

At a meeting of **COUNCIL** held at Penn Chamber, on **Tuesday 25 February 2020** from 7.30pm to 10.30pm

Present: Councillors Paula Hiscocks (Chair), Keith Martin (Vice-Chair), Matthew Bedford, Sara Bedford, Joanna Clemens, Stephen Cox, Donna Duncan, Steve Drury, Peter Getkahn, Stephen Giles-Medhurst, Margaret Hofman, Tony Humphreys, Raj Khuroya, Joan King, Stephen King, Chris Lloyd, David Major, Joy Mann, Shanti Maru, Alex Michaels, Debbie Morris, Sarah Nemes, Reena Ranger, David Raw, Michael Revan, David Sansom, Alison Scarth, Andrew Scarth, Roger Seabourne, Stephanie Singer, Dominic Sokalski, Jon Tankard, Martin Trevett, Alex Turner, Kate Turner, Alison Wall and Phil Williams.

CL65/19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Marilyn Butler and Alex Hayward.

CL66/19 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 10 December 2019 and the Extraordinary Council meeting held on 21 January 2020 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman subject to adding Councillor Alex Hayward in attendance at the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 21 January 2020.

The Chairman advised that, in consultation with the Chief Executive it had been agreed to take the Part II Confidential Item of Business, Property Investment Opportunities, after Item 7 Council Pay Policy Statement 2020 and before Item 8 Climate Change Strategy. This was to ensure any business was completed before the motions.

CL67/19 FINANCIAL PLANNING

To consider the recommendations from the Administration on the Financial Plan.

The Council Summons had provided Members with details on Procedural Rule 17 for budget setting from the Council Constitution.

Councillor Matthew Bedford advised that the financial environment the Council operated within continued to be extremely challenging. The Council knew what Government funding was available for the coming year but after that there was no information. The figures included in the second and third year plan were little more than a guess subject to both the overall level of funding from Central Government and the fair funding review they thought the Government was going to undertake. If the overall level of funding was more generous, it was likely that the share to Councils with Social Services Departments was likely to increase with less for Councils like Three Rivers. The Administration had

sought to continue to deliver some efficiency savings, to allocate some limited additional funding to residents priorities and to protect the services residents relied upon. In view of the uncertainty, the Council would closely monitor developments with the UK budget starting on 11 March. He highlighted the first recommendation to monitor announcements from Government in the coming months, to investigate all potential sources of additional income and review staffing levels in all departments to ensure that medium term expenditure would be matched with available resources. Although a potential new source of income would be discussed later in the meeting, he advised that for the avoidance of doubt no assumptions had been included in the budget, therefore if the Council decided to go ahead any addition would need to be separately included in future plans.

Appendix 1A of the budget report showed the changes to the base budget that was presented to the Policy and Resources Committee. The additional property income shown at the bottom of the appendix related to a traditional property investment as part of the Council's Property Investment Strategy not to any new income stream.

Councillor Matthew Bedford was delighted that Council had been able to fund most of the business growths including the Customer Experience Strategy, uprating funding for PCSOs and investment in the new Climate Change Post including funding for a small project's budget to enable the Officer to start to make a difference. No alternative budgets had been proposed therefore he moved, seconded by Councillor Sara Bedford, the financial planning recommendations of the Administration.

The following points were raised:

Councillor David Sansom considered this a guesstimate rather than a budget. The Council's attitude to finance was demonstrated by the proposed Customer Experience Strategy which involved 'discovering and understanding the needs of our customers, requiring consultation with our customers to gain a better understanding of who they are.' The Council's main interactions were with local tax payers. If they did not pay they were taken to court and had court orders against them. How could they be described as 'customers' when they did not have any choice, and why did the Council want to spend £50,000 to understand who they were? There was no information on how the figure was arrived at. The new Taxi Account for Members was another example of poor financial control. Allowing all 39 Councillors to take taxis to meetings on the Council's account would be a financial mess.

