



# WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

A Meeting of the **COUNCIL** will be held in Council Chamber  
- Civic Offices, Shute End, Wokingham RG40 1BN on  
**THURSDAY 19 JANUARY 2023 AT 7.30 PM**

Susan Parsonage  
Chief Executive  
Published on 11 January 2023

**Note:** Members of the public are welcome to attend the meeting or participate in the meeting virtually, in accordance with the Council's Constitution. If you wish to participate either in person or virtually via Microsoft Teams please contact Democratic Services. The meeting can also be watched live using the following link: <https://youtu.be/o5wINNhOKTY>

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.

<b>Our Vision</b>
<b><i>A great place to live, learn, work and grow and a great place to do business</i></b>
<b>Enriching Lives</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Champion excellent education and enable our children and young people to achieve their full potential, regardless of their background.</li> <li>• Support our residents to lead happy, healthy lives and provide access to good leisure facilities to enable healthy choices for everyone.</li> <li>• Engage and empower our communities through arts and culture and create a sense of identity for the Borough which people feel part of.</li> <li>• Support growth in our local economy and help to build business.</li> </ul>
<b>Providing Safe and Strong Communities</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protect and safeguard our children, young and vulnerable people.</li> <li>• Offer quality care and support, at the right time, to reduce the need for long term care.</li> <li>• Nurture our communities: enabling them to thrive and families to flourish.</li> <li>• Ensure our Borough and communities remain safe for all.</li> </ul>
<b>Enjoying a Clean and Green Borough</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Play as full a role as possible to achieve a carbon neutral Borough, sustainable for the future.</li> <li>• Protect our Borough, keep it clean and enhance our green areas for people to enjoy.</li> <li>• Reduce our waste, promote re-use, increase recycling and improve biodiversity.</li> <li>• Connect our parks and open spaces with green cycleways.</li> </ul>
<b>Delivering the Right Homes in the Right Places</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Offer quality, affordable, sustainable homes fit for the future.</li> <li>• Ensure the right infrastructure is in place, early, to support and enable our Borough to grow.</li> <li>• Protect our unique places and preserve our natural environment.</li> <li>• Help with your housing needs and support people, where it is needed most, to live independently in their own homes.</li> </ul>
<b>Keeping the Borough Moving</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain and improve our roads, footpaths and cycleways.</li> <li>• Tackle traffic congestion and minimise delays and disruptions.</li> <li>• Enable safe and sustainable travel around the Borough with good transport infrastructure.</li> <li>• Promote healthy alternative travel options and support our partners in offering affordable, accessible public transport with good transport links.</li> </ul>
<b>Changing the Way We Work for You</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be relentlessly customer focussed.</li> <li>• Work with our partners to provide efficient, effective, joined up services which are focussed around our customers.</li> <li>• Communicate better with customers, owning issues, updating on progress and responding appropriately as well as promoting what is happening in our Borough.</li> <li>• Drive innovative, digital ways of working that will connect our communities, businesses and customers to our services in a way that suits their needs.</li> </ul>
<b>Be the Best We Can Be</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be an organisation that values and invests in all our colleagues and is seen as an employer of choice.</li> <li>• Embed a culture that supports ambition, promotes empowerment and develops new ways of working.</li> <li>• Use our governance and scrutiny structures to support a learning and continuous improvement approach to the way we do business.</li> <li>• Be a commercial council that is innovative, whilst being inclusive, in its approach with a clear focus on being financially resilient.</li> <li>• Maximise opportunities to secure funding and investment for the Borough.</li> <li>• Establish a renewed vision for the Borough with clear aspirations.</li> </ul>

To: The Members of Wokingham Borough Council

ITEM NO.	WARD	SUBJECT	PAGE NO.
83.		<b>APOLOGIES</b> To receive any apologies for absence.	
84.		<b>MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING</b> To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting held on 17 November 2022.	19 - 52
85.		<b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b> To receive any declarations of interest.	
86.		<b>MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS</b> To receive any announcements by the Mayor.	
87.		<b>PUBLIC QUESTION TIME</b> 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 <a href="http://www.wokingham.gov.uk/publicquestions">www.wokingham.gov.uk/publicquestions</a>	
87.1	None Specific	Peter Must has asked the Executive Member for Active Travel, Transport and Highways the following question:  <b>Question:</b> At the meeting of the Executive on 31 March 2022, I asked the then Executive Member for Highways and Transport what was happening with the draft Borough-wide Parking Management Action Plan. Having told me about a number of projects, surveys and interim actions which would feed into the draft Plan, the Executive Member said that these would "enable a revised draft to be presented for public consultation in Autumn 2022" I cannot see this item in the Forward Plan for the Executive up to January	

