



WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

A Meeting of the **COUNCIL** will be held in Council Chamber
- Civic Offices, Shute End, Wokingham RG40 1BN on
THURSDAY 20 JULY 2023 AT 7.30 PM

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Susan Parsonage', is written in a cursive style.

Susan Parsonage
Chief Executive
Published on 12 July 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://youtube.com/live/yWMHgw3rxEQ?feature=share>

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.

To: The Members of Wokingham Borough Council

ITEM NO.	WARD	SUBJECT	PAGE NO.
15.		APOLOGIES To receive any apologies for absence.	
16.		MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting held on 18 May 2023.	15 - 30
17.		DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST To receive any declarations of interest.	
18.		MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS To receive any announcements by the Mayor.	
19.		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	
19.1	Barkham	Christina Haigh has asked the Executive Member for Active Travel, Transport and Highways the following question: Question: Since 31st March, I have twice emailed Messrs Easton, Corrigan, Searle, Chancellor, and Milburn with my question, but have had no response from anyone. My question pertains to Biggs Lane, and the road safety of children crossing that road to reach Farley Hill Primary School since it relocated. The temporary crossing that we had been using - actually better located than the new one, i.e. closer to the school and further from the Princess Marina Drive	

roundabout – is now gone. Its removal has led to traffic in both directions speeding up between the permanent crossing and the Langley Common Road roundabout. Parents are asking me if the former temporary crossing could be transformed into a zebra crossing, what also other traffic calming will be put into place to slow traffic on Biggs Lane?

What plans are there to address this? Biggs Lane is now a very busy road and would benefit from additional road markings and traffic calming e.g. speed bumps. The people in our area would doubtless be grateful if the dangerous "road narrowing" implemented throughout Arborfield, could be avoided. They are an accident waiting to happen and we want to keep the school community safe.

19.2 None Specific

Paul Stevens has asked the Executive Member for Climate Emergency and Resident Services the following question:

Question

Earlier this month, the government clarified laws made in 2015, that taxpayers should not be charged for disposing of household waste at civic amenity sites – scrapping backdoor “tip taxes”. It has also repeatedly stated that councils should not be charging for such DIY household waste disposal.

Under the proposals, household DIYers would not be charged to get rid of waste including plasterboards, bricks and bath units. Despite this promise from the UK Government, Re3, which runs the recycling centres at Longshot Lane in Bracknell and Smallmead Road in Reading, is sticking to the charges, at least for now. As a resident living in a rural part of Wokingham I can report that fly tipping has got progressively worse since the pandemic and shows no sign of reducing. Charging for waste disposal makes no sense if it encourages fly tipping which then has to be cleared by the Council. It creates an unsightly environment which is potentially hazardous and encourages others to add to it.

Can the Executive member for Climate Emergency and Resident Services confirm that Re3 will be dropping their charges for householder disposal of DIY waste as soon as the new legislation is in place?

19.3 None Specific

Jim Frewin has asked the Executive Member for Planning and the Local Plan the following question:

Question:

Over the past few years successive administrations have informed residents that they are in conversation/negotiation with Government Housing Ministers with regards to Wokingham housing numbers. I realise that the revolving door situation with multiple Ministers has made these conversations difficult. My question to the Executive Member for Planning will you please provide a detailed update on these conversations/negotiations including latest schedule, actions taken and actions planned?

19.4 Norreys

Emma Webster has asked the Executive Member for Active Travel, Transport and Highways the following question:

Question:

On 17th June in the early hours of the morning a motorist travelling down Rectory Road went into the railings at the junction of Rectory Road and Wiltshire Road causing significant damage to the railings, which had just been repaired after the previous incident occurring at the same junction a few months prior.

This is now the third incident in the last six months and seventh in the last few years. When a question was asked previously at Full Council the response given was "the absence of information about individual collisions means that it is not possible to identify factors that may have contributed to the recent spate of incidents."

Unfortunately, but unsurprisingly, the motorist in this latest incident neither remained at the site of the accident, nor reported they were responsible for the damage. So, can I please ask, what measures are the Council going to take to ensure safety at this junction so that all road users go round the bend rather than through the railings?

