
At a meeting of **FULL COUNCIL** held in the Penn Chamber, Three Rivers House, Rickmansworth, on **Tuesday 11 December 2018** from 7.30pm to 9.49 pm.

Present: Councillors David Coltman (Vice-Chairman in the Chair), Diana Barber, Rupert Barnes, Matthew Bedford, Sara Bedford, Marilyn Butler, Valarie Coltman, Stephen Cox, Steve Drury, Donna Duncan, Peter Getkahn, Stephen Giles-Medhurst, Alex Hayward, Margaret Hofman, Heather Kenison, Angela Killick, Joan King, Stephen King, Chris Lloyd, David Major, Joy Mann, Keith Martin, Alex Michaels, Debbie Morris, Sarah Nelmes, Ralph Sangster, David Sansom, Alison Scarth, Andrew Scarth, Roger Seabourne, Jon Tankard, Martin Trevett, Alex Turner, Kate Turner, and Alison Wall.

CL54/18 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Phil Williams, Joanna Clemens and Paula Hiscocks

CL55/18 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 23 October 2018 were agreed and signed by the Chairman

CL56/18 CROXLEY GREEN NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

This item (item 2a) had not been available five clear days before the meeting but was of sufficient urgency to be considered by Council to enable the referendum result to form part of the Development Plan for Three Rivers District Council.

Councillor Martin Trevett moved the recommendation, duly seconded, on the Croxley Green Neighbourhood Plan.

On being put to the Council the motion was declared **CARRIED** by the Vice-Chairman in the Chair the voting being unanimous.

RESOLVED:

That In accordance with the Regulations and the District Council's decision of 23 October 2018 the Croxley Green Neighbourhood Plan is 'made' and now forms part of the Development Plan for Three Rivers District Council.

CL57/18 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Council received the recommendations from the Policy and Resources Committee meeting held on 5 November 2018 on:

PR32/18 ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT

Councillor Sara Bedford moved, duly seconded, the recommendation with regard Environmental Enforcement.

On being put to Council the motion was declared CARRIED by the Vice-Chairman in the Chair the voting being unanimous.

RESOLVED:

- 1) Agreement of the Environmental Enforcement Policy (Appendix A) to Full Council, noting that this will be updated to include the decisions made in 12.2, 12.3 and 12.4;
- 2) To increase the Littering FPN from £75 to £150 (reduced to £100 if paid within 7 days);
- 3) Amendment to the Council's Constitution - Scheme of Delegation (para 11.18.6 of the report) to include authorisation of all Environmental Enforcement Officers to issue civil penalties for littering from vehicles under The Littering from Vehicles outside London (Keepers: Civil Penalties) Regulations 2018 (SI 2018/171) and that the Head of Community Services is designated to consider representations against FPNs; and
- 4) To introduce an FPN of £150 for Littering from Vehicles (reduced to £100 if paid within 14 days).

PR34/18 CALENDER OF MEETINGS:

Councillor Sara Bedford moved, duly seconded, the recommendation with regard to the Calendar of Meetings.

On being put to Council the motion was declared CARRIED by the Vice-Chairman in the Chair the voting being unanimous.

RESOLVED:

That the Calendar of Meetings for 2020/21 be approved subject to details being provided on the future Hertfordshire school holiday dates for 2020/21.

PR35/18 ANIMAL ACTIVITIES LICENSING FEES AND CHARGES 2018/19

Councillor Sara Bedford moved, duly seconded, the recommendation with regard to the Animal Activities Licensing Fees and Charges 2018/19.

On being put to Council the motion was declared CARRIED by the Vice-Chairman in the Chair the voting being unanimous.

RESOLVED:

That the proposed fees and charges in relation to animal licensing be adopted with the amendment that applicants be given 14 days to pay the Part B fee.

PR38/18 BUDGET MONITORING (MONTH 6 – SEPTEMBER)

Councillor Sara Bedford moved, duly seconded, the recommendation with regard to the Budget Monitoring (Month 6 – September).

On being put to Council the motion was declared CARRIED by the Vice-Chairman in the Chair the voting being 19 For; 0 Against; 17 Abstentions.

RESOLVED:

That the following revenue and capital budget variations be approved and incorporated into the three-year medium-term financial plan:-

Variance	2018/19 £	2019/20 £	2020/21 £
Revenue - (Favourable)/ Unfavourable	6,380	(222,740)	(222,740)
Capital - Increase / (Decrease)	(7,523,120)	8,532,920	0

CL58/18 INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL

The Leader of the Council clarified that the Independent Remuneration Panel had agreed that for the current year the Members' basic allowance would be increased by 2%, followed by the addition of the IT consumable allowance of £100. This would be included as an inflation increase the following year if appropriate. Further clarification was requested from the Head of Finance as to whether the £100 IT consumable allowance would be subject to National Insurance deductions.