2023. Could you tell me what is now happening to the draft Plan?

87.2 None Specific

Peter Wheat has asked the Executive Member for Planning and Local Plan the following question:

### Question

Why have Wokingham Borough Council not been effectively implementing policy TB08, leading to a paucity of allotments, and long waiting lists, and a situation where Wokingham Borough has only approximately 53% of the Allotments it should have, under the National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners (NSALG) guidelines.

Please see supporting evidence below:

Parish	Estimated Population	Allotment Poles	Poles Needed	Shortfall	Excess
Arborfield and Newland	3186	0	318	318	
Barkham	3761	0	376	376	
Charvil	2123	8 (est)	212	204 (rented land)	
Earley	34016	488	3401	2913	
Finchampstead	12363	365	1236	871	
Hurst	2199	135	220	85	
Remenham	547	0	54	54	
Ruscombe	1087	0	108	108	
Sonning	1744	66	174	108 (also private site Pearson Road (70 pole)	
Shinfield	15561	1395	1556	161(+170 in progress Orchard Rise)	
Swallowfield	2100	147	210	63	
Twyford	7013	915	701		214
Wargrave	4014	620	401		219
Woodley Town	39237	2571	3923	1352	
Winnersh	10870	430	1087	657	
Wokingham Town	50251	1524	5025	3501	
Wokingham Without	7221	176 (est)	722	546	

Summary:

Wokingham U.A. Population: 177500  
Poles needed (under NSALG guidance / TB08) 17750  
Poles identified 9216  
Poles shortfall 8534  
Only 52% of NSALG Guidelines!

87.3 Maiden Erlegh

Sandra Spencer has asked the Executive Member for Environment, Sport, and Leisure the following question:

### Question

The bottle bank that was installed in Kilnsea Drive, Earley, in 2020 was positioned 22 metres away from the nearest dwelling. It was removed after only three months after complaints from residents about the

noise it was generating. Can the Executive Member for the Environment, Sport and Leisure tell me how many noise complaints were received by the Council in order to get the bottle bank removed?

87.4      None Specific      David Portus has asked the Leader of the Council the following question:

**Question**

The Council has recently taken to public consultation in order to help facilitate change.

How can the local residents be sure this isn't just a ruse to push through policy decisions already formed by the governing body?

87.5      Maiden Erlegh      Nancy Baddoo has asked the Executive Member for Environment, Sport and Leisure the following question:

**Question**

We were informed at the Council Meeting on 17 November that for the Maiden Erlegh 3G pitch proposal, the ground will be raised by up to 1.5 m and a 4.5 m fence erected, giving a total height of up to 6 m (the equivalent of a two-storey structure), which will only be 8m distant from many residential boundaries. How importantly does the Council view the issue of residential visual amenity, and will it be reviewed before taking this proposal further?

87.6      Maiden Erlegh      Karen Brown has asked the Executive Member for Environment, Sport and Leisure the following question:

**Question:**

Wokingham Borough Council, in the proposal for the 3G pitch says:

'The growing population of Wokingham needs to be supported by a **robust** leisure offer to **enhance** wellbeing and **enrich** the lives of residents - we will help our residents keep fit and **thrive**'.

How will you help **enhance** the lives of the residents whose lives will be **blighted** by the 3G pitch especially those backing straight onto the pitch at a distance that you quoted of approximately 8 metres?

It's always good to have a visual guide, so to help out, the length of this table is approximately 6.5

metres add on another metre and a half and this is the distance from peoples' homes that is supposed to be acceptable.

87.7 Maiden Erlegh

Elizabeth Newman has asked the Executive Member for Climate Emergency and Resident Services the following question:

**Question:**

The Council have recently publicised their efforts to battle Climate change. The Climate Emergency Action Plan includes Increased Greening Reducing Carbon Dioxide emissions I would like to ask the Executive Member for Climate Emergency and Residents Services how the laying of a plastic football pitch over grass at Maiden Erlegh school fits with these objectives, that she is sponsoring?

