



WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

A Meeting of the **EXECUTIVE** will be held in David Hicks 1 - Civic Offices, Shute End, Wokingham RG40 1BN on **THURSDAY 27 OCTOBER 2022 AT 7.00 PM**

Susan Parsonage
Chief Executive
Published on 19 October 2022

Note: Members of the public are welcome to attend the meeting or participate in the meeting virtually, in line 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/vQww692riVE>

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

MEMBERSHIP OF THE EXECUTIVE

Clive Jones	Leader of Council and Business and Economic Development
Stephen Conway	Deputy Leader of the Council and Executive Member for Housing
Rachel Bishop-Firth	Equalities, Inclusion and Fighting Poverty
Prue Bray	Children's Services
Lindsay Ferris	Planning and Local Plan
Paul Fishwick	Active Travel, Transport and Highways
David Hare	Health and Wellbeing and Adult Services
Sarah Kerr	Climate Emergency and Resident Services
Ian Shenton	Environment, Sport and Leisure
Imogen Shepherd-DuBey	Finance

ITEM NO.	WARD	SUBJECT	PAGE NO.
47.		APOLOGIES To receive any apologies for absence.	
48.		MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting held on 29 September 2022.	9 - 30
49.		DECLARATION OF INTEREST To receive any declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests, other registrable interests and any non-registrable interests relevant to any matters to be considered at the meeting.	
50.		STATEMENT FROM THE LEADER To receive a statement from the Leader of the Council.	
51.		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	
51.1	Maiden Erlegh	Sarah Evershed has asked the Executive Member for Environment, Sport and Leisure the following question:	

Question:

The proposed football pitch at Maiden Erlegh School will increase pressure on the restricted access to the site. The entrance is through an already congested shopping parade, which includes the only chemist on the estate; and in close proximity to 2 bus stops and a pedestrian crossing. During big school events/parents evenings the queuing traffic already extends out along Silverdale road. Adding into this the traffic from the 3G pitch will create this scenario every evening of the week as parents/people overlap during the change over of sessions on the new pitch. The school have already accepted that congestion occurs in the vicinity. Bearing these facts in mind, and that visiting teams are likely to be coming from outside the Borough, are the Council accepting that this pitch will increase pollution, congestion and increase risk to the community's safety?

51.2 Maiden Erlegh

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

Question:

An online petition against the plan for a large manmade 3G pitch to replace most of Maiden Erlegh school's grass field has attracted at least 164 signatures. Almost everyone I have spoken to in Earley is totally opposed to the plan, given the massive negative impact on their quality of life the non-stop renting out will bring. The council claims it wants to enhance the lives and well-being of local people, but this will cause untold misery as residents never get a break from the noise, traffic and parking problems. People also have many other serious concerns about the pitch. Does Wokingham borough council care about the impact on residents at all, and how many signatures do we need for the council take us seriously?

51.3 Maiden Erlegh

Elizabeth Newman has asked the Executive Member for Environment, Sport and Leisure the following question:

Question:

Environmental and flooding concern.

The proposed 3G pitch will cover yet more ground with plastic, which, over time as the plastic degrades, will shed its load of microplastics into the local environment and in due course water courses, that feed into our rivers.

Rain water that would previously have sunk into the ground, will flow down towards Avalon Road, and we're told be captured. Has there been a risk assessment of precisely how, and where the water will then be directed, and how the micro plastics, large enough to be physically captured, will be dealt with?

Given the severe flooding of Radnor Road after heavy rain, natural drainage would appear already to be a problem in the locality.

51.4 Maiden Erlegh

Michaela Thomas has asked the Executive Member for Environment, Sport and Leisure the following question:

Question:

I am concerned about the proposal for a 3G pitch at Maiden Erlegh school and the increase of these pitches in the borough. The known environmental and health issues caused by the tyre rubber crumb infill in 3G pitches is a huge concern across the world, and yet the local authority continue to install these at a rapid rate, without seeking other possible alternatives. Have you considered the financially viable long term future of plastic pitches if within the next few years, central government's view changes and they lean towards an alternative non rubber infill or even a complete ban (as is the case in Europe and other parts of the world)?

51.5 Maiden Erlegh

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

Question:

An artificial 3G pitch at Maiden Erlegh School has been put forward as an environmentally friendly solution for Earley football teams because it will allow young people to play locally and cut down on car journeys outside the borough. However, Maiden Erlegh school is not in central Earley but on the western side both of Earley and of Wokingham borough, so is also further from London, but your own consultation material admits that players will be making car journeys of up to 45 minutes duration, and Laurel Park football club admits it wants players from as far away as Teddington to travel here. Given this, how can a pitch at this school be the right location to meet the environmental argument of cutting down on motor traffic?

51.6 Maiden Erlegh

Chris Thomas has asked the Executive Member for Environment, Sport and Leisure the following question:

Question:

How does the installation of 3G pitches fit in with your

commitment to delivering a greener future and your climate emergency action plan? Instead of opting for plastic pitches have you fully investigated other options like simply investing in improving existing Grass Pitches? The Football Foundation run a Grass Pitch Revolution scheme which offers funding to improve existing pitches as an alternative to 3G pitches. Could this be a solution for Laurel Park pitches instead of shoehorning a new plastic pitch into a residential area when nearby residents are opposed to it.

51.7 Maiden Erlegh

Emily Thomas has asked the Executive Member for Environment, Sport and Leisure the following question:

Question:

Regarding the proposal for a 3G pitch at Maiden Erlegh school. The 'grass' blades are made from plastic that is the equivalent of about 1½ million plastic bags, and the rubber crumb comes from about 20 thousand end of life tyres, can I please ask what will happen to the plastic pitches when they reach the end of their very short lifespan of around 10 years? Will the pitches be recycled or do they end up in landfill? In a time of climate emergency, it seems ludicrous that these pitches are seen as a sensible solution just so football matches can play on in wet weather.

51.8 None Specific

Paul Stevens has asked the Executive Member for Planning and Local Plan the following question:

Question:

We were repeatedly told by the previous administration that large Strategic Development Locations are the best mechanism for delivery of essential infrastructure. Can the Executive Member for Planning and Local Plan confirm or deny that this is still considered to be the case?

52.

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

53. Arborfield

Gary Cowan has asked the Executive Member for Planning and Local Plan the following question:

Question:

Unlike the previous Conservative administration has the current administration a public view on building housing beyond the Governments Plan period of 15 years.

I refer in particular to the 2200+ houses written into the Local Plan housing Update at Hall Farm or are they content to keep the building of 2200 houses beyond the governments plan period within its evolving plans or will they simply just publicly say now they will not be planning and future building beyond the Governments 15 year plan in the LPU.

Matters for Consideration

54.	None Specific	RENT SETTING POLICY	31 - 50
55.	None Specific	CAPITAL MONITORING 2022/23 - Q2	51 - 60
56.	None Specific	REVENUE MONITORING 2022-23 Q2	61 - 74
57.	Maiden Erlegh	LEASE FOR LEARNING DISABILITY RESPITE CENTRE	75 - 82
58.		MATTERS REFERRED TO THE EXECUTIVE To consider any items referred to the Executive.	
59.		TO CONSIDER ANY REPORTS FROM THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES	
59.1	None Specific	Officers' response to the recommendations from the Tree Protection and Biodiversity Task & Finish Group	83 - 88
60.		EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act (as amended) as appropriate.	

EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Executive may exclude the press and public in order to discuss the Part 2 sheets of Agenda Item 57 above and to do so it must pass a resolution in the following terms:

That under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for item 57 on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act (as amended) as appropriate.

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.

CONTACT OFFICER

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