Councillor Alison Wall supported Councillor Sansom's comments on the Customer Experience Strategy and pointed out that of the 657 residents surveyed 42% were not in favour of having the budget maintained but 41% were and the Council should take heed of this.

Councillor Debbie Morris requested an explanation on the Heritage and Tourism initiative from zero budget last year to £341,157 in 2019/20. She also queried the Waste Services figure of £931,200 last year to £408,940 in 2019/20.

Councillor Joanna Clemens asked whether Parish Councils contributed to the refurbishment of play areas within their area.

Councillor Reena Ranger asked for clarification on what the Temporary Accommodation Provision on page 5 was for, the local property investment of £2.295 and on Page 15 what was an investment prop shop?

Councillor Stephen Giles Medhurst supported this budget. To meet the Climate Change Agenda the Council had implemented improvements to the Cycling and Walking strategy with 50 new cycle spaces at Rickmansworth Station as part of the Transport Agenda. Officers had negotiated a deal with London Transport to introduce a similar system at Croxley Station. In addition they continued to support local buses that were not supported by Herts County Council particularly the out of hour's services to South Oxhey. In future years they would be supporting the Community Transport Scheme. New Gateway signs had been introduced in both Carpenders Park and South Oxhey to improve driver awareness. New Street signs would be implemented encouraging walking and cycling. Permeable grasstop paving had been laid to enable residents parking. Leavesden Country Park had solar powered lighting, the first of its kind in the UK. Work had been completed on the Grand Union Canal shared cycle routes. Promotion of electric vehicle charging points and continued investment in the highway improvements scheme were taking place in Delta Gain, Carpenders Park. This matched the vision and objectives of the Council plan to make it a better place for everyone and to improve the health and employment and access to services across the District.

Councillor David Raw queried the figure of £80,000 for the Corporate Climate Change Officer post.

Councillor Sara Bedford reminded Members that questions should be submitted in advance of the meeting to enable answers to have been prepared. She responded as follows:

The Taxi Account had been set up following the Chairman's request to take taxis home from functions for reasons of safety. Other Councillors with health and disability issues could also use taxis occasionally and the account would eliminate the need to find a taxi company, pay the fare and then claim back on expenses. A strict criteria had been applied to the process. It was no different from Councillors who drove to meetings claiming mileage.

Residents were not asked directly about the Customer Service Strategy, but whether they would like to spend more or less on customer service in general. The results were well within the margins for error of between four or five percent.

The Depot tenders had come in higher than expected. The Council had been prudent and put a higher amount into the budget because it needed to be done, but Officers were trying to manage down the cost to get it within budget.

Parish Councils often contributed towards the cost of Play Areas and in many cases more than half the cost. At least one Parish Council pays for the general maintenance as well.

The Corporate Climate Change Officer role had been evaluated to include an additional sum to enable the Officer to get the climate change message out.

Bearing in mind the opposition had once again not put forward a budget, this was a prudent budget which would help with the current issues and continued to deliver strong services for the Council and its residents. The services were well received and services such as Planning and Recycling were highly ranked. Councillor Sara Bedford supported it 100%.

Councillor Matthew Bedford said this should not be a question and answer session and other than specific growth items highlighted in his original speech, every other figure had already been to the Policy and Resources Committee and the answers to the questions were in the detailed report to that Committee. If Members had specific questions they should contact either himself or the Finance Officers direct. The Corporate Climate Change Officer and the Customer Service Strategy had been through the project approval process, the Project Information Documents had been to the appropriate Committees weeks in advance with the detailed information set out in the papers provided to Members. The Customer Experience Strategy was not a survey of customers and the details of what the money was to be spent on was in the papers submitted to the Policy and Resources Committee and included the refurbishment of the website.

