

## Annex B

### Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme Requests 2023/24

| No | Request  | Comment/Action   |
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| 1  | Lack of safe active travel routes for both cycling and walking. We live less than 1/2 mile from primary school, the sports centre and Wokingham town centre but have no safe walking or cycling routes to any of them.   | LCWIP has been considered by the Communit & Corporate O&S Committee. Active Travel Task & Finish Group has been set up |
| 2  | The Finchampstead Road is very unsafe for cycling and for pedestrians who need to get across it. No safe crossing near Molly Millars or near the town centre and the crossing near Evendons only works about 50% of the time, it has been reported lots of times but still we have to run the gauntlet trying to cross safely with our children because the lights won't turn red for cars.  | Refer to Higways and Transport   |
| 3  | Lack of a secondary school strategy. I've been asking for literally years for a long term secondary school strategy that goes beyond 2020. We need to apply for secondary school by the end October this year but WBC haven't shared where all the school places will be, so it will be a lottery for my child with SEN need. Lack of communication from the SEND Dept. My son was turned down for an EHCP but I don't know why, I've not been given a reason and all of my emails asking why, go unanswered. WBC do not respond to emails.  | Refer to Children's Services O&S Committee and SEND team   |
| 4  | <p>Provision of shopping, sport and community facilities within the major housing developments in the area for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shinfield new supermarket not built planning permission just approved 4 years after house building started;</li> <li>• Shinfield village centre not started despite 4000 house being completed;</li> <li>• Arborfield new commercial centre not started;</li> <li>• Shinfield new cricket pitch not open;</li> <li>• Arborfield new sports pavilion not started;</li> <li>• Shinfield sports centre not built.</li> </ul> | Refer to Community and Corporate O&S Committee   |
| 5  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GP performance - to highlight good and poor performance;</li> <li>• Access to NHS dentistry - to highlight gaps and put pressure on the NHS to improve this.</li> </ul>   | Refer to Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee  |

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| 6 | <p>Road maintainance and pedestrian safety issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Why do highways sign off road resurfacing as complete and satisfactory when they are in just as bad, if not worse, a state as before resurfacing? I'm talking in particular about the ironworks being below the road surface making them as bad as the potholes that were there previously. I'm talking in particular about Wokingham Road from the 3 Tuns to the George and Wilderness Road from the 3 Tuns to Pepper Lane.</li> <li>• Traffic lights by the George, Wokingham Road junction with Loddon Bridge Road, do not filter traffic as planned. When coming down the Wokingham Road from Reading the left turn filter onto Loddon Bridge Road stays red even though the turning onto Loddon Bridge Road is clear.</li> <li>• Pedestrian zebra crossings are not illuminated making it difficult to see pedestrians at night especially if they are wearing dark clothing.</li> <li>• Many white lines need repainting as there are many that are worn out.</li> </ul>   | Refer to Community & Corporate Overview & Scrutiny Committee and to Highways and Transport |
| 7 | <p>An initial investigation into placing a 3G facility at Laurel Park in Lower Earley was cancelled prior to any proper investigation or evaluation being undertaken, the decision was purely based on the feedback from a small number of misinformed residents local to Laurel Park.</p> <p>A second plan was then instigated to install a facility at Maiden Erlegh School, the council's public consultation showed overwhelming support for this idea, but yet again due to a small number of complainants the project has been stopped.</p> <p>Earley and Lower Earley has in the region of 33,000 residents, nearly a quarter of the total residents in Wokingham Borough, and yet we are the only part of the borough with no modern 3G facility.</p> <p>Laurel Park FC teams are currently having to train on sand based MUGAs, tennis courts and facilities that are on the other side of Wokingham because there is just not enough space locally. This will limit any hope of the club expanding to support more children, to enable mixed ability sessions, to introduce adult men's and women's teams or much needed senior walking football. We currently have close to 500 kids training every week but have a waiting list in excess of 100 children that we just can't support due to the lack of facilities. Ideally we'd love to extend our junior section from the existing 33 teams to 45+ in the next 3 years but that cannot happen without new facilities, and in fact it's more likely that we will have to decline in numbers.</p> <p>Increasingly it seems decisions related to sport in the Borough are being made by people who are only listening to one side of the issue. At no point has any councillor taken the time to come and speak to the LPFC committee to understand what the real</p> | Refer to Sports & Leisure team   |

