



WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

A Meeting of the **COUNCIL** will be held at the Civic Offices,
Shute End, Wokingham, RG40 1BN on
THURSDAY 24 MARCH 2016 AT 7.30 PM

Andy Couldrick
Chief Executive
Published on 16 March 2016

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

A great place to live, an even better place to do business

Our Priorities

Improve educational attainment and focus on every child achieving their potential

Invest in regenerating towns and villages, support social and economic prosperity, whilst encouraging business growth

Ensure strong sustainable communities that are vibrant and supported by well designed development

Tackle traffic congestion in specific areas of the Borough

Improve the customer experience when accessing Council services

The Underpinning Principles

Offer excellent value for your Council Tax

Provide affordable homes

Look after the vulnerable

Improve health, wellbeing and quality of life

Maintain and improve the waste collection, recycling and fuel efficiency

Deliver quality in all that we do

To: The Members of Wokingham Borough Council

ITEM NO.	WARD	SUBJECT	PAGE NO.
70.		APOLOGIES To receive any apologies for absence	
71.		MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting held on 18 February 2016.	13 - 32
72.		DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST To receive any declarations of interest	
73.		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 Council	
		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	
73.1	Emmbrook; Ewendons; Norreys; Wescott	Imogen Shepherd-Dubey has asked the following question of the Leader of the Council: Question At the Borough Council meeting on 18 th February you claimed in your budget speech that there is “£2.5 million of annual income from the regeneration of the town centre”. I have been unable to find any reference in the Medium Term Financial Plan to any annual income, let alone £2.5 million, from Wokingham town centre regeneration. In fact, the papers show that on top of all the lump sum costs, which amount to over £50 million, Wokingham town centre regeneration will cost at least £700,000 a year for the next 3 years, not bring in income. What is the justification for your claim that there is – or will be in the future - £2.5 million annual income from the town centre regeneration?	

- 74. PETITIONS**
To receive any petitions which Members or members of the public wish to present.
- 75. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**
To receive any announcements by the Mayor.
- 76. None Specific PROPOSED LAND DRAINAGE BYELAWS 33 - 48**
To consider the adoption of proposed land drainage byelaws.
- RECOMMENDATION** That Council:
- 1) formally resolve to adopt the proposed land drainage byelaws as set out in Appendix 1 to the report;
 - 2) authorise the sealing thereof and approve carrying out the public consultation phase;
 - 3) submit the proposed byelaws together with any unresolved objections received thereto to the Secretary of State for confirmation.
- 77. Bulmershe and Whitegates RE-DESIGNATION OF POLLING PLACE 49 - 52**
To consider designating Bulmershe Leisure Centre as the Polling Place for Bulmershe and Whitegates ward for the European Union Referendum.
- RECOMMENDATION:** That Council agree that Bulmershe Leisure Centre be designated as the Polling Place for Blumershe and Whitegates ward, instead of Earley Home Guard Social Club, for the European Union Referendum scheduled on 23 June 2016.
- 78. None Specific CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION 53 - 92**
To consider proposed changes to the Constitution as put forward by the Constitution Review Working Group.
- RECOMMENDATION:** That Council approves the following amendments to the relevant sections of the Council's Constitution, as put forward by the Constitution Review Working Group:
- 1) Rule 4.2.15 Voting - Delete the last line of the second paragraph of Rule 4.2.15;
 - 2) Rule 5.1.6 Deputy Executive Members
- The following additional wording to be added to

the first paragraph of Rule 5.1.6:

“The Leader may also remove any Member from their role as Deputy Executive Member.”

3) Chapter 9.2 – Code of Conduct for Councillors

Guidance on Bullying and Intimidation (to be included as Appendix C to Chapter 9.2) and the following wording to be added to Rule 9.2.8.2:

“Supporting Guidance on Bullying and Intimidation can be found at Appendix C.”

4) Chapter 9.3 – Member/Officer Protocol

Revised versions of the following documents:

- Chapter 9.4 – Anti-Fraud and Corruption Strategy;
- Chapter 9.5 – Whistleblowing Policy and Guidance;
- Chapter 9.6 – Anti Bribery Policy;
- Chapter 9.7 – Anti Money Laundering Policy;
- Chapter 9.8 – Prosecution and Sanction Policy.

5) Chapter 11.3 – Scheme of Delegation to Officers

A new Rule to be inserted as 11.3.6g)ii) as follows and the numbering of 11.3.6g)ii-v) amended accordingly:

“Approval of Community Asset Transfers under leases of between 14-30 years following consultation with the Executive Member for Regeneration and Communities, the Executive Member with responsibility for the relevant service area and local Ward Members.”