19.5 None Specific

Tony Johnson has asked the Leader of the Council and Executive Member for Housing the following question:

Question:

Back in January this year, Full Council voted unanimously to change the constitution - to reform it in line with the 21st century needs, needs of the staff, the elected representatives and the residents.

Please would the new leader bring us up to date on

the progress of the changes to the Constitution and any plans this administration has to consult before the changes are brought before this Council for consideration?

- 20.** **PETITIONS**
To receive any petitions which Members or members of the public wish to present.
- 21.** None Specific **UPDATE OF LOCAL CODE OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE** **31 - 54**
To receive a report on the updated Local Code of Corporate Governance.
- RECOMMENDATION**
- To approve the Local Code of Corporate Governance as recommended by the Audit Committee at its meeting of 7 June 2023.
- 22.** Twyford **TWYFORD NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN** **55 - 74**
To receive a report on the Twyford Neighbourhood Plan.
- RECOMMENDATION**
- That Council:
- 1) Make (adopt) the Twyford Neighbourhood Plan so that it forms part of the statutory Development Plan, pursuant to Section 38A(4) of The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004; and
 - 2) Publishes a Decision Statement pursuant to Regulation 19 of The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) (“the Regulations”) in order to give effect to the above recommendation.
 - 3) Delegates to the Director of Place & Growth, in consultation with the Executive Member for Planning and Local Plan, and in agreement with the Qualifying Body, to make any spelling, grammatical, typographical or factual corrections to the plan and supporting documents.
- 23.** **OUTCOME OF CODE OF CONDUCT COMPLAINT**
Following a complaint against Councillor Halsall, an independent investigation was conducted into the

allegations which centred on a March 2022 letter signed by Councillor Halsall and distributed to residents in Norreys ward. The investigators' report concluded that there had been a breach of three clauses of Wokingham Borough Council's Code of Conduct (paragraphs 9.2.5, 9.2.8.5 and 9.2.8.7 (b) (ii)).

Councillor Halsall has been asked to make a written apology to the complainant which he has done and will also receive training on aspects of the Code. In accordance with Rule 9.1.14.3 of the Borough Council's Constitution, the decision notice was published on the Council's website on 30 June 2023. A copy of the decision notice has been sent to the complainant, the Subject Member, and the Independent Person. The Constitution also requires that the matter is reported to the next meeting of the Council.

In relation to this complaint, there will be no discussion on the item and there is no further action required.

RECOMMENDATION: The Council notes that Councillor John Halsall was found to be in breach of the Member Code of Conduct.

24. None Specific **WOKINGHAM BOROUGH WELLBEING BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23** **75 - 94**

To receive a report from the Chair of the Wokingham Borough Wellbeing Board on the work undertaken by the Wokingham Borough Wellbeing Board 2022-23.

RECOMMENDATION: That the report from the Chair of the Wokingham Borough Wellbeing Board be noted.

25. **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.

25.1 Finchampstead South Rebecca Margetts has asked the Executive Member for Planning and Local Plan the following question:

Question:

In Liberal Democrat local election literature Councillor Pittock stated that Sainsbury's will run the supermarket and negotiations for the pub are underway in the new Arborfield Green village Centre.

In a recent social media post Cllr Pittock has stated that a legal agreement is in place with Sainsburys (a lease will follow) and discussions are being held with a publican.

The residents of Finchampstead South are delighted to hear this and have waited so long for this progress. Can you advise me of the latest updates.

25.2 Finchampstead
North

Charles Margetts has asked the Executive Member for Active Travel, Transport and Highways the following question:

Question:

Can you tell me if the tender to for the redevelopment of California Crossroads has been awarded by Wokingham Borough Council to a contractor and when the work is expected to start and finish?

25.3 Wokingham
Without

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

Question:

My residents would like you to make a commitment not to allow 835 additional houses in the north east corner of Wokingham Without, in the green gap between Wokingham and Bracknell. Will you make this commitment not to put this site in the new Local Plan?

