



WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

A Meeting of the **COUNCIL** will be held Virtual Meeting on
THURSDAY 23 JULY 2020 AT 7.30 PM

Susan Parsonage
Chief Executive
Published on 15 July 2020

Note: The Council has made arrangements under the Coronavirus Act 2020 to hold this meeting virtually via Microsoft Teams. The meeting can be watched live using the following link: <https://youtu.be/pFre-ULIHb0>

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.



WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

Our Vision

A great place to live, learn, work and grow and a great place to do business

Enriching Lives

- Champion outstanding education and enable our children and young people to achieve their full potential, regardless of their background.
- Support our residents to lead happy, healthy lives and provide access to good leisure facilities to complement an active lifestyle.
- Engage and involve our communities through arts and culture and create a sense of identity which people feel part of.
- Support growth in our local economy and help to build business.

Safe, Strong, Communities

- Protect and safeguard our children, young and vulnerable people.
- Offer quality care and support, at the right time, to prevent the need for long term care.
- Nurture communities and help them to thrive.
- Ensure our borough and communities remain safe for all.

A Clean and Green Borough

- Do all we can to become carbon neutral and sustainable for the future.
- Protect our borough, keep it clean and enhance our green areas.
- Reduce our waste, improve biodiversity and increase recycling.
- Connect our parks and open spaces with green cycleways.

Right Homes, Right Places

- Offer quality, affordable, sustainable homes fit for the future.
- Build our fair share of housing with the right infrastructure to support and enable our borough to grow.
- Protect our unique places and preserve our natural environment.
- Help with your housing needs and support people to live independently in their own homes.

Keeping the Borough Moving

- Maintain and improve our roads, footpaths and cycleways.
- Tackle traffic congestion, minimise delays and disruptions.
- Enable safe and sustainable travel around the borough with good transport infrastructure.
- Promote healthy alternative travel options and support our partners to offer affordable, accessible public transport with good network links.

Changing the Way We Work for You

- Be relentlessly customer focussed.
- Work with our partners to provide efficient, effective, joined up services which are focussed around you.
- Communicate better with you, owning issues, updating on progress and responding appropriately as well as promoting what is happening in our Borough.
- Drive innovative digital ways of working that will connect our communities, businesses and customers to our services in a way that suits their needs.

To: The Members of Wokingham Borough Council

ITEM NO.	WARD	SUBJECT	PAGE NO.
32.		APOLOGIES To receive any apologies for absence	
33.		MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING To confirm the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 6 July 2020.	15 - 42
34.		DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST To receive any declarations of interest	
35.		MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS To receive any announcements by the Mayor	
36.		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	
36.1	None Specific	Ed Pearson has asked the Executive Member for Highways and Transport the following question: Question Is Wokingham planning on taking part in the Electric Scooter trials proposed by the Department for Transport and if not, then why not? This is an affordable, socially distanced and environmentally friendly form of transport, and taking part in these trials would see Wokingham leading the way on commitments to fighting climate change.	

36.2 None Specific Kiran Nar has asked the Leader of the Council the following question:

Question:

At a recent Council meeting, you said that equality and diversity were hardwired in WBC's DNA. You then proceeded to make public statements that have caused outrage to black residents, staff and the public. You have since launched a survey to understand racism more; despite saying, equality is being hardwired. Clearly the statements made by you about equality and diversity is contradicted by your offensive comments, is equality genuinely WBC's DNA. What research did you conduct on BLM before your statements were made and can you explain how and why such an important mandate on the Council's position was considered?

36.3 Emmbrook Llewelyn Reed-Jones has asked the Executive Member for Children's Services the following question:

Question:

The warmer weather and lighter evenings have brought about, predictably, some instances of anti-social behaviour from young people in the Borough. I am particularly aware of a minority of the young people using the Emmbrook and Joel Park areas for enjoyment; engaging in nuisance behaviour, littering and underage drinking. This is causing distress, annoyance and intimidation to residents of the area. A more visible police presence in the area would of course go some way to deter this kind of behaviour, but my question is regarding youth provisions. Teenagers who have nothing to do will often take part in nuisance behaviour, which can lead to these children being put at risk of injury and exploitation from criminals. How does the Council intend to expand the provision of these services in a manner which is guided by the service users and youth workers and is free at the point of use?

37.

PETITIONS

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

38. None Specific

CLIMATE EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN

To receive the Climate Emergency Action Plan.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Council approves the detailed Climate Emergency Action Plan, endorsing the targets for carbon dioxide reduction

43 - 140

and the related actions proposed for Wokingham Borough Council to play as full a role as possible in achieving a net-zero carbon Borough by 2030.