87.8 Norreys

Peter Humphreys has asked the Executive Member for Active Travel, Transport and Highways the following question:

**Question:**

WBC regularly publicise their attempts to track down fly-tippers but never reveal why the Highways Department and their contractors have special exemption to deposit litter across the town. One doesn't have to travel far to see council-sponsored fly-tipping; Cantley Park is bookended with five abandoned signs for road works that were completed several months ago. The same applies to Norreys Avenue where sandbags and signs have been discarded at both ends and in the middle of the road.

Photographic evidence has been provided to all Members. You'll notice that the photos have been taken in a small part of Norreys ward, not because its special but because I came across the fly-tipping on one short walk. It is typical of the whole Borough.

It is paradoxical that whilst residents are being encouraged to recycle the Highways team are indulging in single use signs at great cost to Council Taxpayers.

These remnants of roadworks et al create trip hazards, make the town look scruffy and, they provide examples and positive encourage for residents to follow and drop their own litter also. Are you proud of this?

87.9 Maiden Erlegh Jeremy Evershed has asked the Executive Member for Environment, Sport and Leisure the following question:

**Question:**

I would like to hear an update on the promised analysis of Football pitches provision against the Football Foundation estimate of 500 teams in the Borough as quoted in the Maiden Erlegh plastic pitch pack; bearing in mind the 4 pitches in the planning process at Hyde End Lane, plus any other on-going consultations and/or planning submissions.

87.10 Maiden Erlegh Judith Clark has asked the Executive Member for Environment, Sport and Leisure the following question:

**Question:**

We recently learned that two key partner clubs - which have 33 teams between them - would use most of the training and match-day slots available at the very large 3G pitch planned for Maiden Erlegh School.

In the consultation, the case for this pitch was made by stating there were 524 local teams in the area and that they needed better facilities. How will the hundreds of teams not presented with a brand new million pound plus 3G pitch feel about the lucky 33, and won't the Council be under extreme pressure to fund many more 3G pitches for the rest of them?

87.11 Wescott Heather Murray has asked the Executive Member for Active Travel, Transport and Highways the following question:

**Question:**

As a resident of the Montague Park development I have had an email from my Ward Councillor citing a number of issues and their progress or lack of it that are unrelated to the original petition presented at your September meeting. Residents of Montague Park want to know when their voices will be listened to and the requests met that are integral for the ongoing road safety that the Councillors openly campaigned to support. These are namely: 20mph road markings, barriers lining the school pavement and the crossing on William Heelas Way that is integral for children crossing that part of the road safely. When will these be actioned and if not, why not?

88.		<p><b>PETITIONS</b> To receive any petitions which Members or members of the public wish to present.</p>	
89.	None Specific	<p><b>COUNCIL TAX BASE - 23/24</b> To approve the Council Tax Base 2023/24.</p> <p><b>RECOMMENDATION:</b> That Council</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Agree the proposed Council Tax Base, for the whole area and by Parish, as set out in the report;</li> <li>2) Agree a premium of 300% for Long Term Empty Properties for at least 5 years (but less than 10 years);</li> <li>3) Agree a premium of 400% for Long Term Empty Properties for over 10 years.</li> </ol>	53 - 58
90.	None Specific	<p><b>COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME - 23/24</b> To approve the Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2023/24.</p> <p><b>RECOMMENDATION:</b> That the Council agree the proposed Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2023/24:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) a local CTR scheme for 2023/24 is adopted on the same basis as the 2022/23 with a growth of £100k included in the proposed MTFP in order to maintain support in line with Council Tax increases and to reflect increases in central government welfare payments.</li> <li>2) that the full disregard currently allowed for War Widows and War Disability Pensions is continued from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 in respect of the Prescribed and Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme and Housing Benefit schemes</li> <li>3) that funds be made available to the hardship fund, known as Section 13a (S13a) scheme, for those who cannot pay their council tax liabilities.</li> <li>4) Members to note the linkages to the broader</li> </ol>	59 - 64

Tackling Poverty Strategy of both the Council Tax Reduction Scheme and the S13a scheme.