On being put to Council the Administration Budget was declared CARRIED by the Chairman the voting being 23 For, 0 Against and 14 Abstentions. In accordance with budget setting legislation a recorded vote was requested the details of which were as follows:

For: Councillors Matthew Bedford, Sara Bedford, Steve Drury, Peter Getkahn, Stephen Giles-Medhurst, Margaret Hofman, Tony Humphreys, Raj Khuroya, Chris Lloyd, David Major, Joy Mann, Keith Martin, Sarah Nemes, Alison Scarth, Andrew Scarth, Roger Seabourne, Stephanie Singer, Dominic Sokalski, Jon Tankard, Martin Trevett, Alex Turner, Kate Turner and Phil Williams.

Against: 0

Abstentions: Councillors Joanna Clemens, Stephen Cox, Donna Duncan, Paula Hiscocks, Joan King, Stephen King, Shanti Maru, Alex Michaels, Debbie Morris, Reena Ranger, David Raw, Michael Revan, David Sansom and Alison Wall.

RESOLVED:

1. Council notes that there is significant uncertainty around the future level of Government financial support for local authorities, including redistribution of NNDR and New Homes Bonus, and that Council has adopted a prudent approach in assuming a significant reduction in future income from these sources. Council requests officers to (a) monitor announcements from Government in the coming months which may provide greater clarity and certainty; (b) investigate all potential sources of additional income and (c) review staffing levels in all departments to ensure that medium term expenditure is matched with available resources.
2. Council further notes the following achievements, enabling services to be protected without steep increases in its council tax:
 - Cashable efficiency savings averaging over £0.3m per year, sustained over the last fourteen years; and further cashable efficiency gains and

additional income planned over the course of the medium term financial plan;

- Increased income, excluding government grants and council tax, rising from £6.1m in 2013/14 to £9.2m in 2020/21. This includes returns on the investment into property assets of £1m.

3. Council agrees the following actions;

- (a) That the 2019/20 revised revenue budget be approved giving a balance on the general fund at 31 March 2020 of £4.419m.
- (b) That the revenue budget for 2020/21 totalling net expenditure of £12.772m and the draft revenue estimates for the period 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2023 giving a balance on the general fund at 31 March 2023 of £2.068m be approved. (Appendix 1)
- (c) That £2.0m be considered as a prudent minimum balance for the general fund.
- (e) That the total capital investment programme for 2019/20 of £15.879m and the arrangements for funding the programme resulting in an estimated balance of capital resources at 31 March 2019 of £6.610m be approved. (Appendix 2 pages 16 & 17)
- (f) That the total capital investment programme for 2020/21 of £9.624m and the capital strategy for the period 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2023 be approved and notes the capital balances carried forward for future years. (Appendix 2 pages 16 & 17)
- (h) That the financial and budgetary risks be approved and their management monitored by the Audit Committee. (Appendix 3)
- (i) That the Council notes the position on the reserves (Appendix 4) and the Director of Finance's advice on the robustness of the estimates and the adequacy of the financial reserves.

CL68/19 SPECIAL EXPENSES 2020/21

Councillor Matthew Bedford explained that this item had been deferred from the December Council Meeting due to the Purdah period for the General Election.

Councillor Matthew Bedford moved, seconded by Councillor Sara Bedford, the recommendations on Special Expenses.

The following points were raised:

Councillor Reena Ranger queried whether Batchworth Community Council were being triple taxed as they were paying general expenses and special expenses for Watersmeet which was their Community Hall but they could not use it as a Community Hall and were also paying rent to the Council for a Community Hall in which to hold their meetings.

Councillor Matthew Bedford explained that the Community Hall was for the benefit of the Community not the Parish. He advised that the Community Hall

for Batchworth was provided by this Authority, whereas other Parish Community Halls were provided by the Parish Authority.

