



WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

A Meeting of the **EXECUTIVE** will be held at the Civic Offices, Shute End, Wokingham on **THURSDAY 23 FEBRUARY 2017 AT 7.00 PM**

Andy Couldrick
Chief Executive
Published on 15 February 2017

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

MEMBERSHIP OF THE EXECUTIVE

Keith Baker	Leader of the Council
Julian McGhee-Sumner	Deputy Leader and Health and Wellbeing
Mark Ashwell	Planning and Regeneration
Charlotte Haitham Taylor	Children's Services
Pauline Jorgensen	Resident Services
Anthony Pollock	Economic Development and Finance
Malcolm Richards	Highways and Transport
Angus Ross	Environment

ITEM NO.	WARD	SUBJECT	PAGE NO.
107.		APOLOGIES To receive any apologies for absence	
108.		MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting held on 26 January 2017.	9 - 30
109.		DECLARATION OF INTEREST To receive any declarations of interest	
110.		PUBLIC QUESTION TIME To answer any public questions A period of 30 minutes will be allowed for members of the public to ask questions submitted under notice. The Council welcomes questions from members of the public about the work of the Executive Subject to meeting certain timescales, questions can relate to general issues concerned with the work of the Council or an item which is on the Agenda for this meeting. For full details of the procedure for submitting questions please contact the Democratic Services Section on the numbers given below or go to www.wokingham.gov.uk/publicquestions	
110.1	None Specific	Laura Titchiner has asked the Executive Member for Environment the following question: Question What measures are being put in place to minimise noise and air pollution from the M4 specifically the elevated carriageway to the west of Junction 10? I am a resident of Winnersh and, since having my baby, have become increasingly concerned with the air and noise pollution coming from the M4 and A329. The M4	

around here is on an elevated carriageway with no noise or pollution barriers in place. I believe this is very detrimental to the health and wellbeing of local residents. I would like to petition the council and highways agency to implement acoustic barriers along the raised section of the M4. I'd like to propose that these barriers be coated in photocatalytic paint or concrete to assist in reduction of pollution. In my opinion this work should be carried out in a joint effort to manage the impact of the M4 Smart motorways scheme and the Air quality management plan that Wokingham is required to undertake.

110.2 Maiden Erlegh

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

Question

My question relates to traffic safety around Aldryngton Primary School and the proposal to expand the school by 105 places.

As you will be aware, the area immediately outside of the school is already extremely congested at pick-up and drop-off times. There are over 2,000 children from two schools (Aldryngton Primary School and Maiden Erlegh School), parents, siblings, shoppers, visitors to the library and community centre all converging on a small site at these times.

A new Tesco Express is due to open within 50 metres of the school very soon. When the proposal to build a Tesco Express was discussed at the Planning Committee, two local Councillors, Ken Miall and David Chopping expressed concerns about the impact on congestion and traffic safety.

Both schools share a narrow access road between the Silverdale Parade shops. You will be aware that two primary school children were seriously injured on 17 January on the pavement of this narrow access road. One of the children needed to be airlifted to the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford.

In a feasibility report commissioned by WBC it is noted "the local highway network is very constrained during the start and end of the school day," it is further noted that pupil drop-off and pick up is a "key issue" which requires mitigation. It is strange that this report does not feature in the formal Planning Application to expand Aldryngton. In a Council meeting on the 21st of July 2016, this report was discussed and Judith Ramsden noted, "credible measures to manage school run traffic are required."

Respondents to the Planning Application are concerned that the Transport Statement that was published with the application is not based on the Council's own projection for surplus school places in Earley if Aldryngton is expanded and assumes that only 26 more children will be driven to school as a result of the expansion. The Council itself projects an 11% surplus of places in Earley with the expansion of Aldryngton and Loddon from 2018. The Transport Statement also fails to take into account the opening of Tesco.

The councillors of the Earley Town Council Planning Committee, who are residents of the local area themselves and have first hand experiences of how bad the existing situation outside of the school is, have voted unanimously to refuse the planning application of Aldryngton expansion as they found it extremely difficult to mitigate the impact of the expansion on local traffic situation.

To summarise, there is a commonly held view by local Councillors that even without expansion congestion and traffic safety are a concern around the school. This point is re-enforced by a WBC feasibility report and the report's findings were highlighted by Judith Ramsden. WBC's own projections predict that with expansion many more pupils would travel from out of catchment.