25.4 Wokingham
Without

David Davies has asked the Executive Member for Environment, Sport and Leisure the following question:

Question:

I was delighted that this year the Council chose to promote biodiversity through Plantlife's "No Mow May" initiative, encouraging residents to let their lawns grow for a critical month in the year to help local wildlife, particularly our pollinators.

I was therefore surprised and disappointed that Wokingham Borough Council chose to start cutting the grass in my ward in the middle of May and as a

result am aware of some residents that have gone ahead and cut their own grass in frustration at this do as I say approach. Can the Executive Member confirm why this has happened and commit that this will not happen in future years?

25.5 None Specific Phil Cunnington has asked the Executive Member for Active Travel, Transport & Highways the following question:

Question:

Could the Executive Member explain how someone would park in a town centre car in the evening if they wanted to leave their car overnight until 8AM the next morning, without incurring a fine?

25.6 None Specific Gary Cowan has asked the Executive Member for Children's Services the following question:

Question:

Could the responsible Executive Member for Children's Services update the Council on the latest plans to deliver SEND facilities within Wokingham Borough?

25.7 Bulmershe and Whitegates; Coronation; Loddon; South Lake

Keith Baker has asked the Executive Member for Active Travel, Transport & Highways and the Executive Member for Planning and Local Plan the following question:

Question:

I have a copy of the original agreement between WBC, Taylor Wimpy and Woodley Properties signed on the 2nd May 2012. It is quite interesting reading particular the section 7 which is all about Highways. As is normal for a large development such as this (Sandford Farm, Woodley) the agreement includes developer contributions to Bus Service Enhancements which is £629,225, Travel Plan Purpose £122,326.40 and Infrastructure or other Transport Improvements £1,297,248.60. A grand total of over £2 million which should have been spent in Woodley mitigating against the impact of this large development.

It also includes a clause which says that after 10 years any unused money can be used anywhere at Wokingham Borough Council's discretion. Well, the 10 years are now up so I would like to know how this large sum of money has been spent. So, can you please provide a full breakdown of all the projects that this money was spent on?

25.8 Shinfield North Andrew Gray has asked the Executive Member for Active Travel, Transport and Highways the following question:

Question:

Residents in my ward feel unsafe using the junction between the B3270 and Whitley Wood Lane due to the number of accidents and near misses over the last year. What is the council doing to make this junction safer?

25.9 None Specific Peter Harper has asked the Executive Member for Climate Emergency and Resident Services the following question:

Question:

With the two solar farms at Barkham unlikely to go ahead due to the lack of capacity in the local electricity transmission network, what contingency plan is there to save the 14,000 tCO₂e that form a critical part of the net zero strategy?

25.10 None Specific Andy Croy has asked the Executive Member for Environment, Sport, and Leisure the following question:

Question:

Last week there was a Council press release announcing that fewer bins will be emptied at some indeterminate point in the future.

This week we see that bins are being covered with black plastic bags.

When was the Executive Member planning on informing residents and Members about the timings of which bins will be affected by the decision to not empty them?

25.11 None Specific Laura Blumenthal has asked the Executive Member for Equalities, Inclusion and Fighting Poverty, the following question:

Question:

Residents have been asking me about the £250k hardship fund in Lib Dem leaflets. Please can you share how residents in crisis can apply for payments from this hardship fund?

25.12 None Specific Mike Smith has asked the Leader of the Council and Executive Member for Housing the following question:

Question:

The Building Safety Act 2022 that is a direct result of the Grenfell disaster, places a large number of responsibilities onto the Building Owner which cannot be off-laid by contract to others. How is Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) planning to comply with these newly defined responsibilities related to buildings that WBC own?

25.13 Abdul Loyes has asked the Executive Member for Environment, Sport and Leisure the following question

Question:

How has the Council assessed which bins it will remove and which need less emptying in parks and on walking routes?

26. MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND WARD MATTERS

An opportunity for Members to ask questions in relation to the latest circulated volume of Minutes of Meetings and Ward Matters. 20 minutes is permitted for this item.

27. STATEMENTS BY THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL AND EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

To receive any statements by the Leader of the Council and 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.

28. 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.

29. 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.