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|   | <p>requirement is and the level of support that a new facility actually has. We know that the WBC Executive members were contacted directly by a large number of supporters of the project and each of them were brushed off and ignored.</p> <p>I'm hopeful that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee can review how the decisions relating to the 3G pitch are being made and understand why councillors and the Executive Committee are not taking into account the views and requirements of the majority of the population of the Borough.</p>   |   |
| 8 | <p>To many residents it is irresponsible to grant planning permission for any sizeable new housing development of 50 or more dwellings without first ensuring that local services can cope with the additional demand that new residents will place on them.</p> <p>Planning officers seem too willing to kick the infrastructure can down the road when determining such applications. Their standard response - that NHS services are not within the remit of the planning department - is not only glib but also potentially very dangerous, especially when local GP and dental surgeries and local hospitals are already overloaded before any new development is built.</p> <p>Our society risks falling into terminal decline if we make healthcare, education and road safety less attainable and I suggest that planning officers and their committees should never exercise their power to increase population without first coordinating any necessary guaranteed infrastructure upgrades with the responsible bodies. Otherwise they may be condemning residents to unnecessary illness, accidents and possibly a premature death as well as a sub-standard education.</p> <p>Any person of sound mind would agree with my suggestion so it is a mystery that a properly coordinated approach to housing development planning has not been put in place.</p> | See 3 above – Refer to Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee |
| 9 | <p>'Unofficial' pedestrian access through a hedgerow was available to able bodied and disabled persons at this location until just before Christmas when a 50cm wooden rail was installed to prevent vehicles from parking on the verge. Access remains available to abled bodied people, however disabled people face discrimination as there is no gap for pedestrians. I am no longer able to push my daughter in a wheelchair through the hedgerow at this location. Mothers with buggies need to lift their buggies. This is arguably contrary to the Discrimination Act of 2010 and therefore against the law.</p> <p>When reported to the WBC Inclusion Team, the response was not what I had expected. I had expected a response of 'Yes, we agree the lack of pedestrian access where once there was discriminates against less-able-bodied people'.</p>  | Refer to Place & Growth                                     |

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|    | <p>Aside from acting when disabled people are being discriminated against (abled bodied people can simply step over the rail), WBC should be promoting non-car journeys by maintaining easy access without having to 'go round the houses'. This is an ideal opportunity which would cost nothing; ensure compliance with the law and create value for disabled and young parents with buggies.</p>               |                                 |
| 10 | <p>Please could you scrutinise the fact that the road on the Wokingham side of the Easthampstead Road railway crossing floods frequently, sometimes making it unusable for pedestrians. It has happened for years. The crossing is regularly closed causing disruption for pedestrians, yet the poor drainage issue is ignored.</p>   | Refer to Highways and Transport |
| 11 | <p>Winnersh Parish Council would like to submit the following items for consideration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quality and condition of roads and pavements within the Borough.</li> <li>• Delivery of agreed infrastructure by developers on new estates, i.e. community centres.</li> </ul>  | See 4 and 6 above               |
| 12 | <p>Wokingham Without Parish Council suggest the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Highway maintenance – specifically in relation to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Potholes – hazardous to both cyclists and cars</li> <li>○ Road sign cleaning and repair</li> <li>○ Roadside ditches and drainage maintenance</li> <li>○ Roadside litter removal</li> </ul> </li> </ul> | See 6 above                     |
| 13 | <p>Please accept the following from Arborfield and Newland Parish Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parish owned street lighting – move to WBC ownership</li> <li>• Waste collections</li> <li>• Litter</li> <li>• Delivery of services and facilities in Arborfield Garrison strategic development location.</li> </ul>  | Refer to Place and Growth       |