POST MEETING NOTE: The £100 IT consumable allowance has always been paid as an allowance rather than a reimbursement of expenses, therefore has always been subject to National Insurance Deductions. This will not change.

Councillor Sara Bedford moved, duly seconded, the Independent Remuneration Panel recommendation

On being put to Council the motion was declared CARRIED by the Vice-Chairman in the Chair the voting being unanimous.

RESOLVED:

For 2018/19 the basic allowance to be increased from £4,673 per annum to £4,766.

That the Special Responsibility Allowances be as follows:

Leader of the Council	£8,791
Lead Members (x7)	£4,766 (1 x basic rate)
Chair of Planning Committee	£4,766 (1 x basic rate)
Chair of Licensing Committee & Regulatory Services Committee	£2,384 (half of basic rate)
Chair of Audit Committee	£2,384 (half of basic rate)
Other Group Leaders:	
Main Opposition Leader	£3,692
Other Opposition Leader	£1,363
Travel Allowance	52.2p per mile
Dependent and Carer Allowance	£12.50 per hour

CL59/18 SPECIAL EXPENSES

Councillor Matthew Bedford advised that the Special Expenses were set out on the same basis that had been used in previous years, with no changes.

Councillor David Sansom questioned why the cost of Watersmeet had been apportioned to Batchworth Community Council and the unparished area as a Community Hall. Councillor Matthew Bedford advised that the net cost relating to the pantomime was treated as a general expense. The remaining cost was treated as a community hall and was apportioned across the two

parts of the district that did not have a community hall provided by the Parish Council

Councillor Matthew Bedford moved, duly seconded, the Special Expenses recommendation.

On being put to Council the motion was declared CARRIED by the Vice-Chairman in the Chair the voting being 22 For; 14 Against; 0 Abstentions.

RESOLVED:

That the Council confirms that it will apply the following resolution for special and general expenses for 2019/20:-

- (1) That the following functions being either those provided equally across the district or incurring minimal expenditure be declared general expenses:-

- allotments;
- litter bins;
- salt bins;
- dog bins;
- highways, trees and roadside verges;
- seats and shelters;
- youth centres;
- crime prevention;
- land drainage;
- footpath maintenance;
- footpath lighting;
- community arts;
- off-street car park maintenance;
- street naming;
- Dial-A-Ride;
- play-schemes
- award of grants under Section 137.
- cemeteries
- YMCA Woodlands building in Abbots Langley
- The Centre, South Oxhey

- (2) That the following functions are declared special expenses:-

Woodlands (apportioned on the basis of acreage)
Including the ranger at Leavesden Open Space and 50% of the Arboriculture and Landscape Officers' costs

Community halls (including apportionment of Oxhey Hall);

Playing fields and open spaces (excluding water-based activities and maintenance met from commuted sums); *based on the Grounds Maintenance contract.*

Aquadrome

Treated as 50% general expense and 50% special expense apportioned to the Batchworth Community Council.

Watersmeet (all costs except the pantomime charged to the unparished area and Batchworth Community Council as a community hall. The pantomime is treated as a general expense). *The costs of Watersmeet are apportioned to both*

Batchworth Community Council and the unparished area on the basis of population.

CL60/18 COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME 2019/20

This item (item 6) had not been available five clear days before the meeting but was of sufficient urgency to be considered by Council to enable the Council to agree the scheme for 2019/20.

Councillor Matthew Bedford moved, duly seconded, the Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2019/20 recommendation.

On being put to Council the motion was declared CARRIED by the Vice-Chairman in the Chair the voting being unanimous.

RESOLVED:

That Three Rivers Council adopts the scheme as operated in 2018/19 for 2019/20 and also introduce the minor changes not requiring consultation as stipulated 2.1.1.

CL61/18 COUNCIL TAX BASE FINANCIAL YEAR 2019/20

This report detailed the Authority's Council Tax Base for 2019/20 which must be approved between 1 December 2018 and 31 January 2019.

Councillor Matthew Bedford moved, duly seconded, the Council Tax Base Financial Year 2019/20 recommendation.

On being put to Council the motion was declared CARRIED by the Vice-Chairman in the Chair the voting being unanimous.

RESOLVED:

That the calculation of the Council's tax base for the year 2019/20 be approved.