Councillor David Sansom queried why the Aquadrome was charged as 50% special expense when Leavesden Country Park was not. Councillor Matthew Bedford advised that Leavesden Country Park did not fall as a cost to the Council as there were Section 106 funds to cover this. All open spaces were charged in the same way as Community Halls.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 23(2) a recorded vote was requested. On being put to Council the motion on Special Expenses was declared CARRIED by the Chairman the voting being 26 For, 0 Against and 11 Abstentions the details of which were as follows:

For: Councillors Matthew Bedford, Sara Bedford, Stephen Cox, Steve Drury, Peter Getkahn, Stephen Giles-Medhurst, Margaret Hofman, Tony Humphreys, Raj Khiroya, Joan King, Stephen King, Chris Lloyd, David Major, Joy Mann, Keith Martin, Sarah Nelmes, Alison Scarth, Andrew Scarth, Roger Seabourne, Stephanie Singer, Dominic Sokalski, Jon Tankard, Martin Trevett, Alex Turner, Kate Turner and Phil Williams.

Against: 0

Abstentions: Councillors Joanna Clemens, Donna Duncan, Paula Hiscocks, Shanti Maru, Alex Michaels, Debbie Morris, Reena Ranger, David Raw, Michael Revan, David Sansom and Alison Wall.

RESOLVED:

That Council confirms that it will apply the following resolution for special and general expenses for 2020/21:-

- (1) that the following functions being either those provided equally across the district or incurring minimal expenditure be declared general expenses:-
 - allotments;
 - litter, salt and 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
 - 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

CL69/19 COUNCIL TAX – DISTRICT ELEMENT

This item (item 5 Council Tax – District Element) had not been available five clear days before the meeting, as information from other authorities had not been available but was of sufficient urgency to be considered by Council to enable the Council to despatch Council Tax bills by the required deadline.

Councillor Matthew Bedford moved, seconded by Councillor Sara Bedford, the recommendations as set out in the report.

Councillor Reena Ranger requested a recorded vote for both this and the next item as they had been received too late for Members to have an opportunity to read them before the meeting. This was supported by six Members of the Council.

Councillor Matthew Bedford clarified that was purely an arithmetic calculation which could not be done until the Council had set its budget.

On being put to Council the motion was declared CARRIED by the Chairman the voting being 26 For, 0 Against and 11 Abstentions and in accordance with budget setting legislation a recorded vote was requested the details of which were as follows:

For: Councillors Matthew Bedford, Sara Bedford, Stephen Cox, Steve Drury, Peter Getkahn, Stephen Giles-Medhurst, Margaret Hofman, Tony Humphreys, Raj Khiroya, Joan King, Stephen King, Chris Lloyd, David Major, Joy Mann, Keith Martin, Sarah Nelmes, Alison Scarth, Andrew Scarth, Roger Seabourne, Stephanie Singer, Dominic Sokalski, Jon Tankard, Martin Trevett, Alex Turner, Kate Turner and Phil Williams.

Against: 0

Abstentions: Councillors Joanna Clemens, Donna Duncan, Paula Hiscocks, Shanti Maru, Alex Michaels, Debbie Morris, Reena Ranger, David Raw, Michael Revan, David Sansom and Alison Wall.

RESOLVED:

That the following amounts be calculated for the year 2020/21, in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:-

- (a) £51,150,710 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act taking into account all precepts issued to it by parish councils.
- (b) £42,071,764 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.
- (c) £9,078,946 being the amount by which the aggregate (a) above exceeds the aggregate at (b) above.
- (d) £231.53 being the amount at (c) above divided by the council tax base, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (including parish precepts).
- (e) 3,258,282 being the aggregate amount of all special items (parish precepts and special expenses)
- (f) £148.44 being the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of the area to which no special item relates.

Parts of the Council's Area	£
Abbots Langley	235.67
Batchworth	231.55
Chorleywood	246.28
Croxley Green	228.77
Sarratt	236.00
Watford Rural	222.03
Unparished	217.99

being the amounts given by adding to the amount at (f) above the amounts of the special item or items relating to the dwellings in those parts of the Council's area listed above divided by the council tax base, as the basic amounts of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate.