29.1 None Specific

Motion 501 submitted by Charles Margetts

‘This Council calls on the Mayor of London to abandon the proposal to end the one day travel card which would be more expensive to our residents and could discourage train travel. This Council notes that the Executive Member for Active Travel, Transport and Highways has written to the Mayor expressing the Council’s opposition to his plans. This Council asks all political group leaders to sign a joint letter to the Mayor of London reiterating opposition to his proposals, to show cross-party support for the Council’s position.’

Statement from the Chief Finance Officer:

There are no direct financial implications in supporting this motion.

29.2 None Specific

Motion 502 submitted by Caroline Smith

‘Wokingham Borough is a place renowned for being welcoming and friendly and for the strength of its communities. It is a place where every resident and place matters, and this should be a part of its vision and mission.

We recognise the potential contribution of asylum seekers and refugees to our Borough, and believe that a comprehensive, co-ordinated and forward-looking approach that promotes community cohesion is the best way to ensure the welfare of people moving into the Borough.

This Council:

- a. Agrees to make Wokingham Borough a recognised ‘Borough of Sanctuary’, welcoming those fleeing violence and persecution in their own countries, no matter their country of origin or how they arrived in our Borough;
- b. Becomes a supporter of City of Sanctuary UK by signing their organisational pledge and making a voluntary donation of the suggested amount for an

- organisation of our size of £250;
- c. Will amend its vision and mission to recognise that status;
 - d. Recognises the positive contribution asylum seekers and refugees make to the social, cultural and community life of Wokingham Borough.
 - e. Is committed to taking practical steps to welcome and include refugees and asylum seekers in our activities and will actively seek ways of supporting them, looking for opportunities to do so both within our existing and future budgets and through seeking additional income such as grants;
 - f. Will support our communities and voluntary, community and faith groups in assisting asylum seekers and refugees wherever possible.'

Statement from Chief Finance Officer:

There are no direct financial implications in supporting this motion other than the nominal sum associated with the donation.

29.3 None Specific

Motion 503 submitted by Pauline Jorgensen

'The Council will monitor and publish a report to Full Council on a quarterly basis detailing progress on business cases for all projects with costs over £1m. This report will set out the objectives and deliverables for all active projects that have been approved and are being delivered or due to be delivered, so that the public can see clearly what the full cost, capital, and revenue, of any change and what benefits have been delivered. Commercially sensitive details which cannot be reasonably placed in the public domain, as decided by the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader of the Council, will be made available for councillors in a Part 2 addition to the report, with the option to discuss these details with the public and press excluded, if necessary. The first report will be brought to the next Full Council meeting after this one, on Thursday 21st September 2023.'

Statement from the Chief Finance Officer:

There are no direct financial implications in supporting this motion.

29.4 None Specific

Motion 504 submitted by Pauline Helliard-Symons

'While recognising concerns about clean air and congestion, there has to be a balance with supporting the local economy, therefore this Council is

committed not to introduce ULEZ charges in any part of the Borough of Wokingham.'

Statement from the Chief Finance Officer:

There are no direct financial implications in supporting this motion.

29.5

Motion 505 submitted by Norman Jorgensen

The Council has announced that it will seek to make £600,000 of savings by removing some litter bins, reducing the number of times it sprays weeds, cleans areas around bottle banks, empties litter bins, and sweeps roads. This is despite Full Council having approved a budget in February 2023 which the Executive put forward to pay for services for 2023/24. The announcement has been made with no consultation with Members outside the administration, nor Borough residents.

This Council instructs the Executive to:

1. Provide a report to September Full Council outlining a breakdown of the savings expected, the areas where services or bins will be reduced, and the estimated cost of achieving those savings, including the cost of removal of bins
2. Hold a consultation with residents to seek public views on this service reduction
3. Produce a report for presentation to Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee outlining the results of the consultation and resulting decision, including the costs of each individual change and impact assessments
4. Take a report to the Executive following the presentation to Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee

Proceed no further with the announced savings until 1-4 to have been completed.

Statement from the Chief Finance Officer:

The direct financial implications associated with delaying these service efficiencies are approximately £5k per week.

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