That in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012, the amount calculated by the Three Rivers District Council as its council tax base for the year 2019/20 shall be:-

Parish	Band D Equivalents 2019/20
Abbots Langley	8,571.9
Batchworth	6,351.9
Chorleywood	6,211.2
Croxley Green	5,543.6
Sarratt	1,080.5
Watford Rural	7,637.3
Unparished Area	3,695.6
Total District	<hr/> 39,092.0 <hr/>

CL62/18 TO RECEIVE ANY PETITIONS UNDER PROCEDURE RULE 19

None received.

CL63/18 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC UNDER PROCEDURE RULE 15

None received

CL64/18 VICE CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Vice-Chairman had attended the South Oxhey Fun Day and also visited St. Meryl's School.

He wished the Council a Happy Christmas.

**CL65/18 REPORTS AND QUESTIONS TO THE LEADER AND LEAD MEMBERS
LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

The Leader of the Council thanked the Partnerships Team for the work that had been carried out under the leadership of Andy Stovold.

She thanked Michelle Wright for the work she had carried out, in partnership with the Police and Housing Associations, on Closure Orders. This had led to increased quality of life for residents.

She thanked Shivani Dave for the work she had carried out on Community Safety and for obtaining grant funding.

She also asked for thanks to be passed on to Karl Stonebank for the work he carried out for the Council for almost ten years, before moving to a job nearer home, working for the Police and Crime Commissioner.

It had been agreed for an LGA Peer Review to be carried out at the Council in March 2019.

She had continued to meet with the Chief Executive and the Leaders and Chief Executives of the other South West Herts Councils and the County Council to look at joint strategic planning.

Together with the Chief Executive she would be attending the third meeting of the Herts Growth Board later that week.

Congratulations were extended to Councillor Phil Williams on joining the ranks of the 'Double Hatters' within the Council in October.

Finally she thanked Ray Figg, Kelly Barnard, Charlotte Gomes, Nigel Pollard and all other supporting Officers for the work carried out on the William Penn Sports Hall with Lead Members being able to meet the terms of the moratorium.

INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Lead Member for Economic Development reported as follows:

Parking income as of end November 2018 was £324,727. The budget estimate for year-end was £413,000. The end of year forecasted income was expected to be around £450,000. The original deficit was £180,000 so by the end of year 2018/19 there could be a shortage of just £30,000. There were additional costs associated with the new schemes and Hertmere Borough Council negotiated a 25/27 split of profit above a certain baseline. These costs had not yet been factored in.

In November, Hertsmere were operating one late night per week parking enforcement control with PCNs issued in Elm Way, Uxbridge Road and the Uxbridge Road Service Road.

On the Parking Revenue Schemes, long term 'On Street Parking' around Croxley Green Station was progressing. A meeting had taken place on Kings Langley Station Parking and a report was with the Lead Member for a decision.

Local Workers permits (business permit review), surveys had been commissioned to confirm road capacity in Rickmansworth and Chorleywood. A report would be presented to the Infrastructure, Housing and Economic Development (IHED) Committee in the New Year with further scheme implementation details, although the decision to proceed had already been taken by the Committee.

On the Ferry Car Park permits, the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) was back from HCC and would be advertised imminently along with Station Approach Car Park. The South Oxhey TRO was due for implementation in early Spring.

The Aquadrome parking surveys had been carried out and once reviewed further discussions would take place if there were shown to be issues with long term day time parking.

Separate from the revenue schemes were the Parking Management Programmes. The Croxley Green review was out for consultation. A new Officer to the team, Ian Bratt, was currently working on collating the results of an initial survey for Rickmansworth West. This would be the next area wide study. A number of schemes around the District, predominantly regarding junction protection, had been out to consultation and the responses were being assessed.

Moor Park parking enforcement was not yet in place (promoted by the County Council). Warning tickets were being issued for two weeks with formal PCNs by Christmas.

The pigeon issue at Northway Car Park had been addressed with the worst affected areas being hosed and cleaned. Netting had been installed to prevent nesting on the flat cable trays. This should improve the situation for car park users. A second ticket machine would be installed before Christmas.

In addition, Officers were working on a number of sustainable transport schemes and were expecting three new bus shelters to be built before the end of the financial year. Two cycle schemes were to be implemented including lighting along part of the cycleway in Leavesden Country Park and a cycle storage at Rickmansworth Station. Also verge hardening works were scheduled to take place in South Way and surface and signage enhancement along the Ebury Way.

Question to Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst, Lead Member for Economic Development, from Councillor Rupert Barnes

What effort does the Council devote to dealing with anti-social parking?

The legal basis for dealing with de-regulated parking controls is that Civil Enforcement Officers can only issue tickets in relation to Traffic Regulation Orders, i.e. Controlled Parking Zones (without a permit), double, single yellow lines etc. They can occasionally enforce dropped kerbs at the request of the homeowner/occupier.