(h)

Parts of the Council's Area	Valuation Band							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Abbots Langley	157.11	183.30	209.48	235.67	288.04	340.41	392.78	471.34
Batchworth	154.37	180.09	205.82	231.55	283.01	334.46	385.92	463.10
Chorleywood	164.19	191.55	218.92	246.28	301.01	355.74	410.47	492.56
Croxley Green	152.51	177.93	203.35	228.77	279.61	330.45	381.28	457.54
Sarratt	157.33	183.56	209.78	236.00	288.44	340.89	393.33	472.00
Watford Rural	148.02	172.69	197.36	222.03	271.37	320.71	370.05	444.06
Unparished	145.33	169.55	193.77	217.99	266.43	314.87	363.32	435.98

being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at (g) above by the proportion in paragraph 3.7.

CL70/19 SETTING THE COUNCIL TAX

This item had not been available five clear days before the meeting, as information from other authorities had not been available, but was of sufficient urgency to be considered by Council to enable the Council to despatch Council Tax bills by the required deadline.

This item takes the council tax the Council had just set and added on the council tax from County Council and the Police Commissioner. The County Council had only set its own share of the Council Tax earlier that day.

Councillor Matthew Bedford moved, seconded by Councillor Sara Bedford, the recommendations in the report.

Councillor Sarah Nelmes asked if it would be sensible or foolish not to set a Council Tax at this meeting.

Councillor Reena Ranger asked why District Meetings were booked half a day or a day after County Meetings as this did not allow Members time to read the papers upon which they would be voting?

Councillor Matthew Bedford said the decision was totally out of the Council's hands, County Council sets its own Council Tax and informs the Council what Council Tax they set. They are responsible for approximately 85% of the total Council Tax that the residents pay. That is then added to the other information from the other bodies.

Councillor Mathew Bedford said it would be foolish and illegal not to set the Council Tax at this meeting and would put the Council at risk.

On being put to Council the motion was declared CARRIED by the Chairman the voting being 26 For, 0 Against and 11 Abstentions and in accordance with budget setting legislation a recorded vote was requested the details of which were as follows:

For: Councillors Matthew Bedford, Sara Bedford, Stephen Cox, Steve Drury, Peter Getkahn, Stephen Giles-Medhurst, Margaret Hofman, Tony Humphreys, Raj Khuroya, Joan King, Stephen King, Chris Lloyd, David Major, Joy Mann, Keith Martin, Sarah Nelmes, Alison Scarth, Andrew Scarth, Roger Seabourne, Stephanie Singer, Dominic Sokalski, Jon Tankard, Martin Trevett, Alex Turner, Kate Turner and Phil Williams.

Against: 0

Abstentions: Councillors Joanna Clemens, Donna Duncan, Paula Hiscocks, Shanti Maru, Alex Michaels, Debbie Morris, Reena Ranger, David Raw, Michael Revan, David Sansom and Alison Wall.

RESOLVED:

That it be noted that for the year 2020/21 the Hertfordshire County Council and the Police and Crime Commissioner for Hertfordshire have stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwelling shown below:-

Precepting Authority	Valuation Band							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Hertfordshire County Council	860.82	1,004.26	1,147.75	1,291.21	1,578.16	1,865.08	2,152.03	2,582.42
Hertfordshire County Council Adult Social Care	81.98	95.67	109.31	122.99	150.31	177.66	204.97	245.98
Police & Crime Commissioner	132.00	154.00	176.00	198.00	242.00	286.00	330.00	396.00
Total	1,074.80	1,253.93	1,433.06	1,612.20	1,970.47	2,328.74	2,687.00	3,224.40

That, having calculated the aggregate in each case the Council in accordance with Section 30 (2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2020/21 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:-