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|------|-----------------|--|-----------|
| 39. | None Specific | <p>ANNUAL PAY POLICY STATEMENT
To receive the Annual Pay Policy Statement.</p> <p>RECOMMENDATION: That Council approve the draft Pay Policy Statement for 2020/21 for publication on the Council's website in accordance with the Localism Act 2011.</p> | 141 - 152 |
| 40. | Shinfield South | <p>POLLING DISTRICT CHANGES - SHINFIELD SOUTH
To receive a report regarding Polling District Changes – Shinfield South.</p> <p>RECOMMENDATION: That Council agree to create a new polling district for the electors living in the roads as set out in the table and as shown in the hatched area on the map within the report.</p> | 153 - 156 |
| 41. | None Specific | <p>FLAG FLYING POLICY AND ROOM NAMING PROTOCOL
To receive the Flag Flying Policy and Room Naming Protocol.</p> <p>RECOMMENDATION: To approve the Flag Flying Policy and Room Naming Protocol at Appendix 1 of the report.</p> | 157 - 164 |
| 42. | | <p>MEMBER QUESTION TIME
To answer any member questions</p> <p>A period of 30 minutes will be allowed for Members to ask questions submitted under Notice</p> <p>Any questions not dealt with within the allotted time will be dealt with in a written reply</p> | |
| 42.1 | None Specific | <p>Rachelle Shepherd-DuBey has asked the Executive Member for Climate Emergency the following question:</p> <p>Question
How will we actually measure that the Heathrow expansion is actually Carbon neutral; including the extra airplanes and additional petrol powered vehicles dropping people off or picking them up?</p> | |
| 42.2 | None Specific | <p>Michael Firmager has asked the Executive Member for Environment and Leisure the following question:</p> | |

Question

Wokingham Borough Council have engaged Consultants to advise on the road map for recycling. What is the brief?

42.3 None Specific

Emma Hobbs has asked the Executive Member for Children's Services the following question:

Question

How has WBC helped to improve children's access to technology?

42.4 Emmbrook;
Ewendons;
Norreys;
Wescott

Pauline Helliar-Symons has asked the Executive Member for Regeneration the following question:

Question

What is the recovery programme for Wokingham Town Centre?

42.5 None Specific

Angus Ross has asked the Chairman of the Planning Committee the following question:

Question

When can we go back to 'face to face' Planning Committee meetings; if not, are there any proposals for the public to speak at meetings?

42.6 Barkham

Jenny Cheng has asked the Executive Member for Children's Services the following question:

Question

What are the implications of Bohunt's wish to have a 6th form?

42.7 None Specific

Tahir Maher has asked the Executive Member for Health, Wellbeing and Adult Services the following question:

Question

I want to acknowledge what the Council has been and are doing to support the Borough over the COVID-19 pandemic. Unfortunately, it is now clear that members of the ethnic minority are likely to suffer more severe effects of COVID-19, resulting in higher than average mortality rates, as compared to non-ethnic minorities.

Have the Council considered this and what specific actions have they taken to protect and support their employees, and when working with the general public who are from ethnic minorities background?

- 42.8 Emmbrook;
Ewendons;
Norreys;
Wescott
- Graham Howe has asked the Executive Member for Highways and Transport the following question:
- Question**
Please can you update the Council on the works on Wokingham Town Centre roads and what affect they are having for residents?
- 42.9 None Specific
- Gary Cowan has asked the Executive Member for Health, Wellbeing and Adult Services the following question:
- Question**
The Government provided a fund of a £5 Million pot to Councils to enable care homes to get £1,000 cash incentive per patient if they took in hospital patients in order to free up beds in Hospitals. To qualify, the care homes, including Council run care homes had to admit the patient within 24 hours regardless of whether they had Coronavirus or not.
- The £1,000 per patient was designed to help pay for any additional costs care homes incurred including extra PPE, additional staff, additional cleaning so Covid-19 patients coming out of hospital into care homes could be isolated.
- My question is how much of this £5 million did Wokingham get and how was it distributed?
- 42.10 None Specific
- Daniel Sargeant has asked the Executive Member for Health, Wellbeing and Adult Services the following question:
- Question**
Can you please provide us with an update on the Council's Covid-19 track and trace plan?
- 42.11 Bulmershe and
Whitegates;
Coronation;
Hawkedon;
Hillside;
Loddon; Maiden
Erlegh; South
Lake
- Shirley Boyt asked the Executive Member for Highways and Transport the following question:
- Question:**
Children in year six in our primary schools usually have the opportunity to participate in level 3 of the Bikeability scheme, having completed levels 1 and 2 in the previous year. Unfortunately, due to Covid - 19 they have been unable to do so. This is a particularly important level as children get the opportunity to practice the route they will be taking to secondary school from September. I note from the My journey web page that level 3 courses are running during the

holidays in Twyford and Gorse Ride. Are there any further courses planned to enable Woodley and Earley children to participate in this essential training?