Dangerous and obstructive parking outside of these areas (and indeed in them) is the responsibility of the Police and should be reported to them.

Councillor Rupert Barnes asked a supplementary question stating that residents are often puzzled as to who was responsible and what action had been taken. Does the Council take action and was there a telephone number to refer people to?

The Lead Member for Economic Development advised that although civil enforcement and penalty notices can only be done where there was a Traffic Regulation Order in force, the Council are currently trialling a pilot school scheme at the Shepherds Primary School and the Daybreak Nursery at Rickmansworth Children's Centre, where a budget of £30,000 had been allocated. This enabled the Community Partnership Team and Planning Enforcement Team to respond to complaints of anti-social parking on the basis of the risk assessed through the ASB Triage System. The pilot would be completed in July 2019, after which an evaluation report would be produced.

Pavement parking was a matter for the Police outside of central London. If it was an obstruction and reported to 101 (not 999) or the website, the Police would deal with it, unless called to an emergency on the way. With regards dropped kerbs, they would have to check whether it was the resident parking across their own drive.

Question to Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst, Lead Member for Economic Development, from Councillor Diana Barber

With reference to the Local Development Framework Core Strategy PSP1 Para (f) "Maintain and enhance the vitality of the town centre". Will this Council agree to the suspension of parking charges in Rickmansworth from Friday 21 December to Monday 24 December inclusive, as a measure of support for local traders and to encourage local residents into the town for last minute Christmas shopping?

The Lead Member for Economic Development replied no to the suspension of parking charges.

Councillor Diana Barber asked as supplementary question as to whether the Council was aware that a successful business in Rickmansworth Town Centre was closing due to lack of foot fall and parking measure, so would they consider such a parking scheme amnesty for next Christmas?

Parking charges in the Council's short term car parks in Rickmansworth was introduced in April 2018 with a key objective to increase the churn of vehicles in the car parks and to improve availability of and access to parking spaces in the town centre. This increased churn would in turn support the town centre. The shop vacancy rate for Rickmansworth for the last 3 years had remained a steady 3% which was extremely low compared to the national average of 11 to 14%, and lower than in many other parts of the District. There was no evidence to suggest that parking charges were having an effect on the vitality of the High Street and as such there was no intention to remove the parking charges over the Christmas period. No charges applied on one of the days in question. The Council had rejected the consultant's recommendation to reduce free parking in short stay car parks to only 30 minutes, choosing instead to go 'first hour free, second hour for a £1 '.

The Lead Member for Infrastructure reported as follows:

The major work in his portfolio was on the new Local Plan. Consultation was underway and responses so far were in excess of 600. The closing date had been extended by two weeks and was now 21 December 2018. Once evaluated the findings would be reported back to Members.

The Croxley Green Neighbourhood Plan Referendum results of 2,611 (over 94%) in favour and 161 (under 6%) against made Croxley the first Parish to have a neighbourhood plan in place.

Question to Councillor Martin Trevett, Lead Member for Infrastructure and Planning Policy, from Councillor Ralph Sangster

Does the Lead Member for Infrastructure and Planning Policy consider the current CIL tariffs applicable to residential development sites in Three Rivers adequately reflects the cost of meeting the infrastructure challenge in the District?

The Lead Member advised that CIL was not expected to fully fund all identified infrastructure projects but was one element in a package of funding sources. The CIL rates were set at a level (and subject to an examination) that would maximise the potential contribution from CIL whilst ensuring that development set out in the Site Allocations LDD remained broadly viable.

The CIL rates were index linked and the original £180psm charge was now £212psm.

The CIL rates would be reviewed alongside the new Local Plan.

Councillor Ralph Sangster was pleased a review would be considered to ensure the tariffs were representative of what was needed to recover from land values. These were likely to produce some significant areas of land that had been brought from agricultural at £10,000 per acre to millions of pounds per acre for development land. Some uplift was needed to ensure the community benefited from the land values and supported the infrastructure needed in Hertfordshire where there were 100,000 homes proposed in the local plans and an estimate of nearly £6billion of supporting infrastructure required. Only £2billion was currently proposed to be collected through existing tariffs and £200 per square metre, about half what was expected to be needed from development in the future, to be able to fund those adequately. A revision to the tariffs would be supported. It is the CIL tariffs that builders have to build into their estimates because they have to pay it.

The Lead Member for Infrastructure and Planning Policy reiterated that this would be reviewed and all the points raised would be taken on-board. He said Councillor Sangster was welcome to attend the relevant forum to make these points.

The Lead Member for Housing reported as follows:

Councillors Andrew and Alison Scarth had attended the South Oxhey Initiative Phase 2 Ground Breaking Ceremony in October. The new build would include 48 homes on social rent.