79. None Specific

ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE AND OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES 2015-16

To receive a report from the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee on the work undertaken by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee and the Overview and Scrutiny Committees over the past year.

RECOMMENDATION: That the report from the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee be noted.

93 - 118

80. None Specific **HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2015-16** 119 - 124
 To receive a report from the Chairman of the Health and Wellbeing Board on the work undertaken over the past year.

RECOMMENDATION: That the report from the Chairman of the Health and Wellbeing Board be noted.
81. None Specific **AUDIT COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2015-16** 125 - 128
 To receive a report from the Chairman of the Audit Committee on the work undertaken over the past year.

RECOMMENDATION: That the report from the Chairman of the Audit Committee be noted.
82. None Specific **STANDARDS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2015-16** 129 - 134
 To receive a report from the Chairman of the Standards Committee on the work undertaken over the past year.

RECOMMENDATION: That the report from the Chairman of the Standards Committee be noted.
83. None Specific **REPORTS FROM MEMBERS APPOINTED TO OUTSIDE BODIES** 135 - 224
 To note those reports received from Members on Outside Bodies as circulated in the agenda.

RECOMMENDATION: That the reports from Members appointed to Outside Bodies be noted.
84. **STATEMENTS BY THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL, EXECUTIVE MEMBERS AND DEPUTY EXECUTIVE MEMBERS**
 To receive any statements by the Leader of the Council, Executive Members and Deputy Executive Members.

 In accordance with Procedure Rule 4.2.23 the total time allocated to this item shall not exceed 20 minutes, and no Member shall speak for more than 5 minutes.
85. **STATEMENTS FROM COUNCIL OWNED COMPANIES**
 To receive any statements from Directors of Council Owned Companies.

 In accordance with Procedure Rule 4.2.24 the total time allocated to this item shall not exceed 10 minutes, and no Director, except with the consent of Council,

shall speak for more than 3 minutes.

86.

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

86.1 Winnersh

Rachelle Shepherd-DuBey has asked the Executive Member for Planning and Highways the following question:

Question

Will you guarantee that the Winnersh relief road will be delivered by 2018?

86.2 None Specific

Lindsay Ferris has asked the Executive Member for Environment the following question:

Question

Will you guarantee keeping weekly waste collection until at least 2020?

86.3 None Specific

Beth Rowland has asked the Executive Member for Children's Services the following question:

Question

What are you doing to help schools recruit good quality teachers and senior leaders?

86.4 None Specific

Prue Bray has asked the Executive Member for Planning and Highways the following question:

Question

Will the Council look at ways of providing housing specifically for key workers, priced at levels they can afford?

86.5 None Specific

Abdul Loyes has asked the Executive Member for Planning and Highways the following question:

Question

Does the Council welcome the government's initiative to reduce social rents over the next 4 years?

86.6 None Specific

Pauline Jorgensen has asked the Executive Member for Planning and Highways the following question:

Question

Tailbacks on the A329M, caused by the new road layout, have been causing considerable delays to commuters' journeys. Could the Member set out what the Council is doing to help ease congestion on this road?

86.7 None Specific

Laura Blumenthal has asked the Executive Member for Planning and Highways the following question:

Question

Could the Member explain what the Council is doing to ensure the best possible communication between the Highways Department and councillors?

86.8 Hawkedon;
Hillside; Maiden
Erlegh

Guy Grandison has asked the Executive Member for Children's Services the following question:

Question

Could the Member update the Council on the plans to provide extra space for schools in Earley?

86.9 None Specific

Kate Haines has asked the Executive Member for Children's Services the following question:

Question

Could the Member explain what steps the Council is taking to encourage more families to foster children in Wokingham Borough?

86.10 None Specific

Alison Swaddle has asked the Executive Member for Children's Services the following question:

Question

The annual Ofsted report has stated that 98 percent of the Borough's secondary school pupils are judged 'good' or 'outstanding', and that this ranks Wokingham Borough 11th out of 150 local education authorities. Does the Member welcome this outcome?

86.11 Wescott

UllaKarin Clark has asked the Executive Member for Regeneration and Communities the following question:

Question

Can the Member explain what feedback was received from the public events and workshops on the Market Place and Peach Place developments?

86.12 None Specific

Dianne King has asked the Executive Member for Resident Services the following question:

Question

Can the Member explain how the Council's proposed Library Strategy will benefit the residents of Wokingham Borough?

86.13 None Specific

Ian Pittock has asked the Executive Member for Children's Services the following question:

Question

Will the authority have sufficient places for new secondary pupils this September and what part will Bohunt play in this?

87.

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND WARD MATTERS

A period of 20 minutes will be allowed for Members to ask questions in relation to the latest circulated volume of Minutes of Meetings and Ward Matters

88.