- 5) Members note an additional £250k to be included in the proposed 2023/24 general fund revenue budget to provide further support above and beyond the Council Tax Relief Scheme to tackle poverty in the light of cost of living pressures.

91.	None Specific	<b>TIMETABLE OF MEETINGS 2023/24</b> To approve the timetable of meetings 2023/24.	65 - 68
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**RECOMMENDATION:** That Council agrees the 2023/24 timetable of meetings.

92.	None Specific	<b>REVIEW OF MEMBERS ALLOWANCES BY THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL</b> To receive a report from the Independent Remuneration Panel on their review of Members' Allowances.	69 - 82
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**RECOMMENDATION:** that Council considers the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel, which asks that Council agree that:

- 1) The time contributed component of the basic allowance be increased by 4%, backdated to April 2022 and increased annually from April 2023 by the average increase in the national officer pay award for a period of 3 years;
- 2) The £500 component of the Basic Allowance for the provision of IT should continue to only be claimed by those Members who provide facilities which allow constituents and Officers to communicate with them by email, in addition to having adequate equipment and connections to allow for effective participation in virtual and hybrid meetings and the self-certification process related to this component of the basic allowance to be continued;
- 3) No one-off changes are made to any of the following SRAs: Leader of the Council, Leader of the Opposition, Deputy Executive Members, Chair of the Standards Committee, Chair of the Personnel Board, Member of the Planning Committee, Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee, Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committees;

- 4) A new SRA be agreed for the role of Deputy Leader of the Council, where the Deputy Leader is also responsible for an Executive Portfolio, set at  $2.74XSRA = £13,700$ , backdated to April 2022
- 5) A one-off increase to be agreed for the SRA paid to an Executive Member, set at  $2.11XSRA = £10,550$ , backdated to April 2022;
- 6) A one-off increase be agreed or the SRA paid to the Chair of the Audit Committee, set at  $0.6XSRA = £3,000$ , backdated to April 2022;
- 7) A one-off increase to be agreed for the SRA paid to the Chair of the Planning Committee, set at  $1.125XSRA = £5,625$  backdated to April 2022;
- 8) A one-off increase to be agreed for the SRA paid to the Chair of the Licensing Committee, to be set at  $0.86XSRA = £4,300$ , backdated to April 2022;
- 9) No one-off increase to be made to the Mayor's Allowance;
- 10) A one-off increase to be agreed for the Deputy Mayor's Allowance, set at £2,180, backdated to April 2022;
- 11) The value for an SRA currently set at  $1XSRA = £5,000$ , be subject to an inflationary mechanism of the average increase in the national officer pay award for a period of 3 years, to be applied from April 2023;
- 12) The Mayor's and Deputy Mayor's Allowances to be subject to an inflationary mechanism of the average increase in the national officer pay award for a period of 3 years, to be applied from April 2023;
- 13) No changes are made to the Travel and Subsistence Allowances;

- 14) No changes be made to the Dependent and Cares Allowance scheme.

93.           None Specific           **ADOPTION OF THE CENTRAL AND EASTERN BERKSHIRE JOINT MINERALS AND WASTE PLAN**           83 - 426

To adopt the Central and Eastern Berkshire Joint Minerals and Waste Plan.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That Council:

- 1) adopt the Central and Eastern Berkshire Joint Minerals and Waste Plan, (Enclosure 2), which incorporates the Main Modifications recommended by the Planning Inspectors (Enclosures 3 and 4)
- 2) agree to make alterations to the adopted Policies Map (Enclosure 5) that are necessary to give effect to the policies of the Joint Plan;
- 3) authorise the Director of Place and Growth, in consultation with the Executive Member for Planning and Local Plan, to agree minor amendments necessary to the Joint Plan and other supporting documents ahead of publication and publicity.

94.           **MEMBER QUESTION TIME**  
To answer any member questions

A period of 30 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

94.1           Shinfield North;  
Shinfield South           Jim Frewin has asked the Executive Member for Planning and Local Plan the following question:

**Question**

Wokingham has been subjected to significant development over the past few years. The Planning process provides for community amenities and planning conditions build on these amenities. Shinfield has waited for nearly 10 years to get a promised supermarket, only recently approved and significantly varied from the original promised

amenity. We also await other amenities such as sports pitches, pavilion, community focal point etc, all late and much changed from the original promises. Shinfield is not alone in this wait. I also understand that Wokingham are not meeting the planning levels for allotment provision. What are Wokingham planning doing about meeting the agreed amenity targets for our communities?