On Thursday 6 December, he had attended a breakfast meeting hosted by Hertfordshire Housing Conference Ltd at the House of Lords. Affordable housing and what part Housing Associations could play in providing more of these types of housing was a common theme.

Questions to Councillor Andrew Scarth, Lead Member for Housing, from Councillor Paula Hiscocks

Who is going to manage The Bury Homeless Units and the maintenance of the building? When is the formal opening of the Homeless Units?

The 17 Flats were to be used for temporary accommodation at 15 The Bury and were due to be completed in early 2019. Agreements were being finalised with Watford Community Housing who would manage the scheme for the Council, this included all maintenance issues. Watford Community Housing already managed another temporary accommodation scheme for the Council in Lincoln Drive, South Oxhey.

The Council were working on a joint launch with Watford Community Housing early in 2019 and Councillor Andrew Scarth was looking forward to attending that event along with other Members of this Council. He asked all Councillors to use the term 'flats or houses' and not 'units'. He explained that the Council was providing brand new homes for households who find themselves without a roof over their heads for a temporary period of time within the District and said the Council should be proud of what they were striving to achieve.

A Supplementary question on behalf of Councillor Paula Hiscocks was asked as to how Councillors would be informed of the launch.

Councillor Andrew Scarth would ensure all Members were circulated details on the opening.

LEISURE, ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY

The Lead Member for Leisure reported as follows:

The Hertfordshire Sports Awards were held on 27 November, with over 500 attendees. He had presented some awards and was pleased that the Play Rangers (represented by Chelsi Langford and two helpers) received the Community Project of the Year Award.

He asked Members to let Ryan Watson know of anyone they would like to nominate for the 2019 Awards.

He advised that he would be walking the South Oxhey Park Run route for the remaining Saturday mornings in December and Members were welcome to join him. Christmas Carols were taking place at Leavesden on 12 December and on Friday 14 December was the Civic Night of the Pantomime at the Watersmeet.

Councillor Andrew Scarth advised that the Council were applying for a Green Flag Award for South Oxhey.

The Lead Member for Environmental Services reported as follows:

The new waste and recycling calendar was available via Three Rivers Times and the TRDC website. Collections over the Christmas period would take place on the usual days apart from those due on Christmas and Boxing Day. Those residents would have their usual collection the following week.

Thanks were extended to the waste and recycling crews for all their hard work.

Herts Waste Partnership's annual report had been published and highlighted the work Authorities were doing together across Hertfordshire.

The Lead Member for Community Services reported as follows:

He thanked Jane Redman from the in-house Legal Team for the amount of work she had carried out with the Anti-social behaviour team throughout the year. Some of the highlights of the team's achievements were as follows:

- 13 Cases of Cuckooing County Lines across the district with 100% success rate.
- Safeguarding the general public, particularly the immediate neighbours of these properties. The Police and Crime Commissioner was impressed with the robust response of the Council and Housing Associations to get Closure Orders. Three Rivers are the first Council to have a Perpetrators Service dealing with the perpetrators rather than just the victims.
- Officers secured a small grant from the Police and Crime Commissioner to employ a Project Manager to be set up in Watford for the Hertsmeare Youth Crime Panel to identify young people at risk of criminal exploitation and violent crime. Hertfordshire has seen the largest increase in violent crime in the Country.
- Following an Adult Safeguarding Inspection the Council were asked by the Chair of the Adult Safeguarding Board to be the leader with other District Councils to follow our model.

Thanks were extended to Andy Stovold for his knowledge and all the work he carries out and for leading such a terrific team.

RESOURCES AND SHARED SERVICES

The Lead Member for Resources and Shared Services advised that the cost of the solar panels for 15 The Bury had been £33k.

Question to Councillor Matthew Bedford, Lead Member for Resources and Shared Services, from Councillor Reena Ranger

For two consecutive Council meetings in a row, this Council has failed to conclude its business within the allocated time. In order to ensure democracy, allow discussion, scrutiny and debate, does this Council believe that it must either add an extra Council meeting to the calendar or extending the hours of Full Council meetings?

The Lead Member advised that an additional meeting in the calendar when the Council were trying to reduce the number of meetings generally would have staffing and resource implications.

The former Executive arrangements where it was felt that Lead Members needed to be held to account (even though they never exercised decision making powers as an individual Member) was no longer relevant as most of Council business was conducted through politically proportionate Committees with delegated powers. The existing arrangements for Lead Members to be asked questions at Full Council was part of that former governance model. It was a point to consider now whether there should be any time allowed at all on questions to Lead Members. If this process was abolished or curtailed in some way (a maximum number of questions being allowed per meeting, or a specific amount of time allowed for questions for example as at County) that would allow more time for other business such as motions and it was likely

that all business would be conducted in the allotted time. Alternatively, (or perhaps in combination) with some form of limit on the questions.

