. Tim Holton	
6. Angus Ross	
7. Julian McGhee-Sumner	

Scrutiny Committee – 9 Seats

Conservative Group (7)	Liberal Democrat Group (2)
1. John Kersley	1. Prue Bray
2. Abdul Loyes	2. Phil Challis
3. Claire Stretton	
4. Lee Gordon-Walker	
5. Debbie Lewis	
6. Michael Firmager	
7. Liz Siggery	

Special Council Executive Committee – 6 Seats

Conservative Group (5)	Liberal Democrat Group (1)
1. David Lee	1. Prue Bray
2. Pauline Helliar-Symons	
3. Barrie Patman	
4. Simon Weeks	
5. Rob Stanton	
Standing Deputy	Standing Deputy
1. Chris Edmunds	1. Stephen Conway

Note: The Mayor and Deputy Mayor of the Council will automatically be members of this Committee. There will therefore need to be four other Members appointed and the Mayor and Deputy Mayor will count against their political party's allocation.

Standards Committee – 3 Seats

(Political balance rules are not applicable)

Conservative Group (2)	Liberal Democrat Group (1)
1. Bob Wyatt	1. Malcolm Storry
2. Annette Drake	

Independent Members

Mr David Comben
Mrs Anita Grosz
Mr David Soane
Mr John Giles
Mr Eric Davies

Parish Representatives

Mr John Heggadon
Mr Roy Mantel
Mr Ray Duncan

APPOINTMENT TO JOINT COMMITTEES

	Conservative Nomination	Liberal Democrat Nomination
Joint Strategic Planning Committee <i>(1 Full Member, 1 non-voting)</i>	Gary Cowan	
Non Voting	Annette Drake	Phil Challis
Joint Waste Disposal Board <i>(2 Representatives)</i>	For info only: Councillors Stanton and Weeks have been appointed until 30 November 2010. Also there is no provision in the newly constituted Board to appoint standing deputies.	
Thames Basin Heaths Joint Strategic Partnership <i>(1 Representative and 1 standing deputy)</i>	Gary Cowan	
Standing Deputy	Angus Ross	

APPOINTMENTS TO VARIOUS BODIES

	Conservative Nomination	Liberal Democrat Nomination
Area Youth Committees:- (2 Members for each Committee)		
• Woodley Area	Patti Sherratt	Kay Gilder
• Earley and Shinfield	Malcolm Bryant Michael Firmager	
• Wokingham and Winnersh	UllaKarin Clark Liz Siggery	
• Charvil, Hurst, Remenham, Wargrave, Ruscombe, Sonning and Twyford	Emma Hobbs Kirsten Miller	Dee Tomlin
• Southern Parishes	Mike Gore Gerald Cockroft	
Better Government for Older People (1 Member from each political group)	Bob Wyatt	Malcolm Storry
Community Safety Partnership/Drugs Action Team (1 Member from each political group)	Barrie Patman	Prue Bray
District Youth Forum (3 Members)	Malcolm Bryant Chris Edmunds Michael Firmager	
Lifelong Learning Partnership (1 Member from each political group)	Dianne King	Malcolm Storry
Local Strategic Partnership (1 Member with voting rights)	Dianne King David Lee (Automatic Appointment as Leader of the Council (non- voting))	

Schools Forum (1 representative of the Local Education Authority. Under new Regulations the Executive Member with responsibility for education or Chairman of the Council <u>are not</u> eligible for appointment to the forum. (Note: They may attend as non-voting observers))	John Kersley	
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Schools Admissions Forum – 5 Members

Conservative Group (4)	Liberal Democrat Group (1)
1. Malcolm Bryant	1. Beth Rowland
2. John Kersley	
3. Annette Drake	
4. Chris Edmunds	

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Educations – 2 Members

(one from each Political Group)

Conservative Group (1)	Liberal Democrat Group (1)
1. Malcolm Bryant	1. Beth Rowland

APPOINTMENT TO PANELS/WORKING GROUPS 2008/09**Adoption Panel – 1 Member**

Conservative Group	Liberal Democrat Group
1. Claire Stretton	

Borough Parish Conference – 7 Members

Conservative Group (6)	Liberal Democrat Group (1)
1. Keith Baker	1. Jenny Lissaman
2. Dianne King	
3. Patti Sherratt	
4. Philip Mirfin	
5. Norman Gould	
6. Michael Firmager	

Borough Parish Working Group – 5 Members

Conservative Group (4)	Liberal Democrat Group (1)
1. Keith Baker	1. Jenny Lissaman
2. Dianne King	
3. Norman Gould	
4. Michael Firmager	

Constitution Review Working Group – 4 Members

Conservative Group (3)	Liberal Democrat Group (1)
1. Chris Bowring	1. Prue Bray
2. Pauline Helliard-Symons	
3. Paul Swaddle	

Corporate Parenting Panel – 9 Members

Conservative Group (7)	Liberal Democrat Group (2)
1. Gerald Cockroft	1. Kay Gilder
2. Pam Stubbs	2. Sam Rahmouni
3. Annette Drake	
4. Chris Edmunds	
5. Abdul Loyes	
6. Claire Stretton	
7. Paul Swaddle	

Council Wide Forum – 6 Members

Conservative Group (5)	Liberal Democrat Group (1)
1. Rob Stanton	1. Malcolm Storry
2. Malcolm Bryant	
3. Barrie Patman	
4. Mike Gore	
5. Norman Gould	

Fostering Panel – 1 Member

Conservative Group	Liberal Democrat Group
1. <i>Annette Drake</i>	1. <i>Kay Gilder</i>