Given these facts, how do you justify the statement you made on BBC Berkshire that congestion would be reduced by expanding Aldryngton?

110.3 Maiden Erlegh

Toshiko Tani has asked the Executive Member for Children's Services the following question:

Question

The Council is proposing to expand Aldryngton Primary School by 33% from 315 pupils to 410 pupils. Parents, local residents as well as the school itself have raised a number of questions and concerns, many of these have not yet been addressed by the Council.

For example, we continue to find it difficult to understand why a £4.8 million expansion is necessary despite the Council's own projection of 11% surplus school places from 2018 to 2021 in Earley if the expansion goes ahead.

No concrete measures have been presented by the Council to mitigate the impact of expansion on the already worrying congestion in the area surrounding the school. Furthermore, the Executive appears to have been misled by erroneous information at the time of approving Aldryngton Primary as a candidate for expansion in January 2016. For example, the findings of a WBC commissioned spatial study that found that Aldryngton is “the least attractive campus for investment” was misrepresented to the Executive.

We have been told by Children's Services that they are planning to have the Executive Meeting in February delegate their final decision making authority on the Aldryngton expansion to the Director of People Services, Judith Ramsden.

Considering how controversial the expansion proposal is, we do not see it as appropriate that the final decision is made in a forum not open to the public. We have serious concerns about whether our voices will be reflected at all in the decision making process and find it absolutely necessary to monitor reasoning applied for the council to reach a decision.

Please confirm that you will not allow such delegation to happen and that the final decision on the expansion will be made in a forum open to the public such as at the Executive Meeting, for the sake of transparency and to allow proper democratic participation.

111.

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

111.1 Finchampstead North; Finchampstead South

Charles Margetts has asked the Executive Member for Economic Development and Finance the following question:

Question

Some parts of Finchampstead have internet speeds only marginally faster than dial up. This lack of internet speed is a major constraint on the ability to work / shop from home and should not be accepted or tolerated. Can the Executive Member tell me what is being done to address the remaining internet blackspots in Finchampstead and across the Borough?

111.2 Arborfield;
Barkham

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

Question

Deteriorating bus shelters in Arborfield and Barkham has been a big problem for residents for some years now but just going back to the 1st June 2015 as a start date for a series of emails referred to in this question the Head of Highways stated that “we are very keen to make sure that the bus shelters in Arborfield are attractive and well used. To this end replacing the existing “life expired” shelters would be a great idea and really worthwhile”.

He continued “however there are a number of issues in the offing at the moment that mean I would recommend we put this idea on hold – for no more than 6 months and if in 6 months we are no closer to knowing the outcome of any of these issues then at which point we will go ahead and replace the shelters anyway”.

A more recent email from the head of highways stated that the Borough has no money available to carry out these works in the next financial year yet I read in the Wokingham Paper that WBC were going to replace an old bus shelter in Woodley and also erect a second new one. Why does Woodley appear to get star treatment and Arborfield and Barkham do not?

Might residents of Wokingham Borough be forgiven if they thought it might have anything to do with the fact that the Leader of Wokingham Borough Council is also at the time of writing the Leader of Woodley Town Council.

111.3 Maiden Erlegh

Clive Jones has asked the Executive Member for Children's Services the following question:

Question

Many residents living in Earley and parents of children who attend Aldryngton primary school have expressed concerns about the Council's expansion plans for Aldryngton. Will you confirm that the Council's Executive and Officers are taking their concerns seriously?

Matters for Consideration

112. None Specific	HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUDGET 2017/18	31 - 44
113. None Specific	CAPITAL PROGRAMME AND STRATEGY 2017/20	45 - 62

114.	None Specific	TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2017/18	63 - 106
115.	None Specific	MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2017/20 - REVENUE BUDGET SUBMISSION 2017/18	107 - 114
116.	None Specific	COUNCIL OWNED COMPANIES' BUSINESS	115 - 122
117.	None Specific	SCHOOL ADMISSIONS ARRANGEMENTS 2018/19	123 - 226
118.	None Specific	ONE PUBLIC ESTATE - AUTHORITY AND GOVERNANCE FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE BERKSHIRE PROPERTY PARTNERSHIP	227 - 236
119.	Bulmershe and Whitegates; Loddon; South Lake	WOODLEY CAR PARKING TRIAL EXTENSION	237 - 240

A decision sheet will be available for inspection at the Council's offices (in Democratic Services and the General Office) and on the web site no later than two working days after the meeting.

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