42.12 None Specific

Andy Croy has asked the Executive Member for Climate Emergency the following question:

Question:

The Climate Emergency Action plan is not fit for purpose. The plan will not cause the Borough to be Carbon Neutral by 2030. It has taken a whole year for this to be acknowledged. What changes to the Plan will be made to ensure the Borough reaches Carbon Neutrality by 2030?

43.

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

44.

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

45.

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.

46.

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

46.1 None Specific Motion 432 submitted by Clive Jones

This Council wants the political leadership to redouble their efforts to challenge the housing numbers which are being inflicted on this Borough by central government which we consider do not meet our local needs.

Since the beginning of the year, our lives have changed considerably and local circumstances are now very different to what they were in January and February. We would therefore like to invite Ministers and senior Civil Servants from MHCLG to come to Wokingham to see for themselves the beautiful semi-rural nature of our Borough.

We would like them to meet local residents, Borough Councillors from all political groups, Town and Parish Councillors from all parts of the Borough including Remenham to Swallowfield and everywhere in between; so they can understand for themselves the strength of feeling that residents have about the high housing numbers that are being forced on us by this Conservative Government.

46.2 None Specific Motion 433 submitted by Gregor Murray

At its meeting on July 18th 2019 the Full Council voted unanimously to declare a Climate Emergency across Wokingham Borough and to commit itself to being carbon neutral by 2030.

In order to achieve this crucial aim, and to live up to our environmental responsibilities we understand that it is essential we take steps to immediately reduce the amount of carbon we either directly or indirectly use each year.

It is clear that no responsible Council can take action on climate change without seeking to drastically reduce the amount of single use plastics consumed by both its residents and by the Council in its every day operations.

In face of the overwhelming evidence about the impact that single use plastics have on our lives, climate, seas, rivers and broader environments, Wokingham Borough Council commits to ensuring that – wherever possible – single use plastics are

eliminated from use within the Council, and all Council controlled environments, as soon as possible.

This would be achieved by:

- Phasing out the purchase of single-use plastic products through services commissioned by the Council where possible and as soon as practicable.
- Bringing regular reports to future committee meetings, describing the Council's plans to eliminate single-use plastic from the organisation, including a timetable for doing so.
- Working with Wokingham's businesses, community groups and residents to share advice, ideas and best practice on using sustainable alternatives
- Working with schools to support the aspiration of Wokingham's young people to eliminate plastic waste from our environment.
- Seeking to work with neighbouring Councils to tackle single use plastic use across the wider Berkshire area.
- Sign-posting on all Council buildings and properties to forbid the bringing of single use plastics onto the property.
- Sign-posting on all Council buildings and properties once it has become single use plastic free.

46.3 None Specific Motion 434 submitted by Sarah Kerr

This Council notes that:

- Air pollution poses a serious threat to the health of everyone and in particular the development of young people.
Epidemiological studies show that symptoms of bronchitis in asthmatic children increase in association with long-term exposure to pollutants, as well as stunting lung growth.
- Our residents and visitors are exposed to unsafe levels of pollutants, particularly outside of schools at peak times in the morning and afternoon, next to taxi ranks, at level crossings and along our major roads.
- Road transport is one of the biggest contributors to particulate matter and pollution in Wokingham Borough.
- While many of the policy interventions to rectify this problem would have to come from central Government, this Council can do more and needs to be proactive on this issue.
- Only a handful of areas across the country are

trialling “No Vehicle Idling zones” yet they bring many health benefits, and could be introduced around the Borough, particularly outside schools, taxi ranks and at level crossings.

- It is important to provide our residents and visitors with healthier and less polluting alternatives to move about the Borough, and in particular, parents taking their children to school. Therefore, the Council should invest more in walking and cycling.

This Council resolves to:

- Monitor the level of particulate matter 2.5 across the borough.
- Review the work done on No-Vehicle-Idling nationally in other local authorities and integrate this into an Action Plan for No-Vehicle-Idling zones covering the Wokingham Borough Council area with a view to implementing No-Vehicle-Idling zones, around as many schools in the Borough as possible, by the end of 2022, and in other identified areas such as taxi ranks and close to level crossings
- Encourage local businesses to sponsor green walls on school buildings and tree planting near schools and the Executive Member for Environment includes this in his action plan.
- Increase spending on active travel in future budgets, especially safe cycle lanes.
- Produce a strategy for implementing a car club scheme across the Borough.