Highwood Management Conference – 2 Members

Conservative Group (1)	Liberal Democrat Group (1)
1. Abdul Loyes	1. Malcolm Storry

Registered Children’s Homes – 3 Members

Conservative Group (2)	Liberal Democrat Group (1)
1. Abdul Loyes	1. Kay Gilder
2. Annette Drake	

Secure Accommodation Panel – 1 Member and 1 Standing Deputy

Conservative Group	Liberal Democrat Group
1. Annette Drake	
Standing Deputies	
All Members of the Corporate Parenting Panel	
(the representation was previously for one Standing Deputy but it was felt appropriate to have more in order to have a bigger pool of Members to be called upon to carry out visits if required)	

Stronger Communities Partnership – 3 Members

Conservative Group (2)	Liberal Democrat Group (1)
1. Bob Wyatt	1. Kay Gilder
2. Dianne King	

Tenant Services Advisory Panel – 1 Member from each group

Conservative Group (1)	Liberal Democrat Group (1)
1. David Lee	1. Prue Bray

REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES 2008/09

1 Member to be appointed on an annual basis unless otherwise stated

Organisation	Conservative Nomination	Liberal Democrat Nomination
Age Concern Berkshire	Gerald Cockroft	
Age Concern Twyford and District	Emma Hobbs	Stephen Conway
Age Concern Woodley	Keith Baker	Sam Rahmouni
Association of Councils of the Thames Valley Region (ACTVaR) (2 Members)	Norman Gould Andrew Bradley	
ACTVaR Thames Valley Waste Forum	Simon Weeks	
Atomic Weapons Research Establishment - Local Liaison Committee	Malcolm Bryant	
Berkshire Healthcare Foundation Trust (Mental Health Trust)	Gerald Cockroft	Malcolm Armstrong
Berkshire Museum of Aviation	Pauline Jorgensen	Phil Challis
Berkshire Pension Fund Advisory Panel	Chris Edmunds	
Berkshire Valuation Tribunal	For information only: Mrs M Tumber appointed until March 2010.	
Berkshire Maestros (formerly Berkshire Young Musicians Trust)	Angus Ross	Dee Tomlin
Blackwater Valley Countryside Partnership Management Committee (2 Members)	Gerald Cockroft Simon Weeks	
Bracknell and Wokingham College	Norman Jorgensen	Malcolm Storry

Combined Fire Authority (5 Members)	Pauline Helliar-Symons Chris Bowring Andrew Bradley Angus Ross	Prue Bray
Community Council for Berkshire	No representative required following governance changes	
Community Voluntary Action- Wokingham District	Debbie Lewis	Prue Bray
European Group of ACTVaR <i>Standing Deputy</i>	For information only. This Outside body has since been disbanded	
Local Government Association (LGA) General Assembly (3 Members)	Pauline Helliar-Symons David Lee	Prue Bray
Local Government Association Unitary Authority Special Interest Group	David Lee	
<i>Standing Deputy</i>	Rob Stanton	
Mid & West Berks Local Countryside Access Forum	For information only: Simon Weeks appointed until March 2009	
National Society for Clean Air and Environmental Protection	Simon Weeks	
Readibus Management Committee	Norman Gould	
Reading Centre for the Deaf	Gerald Cockroft	
Reading Urban Area Transport Liaison Group (3 Members)	Keith Baker Abdul Loyes Norman Gould	Jenny Lissaman
Royal Berkshire Hospital Foundation Trust Board of Governors (1 Member)	Abdul Loyes	
Sonning Education Foundation	Steve Chapman	
South East Regional Assembly <i>Standing Deputy</i>	David Lee Simon Weeks	
South East Regional Employers Organisation	Rob Stanton Malcolm Bryant	

(2 Members)		
2 Standing Deputies	Annette Drake	Malcolm Storry
South East Reserve Forces and Cadets Association	Malcolm Bryant	
Standing Conference on Archives	Bob Wyatt	
Strategic Aviation Special Interest Group of the Local Government Association (SASIG)	Angus Ross	
Thames Valley Joint Police Authority and Thames Valley Joint Committee	For information only: Barrie Patman appointed until 1 March 2010	
The Piggott Trust	John Kersley	Dee Tomlin
The Poors Land Charity	For information only: Mrs Hutchinson existing representative until July 2010	
Twyford Village Centre Management Initiative	For information only: Body has been reconstituted into the Twyford Village Partnership onto which the Ward Members are automatically appointed.	
University of Reading Council and Court	For information only: Pauline Helliar-Symons appointed until 30 September 2009	
Winnersh Village Centre Management Initiative (3 Members)	Liz Siggery David Lee	Malcolm Armstrong Prue Bray
Wokingham and District Association for the Elderly	Gerald Cockroft	
Standing Deputy	Patti Sherratt	
Wokingham Citizen's Advice Bureau	Julian McGhee-Sumner	
Wokingham District Sports Council	For information only: Malcolm Bryant appointed until he resigns.	
Wokingham District Sports Sponsorship Fund	Malcolm Bryant	
Wokingham Job Support Centre Management Committee	Lee Gordon-Walker	

Wokingham Town Centre Steering Committee (formerly Wokingham Town Centre Steering Group)	Alistair Auty	
Wokingham Volunteer Centre	Debbie Lewis	Prue Bray
Wokingham Waterside Centre	David Chopping	
Wokingham Youth Counselling & Information Service (ARC)	Kirsten Miller	
Woodley Town Centre Management Initiative (2 Members, 1 Standing Deputy)	Patti Sherratt Keith Baker	Sam Rahmouni
<i>Standing Deputy</i>		Sam Rahmouni
Woodley Volunteer Centre	Patti Sherratt	Sam Rahmouni