MOTIONS

To consider any motions

In accordance with Procedure Rule 4.2.11.2 a maximum period of 30 minutes will be allowed for each Motion to be moved, seconded and debated, including dealing with any amendments. At the expiry of the 30-minute period debate will cease immediately, the mover of the Motion or amendment will have the right of reply before the Motion or amendment is put to the vote

88.1 None Specific

Motion 378 submitted by Prue Bray

This Council acknowledges that whilst many people may aspire to own their own home, in many cases their income will never reach a level that will allow them to buy a property even at a subsidised cost under Right to Buy, shared equity, or 80% market value starter homes as announced in the Housing and Planning Bill. Through its Housing Strategy the Council has committed itself to providing 1000 additional affordable homes in the Borough by the end of 2018 and as part of that strategy recognises the need to provide more accommodation that people can afford to rent, to contribute to satisfying the demand for housing locally.

The Council notes that

- market rents within the Borough are approximately 3 times social rents, the rent level normally paid by council tenants, with the market rent for typical 3-bedroom properties set

- at £1200 per month or more, putting them beyond the reach of local families on low incomes, including those on Housing Benefit
- according to information collected to inform the Housing Strategy, only 12% of those on the housing register in Wokingham Borough have sufficient income to be able to afford even affordable rent, which is defined as 80% of market rent
 - the shortage of council and housing association properties often means the only type of accommodation available to those seeking help from the Council's Housing service is in the private rented sector
 - the pressure on the private rented sector locally and the competition for accommodation has led to increases in the number of people accepted as homeless in Wokingham Borough due to the end of shorthold tenancies.

The Council therefore regrets measures in the Conservative government's Housing and Planning Bill which reduce the ability to provide homes at rents that local people can afford, including:

- Pay to Stay, under which households living in social housing in the Borough with incomes greater than £30,000 per annum will be required to pay additional rent, up to near market levels, with the additional income going to the Treasury, not the landlord;
- The forced sale of high value council housing as it becomes vacant, with the proceeds to be paid to the Treasury to fund the extension of Right to Buy to housing association tenants across the country;
- The ability for the government to assess the income that it deems it should receive under the sale of high value council housing, and to require councils to pay the amount so calculated whether or not the houses have been sold and regardless of the money received
- The introduction of the choice to build "starter homes" for sale on new developments to replace the requirement to build affordable homes for rent or shared ownership, or to provide equivalent funding for off-site affordable homes

and will

- Work with other local authorities to oppose the

introduction of the unfair levy on councils based on an assessment of the sale value of council homes, which will lead to either a reduction in Wokingham Borough council housing through sales or a reduction in the money available to maintain that housing

- Continue to lobby the Conservative government to oppose Pay to Stay and in particular to oppose the use of a blanket figure of £30,000 for household income outside London above which Pay to Stay will apply, pointing out the unfairness of not taking into account differing market rent levels and other living costs in different parts of the country
- Provide information on the measures in the Housing and Planning Bill and their implications for existing tenants and those seeking housing advice, and provide support and advice for individual tenants on issues arising from these measures
- Continue to seek to provide additional housing for social and affordable rent through its Housing department and its housing company, WHL
- Endeavour to maximise the number of properties provided for social and affordable rent by developers under their affordable housing planning obligations, whilst recognising the new duty that is to be placed on councils to promote starter homes for purchase under the terms of the Housing and Planning Bill.

88.2 None Specific

Motion 379 submitted by Rachelle Shepherd-DuBey

In the light of the Council's worsened financial position following this year's reduced local government funding settlement and future funding forecasts to 2020, this Council will review its plans for the regeneration of Wokingham town centre.

88.3 Norreys

Motion 380 submitted by Lindsay Ferris

This Council believes that Wokingham and Emmbrook football club should be granted a lease to enable them to play Hellenic League Premier Division football at Cantley Park.

88.4 Wescott

Motion 381 submitted by Malcolm Richards

This Council will continue to consult on and investigate all aspects of safety and traffic flow at the roads involved in the recently upgraded system at Coppid

Beach Roundabout. This Council will also continue to ensure that the most effective and appropriate measures are in place to protect motorists and pedestrians on all road networks within Wokingham Borough.

88.5 None Specific

Motion 382 submitted by David Sleight

Our Vision is that our Borough should be a great place live and an even better place to do business. The latter needs excellent transport links but our journey times by train from Wokingham to Waterloo are uncompetitive having been extended over the past 40 years. With the re-franchising of the South Western about to be competed, we call for a journey time reduction so that journeys from and to Waterloo take no more than 59 minutes – in other words, Wokingham in One.

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