A supplementary question was asked by Councillor Reena Ranger that If residents take time out to attend a Council Meeting for a particular topic or debate then the Council should be able to extend the length of the meeting to cover the item.

The Lead Member of Resources said one solution (already implemented on occasion), would be to bring forward any item of public interest to ensure its address during the meeting.

Question to Councillor Matthew Bedford, Lead Member for Resources and Shared Services, from Councillor David Sansom

Why was the source of the £1,001,600 for the Leavesden Heritage Trail not itemised in the September budget papers?

Officers believed the explanation in the table on Page 3, Paragraph 2.5 and in table on Page 23 of the Budget Monitoring report was sufficient. Although not mentioning all funding streams it did convey that this variance would be met entirely from third party contributions. The detail had already been provided and discussed at the Leisure, Environment and Community Committee meetings.

Councillor David Sansom asked a supplementary question stating that one of the sources was Warner Brothers with £106k. Does the Council not think they would they want to be mentioned in the papers assuming the money was given to co-operate?

The Lead Member for Resources and Shared Services felt that this assumption was incorrect. The Council was very careful to handle third party contributions in the way the third party themselves wished.

Question to Councillor Matthew Bedford, Lead Member for Resources and Shared Services, from Councillor Stephen King

Is the Council aware of the difficulties being experienced by drivers using The Parade, in Prestwick Road near the Phase Two site of the South Oxhey Initiative?

The Council had not been made aware of any difficulties in this respect but were aware that there were temporary arrangements for traffic in that area. The contractors were doing their best to minimise any inconvenience and to communicate any changes and temporary measures to local residents via the communication board provided for this.

Councillor Stephen King asked a supplementary question that large lorries were having to drive the wrong way up the parade to get onto the site, having been told there would be no major work done until the centre section of the parade was removed. When will Three Rivers give permission for the central section to be removed to make it easier to access the site as this is causing a danger to pedestrians?

The Lead Member for Resources and Shared Services said he did not have the date of the closure to hand, but would ask for this information to be circulated following this meeting. He had been advised that one of the sources of the delay was waiting for licences from Herts County Council.

Councillor Joan King said that they had been told the contractors were awaiting a licence from Three Rivers, not Herts County Council.

POST MEETING NOTE:

“The delay in constructing the junction between Prestwick Road and the scheme’s new northern road arises from the absence of a concluded S278 Agreement between Countryside and Hertfordshire County Council as Highway Authority. It is not known when that agreement will be in place and TRDC are not involved in the detail of that process although ultimately are signatories as Freeholders of the land. Countryside has a duty of care for all works that they undertake and all necessary H&S measures are in place.”

Question to Councillor Matthew Bedford, Lead Member for Resources and Shared Services, from Councillor Diana Barber

As the Council has agreed and accepted the Thrive Homes Loan contract, can Councillors and residents be advised of where and how many new homes are being built as a result of this significant investment?

It was important to remember this was a financial investment in order to achieve a revenue return for TRDC that would support the provision of the Council’s services and not a property investment to achieve a certain type of development.

- Site location is 16-18 St Albans Road, Watford WD17 1UN
- Number of dwellings is 90.

Question to Councillor Matthew Bedford, Lead Member for Resources and Shared Services, from Councillor Paula Hiscocks

The £54,000 allocated to the toilet refurbishment in Three Rivers House has been partially spent on the lower level disabled toilet when will the other toilets be refurbished?

The toilets at the rear of the building by the CAB entrance had been completed, the toilets along the Penn Corridor were scheduled to be completed early January. The remaining toilets were to be scheduled over the summer months of 2019.

Question to Councillor Matthew Bedford, Lead Member for Resources and Shared Services, from Councillor Joan King

Does the Administration believe that the social housing being provided as part of the South Oxhey Initiative is sufficient to meet present local needs?

There was huge demand across the District and the South East and a single scheme could not provide enough affordable units to meet local needs.

Supplementary question from Councillor Joan King: Having demolished four bedroomed flats, why had no provision been made within the new development for those requiring larger properties? People are being told they will have to bid for larger properties and so are unlikely to find housing within South Oxhey.

The Lead Member for Resources and Shared Services replied that the Council would need to make sure those families were accommodated appropriately.

Question to Councillor Matthew Bedford, Lead Member for Resources and Shared Services, from Councillor Stephen Cox

Does the Lead Member agree with me that it is a shame that the Launderette in Bridlington Road, South Oxhey had closed, thereby forcing residents, many with disabilities, to travel further afield to do their washing?