46.4 None Specific Motion 435 submitted by Rachel Burgess

This Council will adopt the Council Tax Protocol agreed by Citizens Advice and the Local Government Association (June 2017) during the municipal year 2020/21.

This protocol includes, inter alia:

- Wokingham Borough Council will work with enforcement agencies and Citizens Advice to help people pay their council tax bills while accessing debt advice
- All communication with residents about council tax will be clear
- Wokingham Borough Council will use the Standard Financial Statement when calculating repayment plans
- Flexible payment arrangements will be offered to residents

- Wokingham Borough Council will not use enforcement agents where a resident receives Council Tax support
- Wokingham Borough Council will publish their policy on residents in vulnerable circumstances

The full protocol can be found here:

<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/Global/CitizensAdvice/campaigns/Council%20Tax/Citizens%20Advice%20Council%20Tax%20Protocol%202017.pdf>

46.5 None Specific

Motion 436 submitted by Rachel Bishop-Firth

EU nationals are our family members, parents, friends and colleagues. They care for our elderly and they teach our children. They are an integral part of a vibrant and thriving Wokingham.

In the Referendum campaign, we were promised that "there will be no change for EU citizens already lawfully resident in the UK and [they] ...will be treated no less favourably than they are at present".

This promise has not been honoured. Many EU27 citizens are unaware that if Brexit goes ahead, they risk deportation from their homes of many years unless they are granted settled status.

Home Office figures show that many EU nationals have not applied for Settled Status, or have applied but have been refused. We don't know how many Wokingham residents, perhaps elderly or vulnerable people, are unaware that they may become illegal immigrants. We risk a Windrush-style scandal here in Wokingham, with families broken up.

We also need to think of the 1.3 million British citizens who have made their homes in other EU countries, who may be forced to return to the UK, particularly if Brexit means they lose their access to healthcare. Many of these people are elderly, and many have made their homes overseas because of difficulties making ends meet on their pensions. How many will come to Wokingham, needing assistance with social housing and other support?

Therefore, the Council asks that Officers urgently undertake and publish a review of the how the Council can best mitigate the effects of Brexit on local residents including:

- a) How we can promote and assist with applications for settled status particularly for residents who face language or technology barriers.
- b) What we can do to help landlords and employers to be trained on immigration status, to avoid potential discrimination against EU27 nationals.
- c) How Brexit is likely to affect EU27 nationals accessing services provided by the Council, and steps that we can take to mitigate difficulties.
- d) The likely impact on Wokingham of British citizens returning to the UK and how we can best prepare for this

46.6 None Specific Motion 437 submitted by Pauline Helliar-Symons

On 22nd November 2018, this Council adopted a Sprinkler Policy centered on our schools. After work by Royal Berkshire Fire & Rescue Service, the Fire Authority's Management Committee on 22nd July 2019 adopted a wider policy, which they proposed be considered by each of the Berkshire Unitaries. This goes further to support promotion of Sprinklers in their Council areas and to put pressure on Central Government to legislate on Sprinklers, following the successful introduction of legal powers in Wales.

To be specific it is proposed:

That Wokingham Borough Council supports the proposals of the Royal Berkshire Fire Authority to extend the promotion of Sprinklers and to lobby central government to bring in legislation or regulations which make installations a necessary part of new builds and major refurbishments in the categories identified. The policy agreed by the Council on 22nd November 2018 regarding schools remains, but additionally:

Wokingham Borough Council:

- a. Recognises that Sprinklers and other Automatic Fire Suppression Systems (AFSS) save lives, protect property, reduce the impact of fire on the environment, reduce interruption to business and improve safety for individuals the community in general and firefighters, especially in the case of schools.

- b. Commits to installation of sprinklers or other AFSS within its own building stock when planning for and constructing new buildings or as a retrofitted solution when undertaking major refurbishments of existing buildings where the extent of the refurbishment makes the fitting of sprinklers viable.
- c. Through the planning application or building control process, promote and support the installation of sprinklers or other AFSS for all new or refurbished buildings and particularly those that present the most significant risk to the public and firefighters.
- d. Supports the National Fire Chiefs Council position on sprinklers and will write to Central Government to express support for the creation of a legal requirement to fit sprinklers or AFSS in buildings.

46.7 None Specific

Motion 438 submitted by Gary Cowan

The continued failure of recent Council meetings to conclude the agenda business suggests that the existing democratic process has failed. As a direct result of this Wokingham Borough's Residents and their Borough Council elected Members have been let down very badly. To correct this serious democratic failure and get the Council back on track this Council must immediately programme in as many additional Council meetings as is required to get Council business up to date.

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