94.2 Shinfield South

Jackie Rance has asked the Executive Member for Housing the following question:

**Question:**

I have been helping five social housing tenants and their families at Clements Close, Spencer's Wood. They have had one chronic housing problem after another for over the year that I have been involved. Leaks, water cascading down walls, crumbling staircases, sinks falling over, baths on crooked floors and more. The tenants are all on medication for stress. All are overcrowded. Please could the Administration tell me what is being done imminently to help the families?

94.3 None Specific

Laura Blumenthal has asked the Executive Member for Environment, Sport, and Leisure the following question:

**Question:**

There was a sign in the Carnival Hub saying that its cafe was going cashless from December. This doesn't seem very inclusive for a Council building for those residents who want or can only use cash. Please can you confirm if your Administration will commit to protecting the option of using cash in Council buildings?

94.4 None Specific

Shahid Younis has asked the Executive Member for Environment, Sport and Leisure the following question:

**Question:**

It was confirmed in Spring 2022 that this Council would introduce women's only swimming sessions in the Borough, but this has still not been launched. The request came from the Equality Forum with no communications on the delay being given to the Forum's members. Please can you give me an update on when the swimming sessions will begin?

94.5 None Specific

Keith Baker has asked the Executive Member for

Active Travel, Transport and Highways the following question:

**Question:**

At a recent meeting with a Senior Highways Officer, the existence of a Business Case for increased parking charges was questioned. The answer was '*The business case is simply the document that went to Executive – there is no further document and no further analysis*'. We have repeatedly asked for copies of the Business Case with nothing being provided. If this Officer's comments are true, then it is understandable that the Executive Member could not provide it as it does not exist.

If this is true, this is a massive dereliction of duty to raise charges without any formal justification behind the proposals. Where are the answers to these questions?

- . what is the impact of increases in a period of economic downturn?
- . what is the impact of increases on local traders?
- . what is plan B if the Council gets the changes wrong, affecting business viability?
- . Does the possible revenue benefit outweigh the likely disadvantage to the retail sector already affected by the economic downturn?

The easy answer to all these questions could be resolved instantly by publishing the Business Case. Will you publish the Business Case behind these increases? A simple yes or no answer will suffice.

94.6      Norreys

Rachel Burgess has asked the Executive Member for Active Travel, Transport and Highways the following question:

**Question:**

There have been six collisions at the Wokingham town centre junction of Rectory Road and Wiltshire Road in recent years, where cars have come off the road, crossed the pavement at speed, and crashed into the railings outside the apartments on this junction. Three of these collisions occurred in the last seven months, and two in the last two months, causing considerable damage and concern.

There are many older residents in this area, some of whom are scared to walk on the pavements outside their own front doors due to the speed of traffic and the frequency of collisions at this site. In the most recent example, residents were walking along the pavement just moments before the incident. Residents are rightly concerned for pedestrian safety and fear a serious accident, causing personal injury, will occur.

A resident petition for safety measures at this junction was presented to the Council over a year ago. What measures is the Council taking to ensure safety at this junction, in particular for the many pedestrians in this area?

94.7      None Specific

Pauline Helliard Symons has asked the Executive Member for Planning and Local Plan the following question:

**Question:**

Given that the Conservatives had a 99% success in winning appeals on Planning applications, can you tell me how many have been lost on appeal, and the total cost to the Council of these losses, since May?

95.

**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

96.

**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

97.

**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.

98.

## **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

98.1      None Specific

### **Motion 494 submitted by Gary Cowan**

‘This Council sets up a working Group to review the Council’s Constitution with the aim of making it fit for the 21st century by attempting to reflect the needs of Councillors, Officers, and Residents. To achieve that aim we ask the LGA to work with us in putting into place a modern, fit for purpose, new Constitution.’

#### **Statement from the Chief Finance Officer**

No direct Financial Implications, it is assumed the required activities will be undertaken within existing resources which may require a diversion from other priorities.

