



WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

A Meeting of the **COUNCIL** will be held at the Civic Offices,
Shute End, Wokingham, RG40 1BN on
THURSDAY 21 JULY 2016 AT 7.30 PM

Andy Couldrick
Chief Executive
Published on 13 July 2016

This meeting will be filmed for inclusion on the Council's website.

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WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

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.
21.		APOLOGIES To receive any apologies for absence	
22.		MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting held on 19 May 2016 and the Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on 9 June 2016.	11 - 62
23.		DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST To receive any declarations of interest	
24.	None Specific	UPDATE ON THE THAMES VALLEY BERKSHIRE LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP (LEP) To receive a presentation from Tim Smith, Chief Executive of the Thames Valley Berkshire Local Enterprise Partnership on the work being undertaken by the LEP. A period of approx. 5 minutes will be provided for Members to ask questions.	
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 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	
25.1	None Specific	Guy Grandison has asked the Executive Member for Highways and Transport the following question:	

Question

Could the Executive Member for Highways give us an update on the Third Thames Bridge Project, specifically the traffic modelling progress being carried out by WBC?

25.2 None Specific

Nicola Greenwood has asked the Executive Member for Environment the following question:

Question

Thank you for accepting Wokingham Bridleway Group's petition for an increase in the % of equestrian access in the Borough, the subsequent meeting and letter following the meeting. Please could I ask if the petition issues comes back to council and if not please could you explain how the matter now lies?

25.3 Arborfield;
Barkham

Claire Symes has asked the Executive Member for Highways and Transport the following question:

Question

I am writing with regard to a safe walking and cycling route to the new Bohunt School, Wokingham from The Lilacs in Barkham. My son is due to start at the school this September. This was our first choice school, and as we live under 3 miles away, I believe that free transportation will not be provided by WBC. We were hoping that our son would be able to cycle to school, providing a healthy and independent means of travel.

However, at present, this is not a safe option from The Lilacs. The speed limit on the Bearwood Road only drops to 30 mph at the end of the road, near the roundabout. The WBC factsheet on road speeds states that a child hit by a vehicle driving at 40mph is likely to die! How can I send my child safely off to school on his bike or by foot, when he is at serious risk of death?

There is no safe crossing at the bottom of Bearwood Road, which is a very busy road during rush hour/school commuting times; and there is no safe crossing on the Barkham Road/Barkham end of Langley Common Road. Furthermore, the pavement around the Barkham Manor is dangerously narrow, with a high wall to one side. Traffic regularly speeds around this corner, with little regard for pedestrians.

I urge you to press for a reduced speed limit of 30 mph on the Bearwood Road and to provide a safe crossing on the Bearwood Road and Barkham Road/Langley Common Road, as well as considering what needs to be done to improve the safety of pedestrians and

cyclists travelling past the Barkham Manor.

We were encouraged to consider Bohunt as an option, and were assured that whilst the Arborfield development was in progress, the council would ensure that there were safe routes to Bohunt from Barkham, or alternatively, free transportation until this was established.

26.

PETITIONS

To receive any petitions which Members or members of the public wish to present.

27.

MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

To receive any announcements by the Mayor.

28. None Specific

LOCALISM ACT PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2016/17

63 - 72

To consider a proposed Pay Policy Statement for 2016/17 in accordance with the Localism Act 2011.

RECOMMENDATION: That Council approve the Policy Pay Statement for 2016/17 for publication on the Council's website in accordance with the Localism Act 2011.

29. None Specific

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY 2016-2021

73 - 82

To consider the Economic Development Strategy 2016-2021; which was considered by the Executive on 30 June 2016.

RECOMMENDATION: That Council

- 1) approve the Economic Development Strategy 2016-2021;
- 2) note that any investment needed to deliver the strategy (over and above what would be delivered currently through existing budgets) will be brought back to the Executive for a decision

30.

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

31.

STATEMENT 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.

32.

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.

32.1 None Specific

Charles Margetts has asked the Deputy Executive Member for Highways and Transport the following question.

Question

I travel regularly between Wokingham and Waterloo and the train service seems to be inordinately slow. Can the Deputy Executive Member please tell me what representations Wokingham Borough Council has made to seek shorter journey times?