The Lead Member agreed that it would have been desirable for a Launderette to be part of the retail mix, but it seemed that such uses were not financially viable at current day rents. Officers engaged with the tenant in question and he indicated that he would like a shop in the new development. His rental offer to Countryside however was a long way short of the prevailing offers from other TRDC tenants interested in new premises. On the basis that we had no other suitable shops, alternative locations, not in the ownership of TRDC, which were pointed out to the tenant but these leads ultimately came to nothing. Eventually the tenant decided to take the offer of compensation and close the business.

Supplementary question from Councillor Stephen Cox: Does the Lead Member agree that residents have lost a facility that they have enjoyed for many years which appears to have been sacrificed for Countryside's profits?

The Lead Member for Resources and Shared Services disagreed. He pointed out that whilst a launderette would have been desirable, the South Oxhey Initiative would be delivering huge benefits to the community. This would come with some constraints as it had to work financially. If Members had a viable alternative they should let the Council know.

CL66/18

REPORTS AND QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMEN OF THE AUDIT, PLANNING, LICENSING AND REGULATORY SERVICES COMMITTEES (RULE 14)

AUDIT COMMITTEE

The Chairman of Audit Committee, Councillor Keith Martin, thanked Alison Scott, Phil King and all the Councillors on Audit Committee for their work on the new Risk Register making it more effective and clearer than the previous one. The Risk Management Strategy had been amended and the number of outstanding external audit recommendations had reduced significantly.

PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Chairman of Planning Committee, Councillor Sarah Nelmes, commented that multiple sessions of training had taken place, including an exciting session on the Viability for Social and Affordable Housing Schemes. She also attended training at the Town and Country Planning Association on working with developers to provide affordable housing. She thanked the Planning Officers for arranging an interesting and interactive session for Parish Councillors' Planning Teams to increase awareness of the valid reasons to call items into Committee.

LICENSING

The Chairman of Licensing Committee, Councillor Steve Drury moved, duly seconded, the recommendations from the Licensing Committee meeting held on 5 December 2018.

He advised that discussion had taken place at the Licensing Committee meeting about the 'No Casinos' Policy and it was agreed that this could be looked at and changed in the future if required.

On being put to Council the motion was declared CARRIED by the Vice-Chairman in the Chair the voting being unanimous.

RESOLVED:

- 1) Recommend to adopt the amended Statement of Policy and
- 2) To confirm the continuation of a 'No Casinos' Policy within the adopted Statement of Policy.

REGULATORY SERVICES

Councillor Steve Drury moved, duly seconded, the recommendations from the Regulatory Services Committee meeting held on 5 December 2018.

On being put to Council the motion was declared CARRIED by the Vice-Chairman in the Chair the voting being unanimous.

1. To formally adopt the new byelaws for Pleasure Grounds, Public Walks and Open Spaces on approval from the Secretary of State to come into operation in 2019 and
2. That once the new byelaws for Pleasure Grounds, Public Walks and Open Spaces are adopted, the existing byelaws for Parks and Open Spaces (1981) be revoked.

Question to Councillor Steve Drury, Chairman of the Regulatory Services Committee, from Councillor Alison Wall.

The recent TRDC update informs us that licensing officers have been given more powers to clamp down on illegal activity and take action against unsafe and unlicensed vehicles. Our two Licensing Officers were recently checking hackney carriage and private hire vehicles and found there to be 19 breaches. This is a significant and concerning number; will the officers be doing regular checks like this and if so how often please?

The Chairman advised that part of the licensing service provision was the monitoring and enforcement of the Council's Private Hire and Hackney Carriage vehicles. The Monitoring and Compliance Officer was out regularly checking vehicles and drivers to ensure compliance in line with legislation and local policy. The Officers in the team also responded quickly to any concerns reported to them by members of the public regarding unlicensed vehicles and drivers.

In addition to day to day work, there had previously been joint enforcement operations with the Police. A joint enforcement operation with Herts Police

and VOSA was currently being planned. Officers try to arrange a joint operation every 6 months but this was dependent, as with other proactive enforcement, upon staff resources including those of other enforcement bodies

Supplementary question from Councillor Alison Wall

There was a recent incident with a person attempting to cheat during the exams. What measures are in place to ensure they do not try to re-apply for a licence?

The Chairman advised that there were measures in place to stop this happening again. Unless the applicants come in with a false name and false driving licence.

CL67/18 MOTIONS UNDER PROCEDURE RULE 11

- (1) *Councillor David Sansom, seconded by Councillor Alex Hayward, moved under Notice duly given as follows:*

This Council notes that Councillors have been elected to take decisions for the benefit of local residents and that presently there are a growing number of areas where significant powers have been delegated.