98.2      None Specific

### **Motion 495 submitted by Charles Margetts**

‘Residents who live off William Heelas Way in Wokingham have raised significant concerns with me about the speed of traffic and the lack of protection for parents and young children accessing Floreat Montague Park Primary School. The link road between London Road and the future Southern Relief Road has a 30mph speed limit and traffic levels which will only get busier when the Southern Relief Road opens. At the last council meeting residents handed in a petition signed by over 500 people calling for a 20 mph speed limit outside the school, the provision of barriers around the pavements and full reinstatement of a pedestrian crossing on William Heelas Way. Wokingham Borough Council believes it is of vital importance that young children can travel to this school on foot or by bicycle in complete safety. To ensure children can walk and cycle safely to school Wokingham Borough Council agrees to meet the requests of the petition without further delay.’

**Statement from the Chief Finance Officer**

- (1) An advisory speed limit of 20mph along with signs and flashing warning lights has already been installed fronting the school. This is the same as all other schools within the Borough. There are therefore no further financial implications associated with agreeing to this element of the motion;
- (2) Barriers around the pavements are understood to be counter to national government policy and would restrict the width of the footpath/cycleway, however depending on an alternative solution this could cost in the region of £100k;
- (3) It is understood the pedestrian crossing in question already complies fully with the planning consent granted. An upgrade from an uncontrolled crossing to a controlled crossing, would cost between £50-£100k.

98.3      None Specific

**Motion 496 submitted by Rebecca Margetts**

‘Wokingham Borough Council congratulates the England Lionesses on their incredible achievement of becoming European Champions. Many of these women were not offered the opportunity as children to play football at school and the only reason for their success was, they were prepared and able to travel great distances to pursue their dream. Wokingham Borough Council believes all children should be offered the opportunity at school to play football and calls on all schools in Wokingham Borough to ensure that football is offered to every child who wishes to play.’

**Statement from the Chief Finance Officer**

Where schools have the necessary facilities there may be no direct financial implications. However, where this is not the case, there may be considerable investment required, for example, as has already been reported to Executive, a 3G pitch would require capital funds of approximately £800k with associated running costs. A school-by-school analysis would need to be undertaken to properly understand the financial impact and the viability of provision.

The schools’ community is an eclectic mix including; Maintained Schools, Academies, Private Schools, and Diocese, so funding and affordability would need to be considered in this context.

98.4      None Specific

**Motion 497 submitted by Laura Blumenthal**

‘In light of the Conservative Group successfully getting care workers added to Wokingham Borough Council’s definition of key workers, enabling affordable housing in the Borough to be ringfenced for them, this Council should commit to a communications campaign to publicise the change, including writing to care homes to promote this to their staff.’

**Statement from Chief Finance Officer**

There are no financial implications associated with this Motion on the basis there is no change in policy or priority to the existing Allocations policy.

98.5      None Specific

**Motion 498 submitted by Shirley Boyt**

‘This Council values the contribution of all key workers.

The pandemic highlighted those who provide an invaluable service to our community and who should be regarded as key workers.

Key workers in our community are suffering hardship caused by a combination of low pay and the high cost of living in this borough.

Many are in receipt of means tested benefits and qualify for Council Tax Relief.

Many are using foodbanks and/or other help provided by the Hardship Alliance.

The cost of living in the borough means that there are shortages of key workers. A Google search in the first week of January revealed 73 local NHS vacancies, 72 care worker vacancies and more than 100 vacancies for teachers and/or classroom assistants.

This Council seeks to address this issue by:

Undertaking a full review of Key Worker Housing Provision including but not limited to:

1. Setting a more realistic income threshold
2. Reviewing the list of eligible occupations
3. Working with Preferred Registered Partners and developers to provide a range of Key Worker Homes suitable for families as well as single occupants.
4. Using S106 agreements to ensure that all new developments include Key Worker Homes for

‘social’ rather than ‘affordable’ rent.’

**Statement from Chief Finance Officer**

The supply and availability of affordable housing is a limited and costly resource, whilst the Council has numerous objectives and obligations to meet through affordable housing provision. One of these is the prevention of homelessness and limiting the reliance on temporary accommodation, which if not addressed, can have significant ongoing Revenue implications for the Council. The prioritisation of any particular nature of need should be considered in this context and the financial implications of this would need to be carefully worked through.

**CONTACT OFFICER**

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