32.2 Emmbrook

Alistair Auty has asked the Executive Member for Children's Services the following question.

Question

Could the Executive Member please update the Council on the situation with Emmbrook Infant and Junior School?

32.3 None Specific

Tim Holton has asked the Executive Member for Environment the following question.

Question

Could the Executive Member explain the basis for the Council's current approach to grass-cutting in the Borough?

32.4 None Specific

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

Question

Does the Executive Member agree that the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub will lead to more effective pooling of knowledge between the Council, the NHS, the Police and the Probation Service, in order to ensure the safety of our children?

32.5 None Specific

Bill Sloane has asked the Executive Member for Environment the following question:

Question

Could the Executive Member explain the benefit to residents of the introduction of permits to use recycling centres?

32.6 Maiden Erlegh

David Chopping has asked the Executive Member for Children's Services the following question:

Question

Can the Executive member for education please update the residents of the Maiden Erlegh Ward on the second stage of the expansion of our primary schools to meet the ever increasing demand resulting from being one of the best Education authorities in the south of England?

32.7 None Specific

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

Question

What is the overall cost to the council of the decision by West Berkshire Council to cease paying for its residents to use the RE3 recycling centres and the subsequent introduction of a permit system for residents of Wokingham, Bracknell and Reading?

32.8 None Specific

Prue Bray has asked the Executive Member for Resident Services the following question:

Question

In an attempt to address its financial challenges, the council has begun work on remodelling itself. We understand that the business case for the 21st Century Council project will come to the Executive in the Autumn. For this remodelling to succeed, there will need to be a shift in the way the council interacts with the public, so that the public can more easily get their queries answered satisfactorily and the work load on staff is reduced. This presents both threats and

opportunities. If this is got right, there is a genuine chance to improve the responsiveness of the council to its residents. What steps does the administration intend to take to involve the public and others in contributing ideas to the changes to its customer-facing functions so that the outcome is as good as it can be?

32.9 Arborfield;
Barkham

Gary Cowan has asked the Executive Member for Highways and Transport the following question:

Question

At the Arborfield Garrison Public Forum held at Henry Street Garden Centre on June the 29th Officers gave a presentation on safe walking routes to Bohunt School which some residents of both Arborfield and Barkham have serious concerns with. As the Executive Member responsible do you approve of the plan as presented and therefore accept responsibility for its implementation and have you seen and approved any risk assessment attached to this plan?

32.10 None Specific

Clive Jones has asked the Executive Member for Health and Wellbeing the following question:

Question

The Government is conducting a dangerous experiment by cutting funding for pharmacies which will see up to 3000 close, thereby reducing people's access to medicines and healthcare advice, and putting extra pressure on GPs and hospitals.

The proposals put at risk a part of the health system that holds the key to solving many of its problems. Patients would be the biggest losers. There are particular concerns about the risks to the most vulnerable people and the most deprived communities, where local pharmacies are often (literally) a lifeline.

What action will you take to minimise the negative impact on Wokingham Borough residents of this government cut to pharmacy funding?

33.

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

34.

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.

34.1 None Specific

Motion 383 submitted by Lindsay Ferris

Over the past few weeks Wokingham Borough councillors have received numerous communications from residents showing how dissatisfied they are with the new grass-cutting contract that came into force in April 2016.

This Council supports the aims of the new contract to provide flexibility and improve bio-diversity, but regrets that the implementation of the contract has been far from satisfactory, and that too little guidance was given on what was an appropriate level of grass-cutting in each area. This Council calls on the Executive member for Environment to provide in writing for publication on the council website and to issue to the media:

- an apology for the poor implementation of the contract
- an explanation as to why the contract was allowed to be implemented badly
- a clear outline of a way forward that will solve the problems.

34.2 None Specific

Motion 384 submitted by Keith Baker

We are proud to live in a diverse and tolerant society. Racism, xenophobia and hate crimes have no place in our country. Our council condemns racism, xenophobia and hate crimes unequivocally. We will not allow hate to become acceptable.

We will work to ensure that local bodies and programmes have the support and resources they need to fight and prevent racism and xenophobia.

We reassure all people living in this area that they are valued members of our community.

CONTACT OFFICER

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