This Council agrees that the decision making process and the decisions themselves should be open to public scrutiny. This can only be done by having public meetings with fully published agendas and public access. Accordingly working parties will no longer be used; all significant decisions will go to an appropriate public committee for deliberation and decision.

On being put to Council the Motion was declared CARRIED by the Vice Chairman in the Chair the voting being 33 For, 3 Against and 0 Abstentions.

RESOLVED:

This Council notes that Councillors have been elected to take decisions for the benefit of local residents and that presently there are a growing number of areas where significant powers have been delegated.

This Council agrees that the decision making process and the decisions themselves should be open to public scrutiny. This can only be done by having public meetings with fully published agendas and public access. Accordingly working parties will no longer be used; all significant decisions will go to an appropriate public committee for deliberation and decision.

- (2) *Councillors Sara Bedford, Stephen Giles-Medhurst and Roger Seabourne moved under Notice duly given as follows:*

Council notes that:

1. The recent research document from the Local Enterprise Partnership regarding the potential effect of Brexit on Hertfordshire which states that 50,000-75,000 jobs in Hertfordshire could be at risk from Brexit.
2. Every District of Hertfordshire will be hit by either a hard or soft Brexit with reduced growth (GVA) of between -3.4 % and -2.4%.

3. The Government's own impact assessments show that the UK is likely to be worse off in every scenario after Brexit.
4. There will be severe damage to our international relationships, reduced influence with other states, and the complete loss of say and control over the rules of the European Single Market and Customs Union, the largest market in the world
5. There are a large number of non-UK EU nationals living in Three Rivers who are concerned about the impact of Brexit on their lives, and that their current rights are not being fully protected.
6. The Government has totally mismanaged the Brexit negotiations and has also managed to alienate both supporters and opponents of Brexit
7. Inflation caused by Brexit-related depreciation of the pound is disproportionately hitting our poorest residents, further squeezing their living standards, and this will increase after any form of Brexit.

Council therefore:

1. Believes that the people of the UK should have control of what is being agreed on their behalf and given an opportunity to vote on the final deal, including the option to remain in the EU.
2. Formally adds its voice to those calling for a public 'People's Vote' on the final Brexit deal.
3. Asks the Chief Executive to write to all three of our MPs expressing these views and asking them to support a 'People's Vote'.

On being put to Council the Motion was declared CARRIED by the Vice Chairman in the Chair the voting being 19 For, 14 Against and 3 Abstentions.

RESOLVED:

That the Council:

1. Believes that the people of the UK should have control of what is being agreed on their behalf and given an opportunity to vote on the final deal, including the option to remain in the EU.
2. Formally adds its voice to those calling for a public 'People's Vote' on the final Brexit deal.
3. Asks the Chief Executive to write to all three of our MPs expressing these views and asking them to support a 'People's Vote'.

(3) *Proposed by Councillors Sara Bedford, Sarah Nelmes and Keith Martin moved under Notice duly given as follows:*

Council notes that:

1. Universal credit is having a huge and detrimental effect on local individuals and families.
2. The 'five week wait' is forcing many residents who were not previously in debt to borrow to make ends meet.
3. The effect of Universal Credit has been far worse on already disadvantaged groups, including the chronically ill, disabled, single parents and those for whom English is an additional language.
4. The Government has refused to release its impact assessment into the effects of Universal Credit on claimants' lives, incomes and debt levels.

Council calls for the Government to cut the waiting time for Universal Credit to a maximum of two weeks, and halt the rollout of Universal Credit whilst improvements are made for disadvantaged claimants.

Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst moved an amendment to the motion to add “to write to all 3 of our MPs with these views.” The mover of the motion accepted the amendment.

On being put to Council the amended Motion was declared CARRIED by the Vice Chairman in the Chair the voting being 22 For, 12 Against and 2 Abstention.

RESOLVED:

Council calls for the Government to cut the waiting time for Universal Credit to a maximum of two weeks, and halt the rollout of Universal Credit whilst improvements are made for disadvantaged claimants.

- (4) Proposed by Councillor Reena Ranger, seconded by Councillor Heather Kenison, moved under Notice duly given as follows:

This Council agrees to encourage those who hold events with an expected attendance of 150 people or more on council property or facilitated with any Council funding to offer a free stall to an organisation that registers people to the stem cell donor list.

On being put to Council the Motion was declared CARRIED by the Vice Chairman in the Chair the voting being unanimous.

RESOLVED:

This Council agrees to encourage those who hold events with an expected attendance of 150 people or more on council property or facilitated with any Council funding to offer a free stall to an organisation that registers people to the stem cell donor list.

CHAIRMAN