Parts of the Council's Area	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Abbots Langley	1,231.91	1,437.23	1,642.54	1,847.87	2,258.51	2,669.15	3,079.78	3,695.74
Batchworth	1,229.17	1,434.02	1,638.88	1,843.75	2,253.48	2,663.20	3,072.92	3,687.50
Chorleywood	1,238.99	1,445.48	1,651.98	1,858.48	2,271.48	2,684.48	3,097.47	3,716.96
Croxley Green	1,227.31	1,431.86	1,636.41	1,840.97	2,250.08	2,659.19	3,068.28	3,681.94
Sarratt	1,232.13	1,437.49	1,642.84	1,848.20	2,258.91	2,669.63	3,080.33	3,696.40
Watford Rural	1,222.82	1,426.62	1,630.42	1,834.23	2,241.84	2,649.45	3,057.05	3,668.46
Unparished	1,220.13	1,423.48	1,626.83	1,830.19	2,236.90	2,643.61	3,050.32	3,660.38

CL71/19 COUNCIL PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2020

Councillor Matthew Bedford moved, seconded by Councillor Sara Bedford, the recommendations in the report.

On being put to Council the motion was declared CARRIED by the Chairman the voting being unanimous.

Councillor Reena Ranger noted the Council's pay ratio of 1:6.65 and wondered how that compared with other Councils of a similar sized to Three Rivers. Councillor Matthew Bedford said the ratio was better as it was a lower multiple than most other employers in both the Public and Private Sectors.

Councillor Joanna Clemens asked which Councils this comparison was being compared with. Councillor Sara Bedford said ratios could be deceptive as Three Rivers directly employed refuse collectors and street sweeping staff therefore lowest paid staff were paid by Three Rivers, whereas neighbouring Councils did not directly employ and pay these staff.

RESOLVED:

That the report and pay policy statement be agreed.

CL72/19 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Chairman moved, duly seconded the following motion:

“that under Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined under paragraphs 3 and 5 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Act. This is because the report and appendices deal with information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information and information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings

It has been decided by the Council that in all the circumstances, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information

CL73/19 PROPERTY INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY

Councillor Matthew Bedford moved, seconded by Councillor Sara Bedford, the recommendations in the report.

Thanked Joanne Wagstaffe, Alison Scott and James Baldwin for all their excellent work and patience on the report and project.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 23(2) a recorded vote was requested and on being put to Council the motion was declared CARRIED by the Chairman the voting being 23 For, 14 Against and 0 Abstentions the details of which were as follows:

For: Councillors Matthew Bedford, Sara Bedford, Steve Drury, Peter Getkahn, Stephen Giles-Medhurst, Margaret Hofman, Tony Humphreys, Raj Khiroya, Chris Lloyd, David Major, Joy Mann, Keith Martin, Sarah Nelmes, Alison Scarth, Andrew Scarth, Roger Seabourne, Stephanie Singer, Dominic Sokalski, Jon Tankard, Martin Trevett, Alex Turner, Kate Turner and Phil Williams.

Against: Councillors Joanna Clemens, Stephen Cox, Donna Duncan, Paula Hiscocks, Joan King, Stephen King, Shanti Maru, Alex Michaels, Debbie Morris, Reena Ranger, David Raw, Michael Revan, David Sansom and Alison Wall.

Abstentions: 0

RESOLVED:

That public access to the report and decision be denied subject to the Non-Disclosure Agreement.

The Chairman moved a resolution to move back into Part I business.

CL74/19 CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY

Councillor Phil Williams said Three Rivers had been involved in Climate Change for a long time and listed many improvements that had been implemented as follows:

Solar Panels installed on many buildings; LED lighting installed to reduce electricity usage; more efficient computer systems in place; the introduction of more fuel efficient vehicles. The Council were on the list to trial electric refuse trucks. Improved water strategy; recycling in the office of over 70%; supported installation of internal wall insulation in homes in the district; provided advice on environmental issues through Green Hour Herts; delivered water and energy awareness campaigns; awarded woodlands assurance status since 2007; three key parks had

green flag awards; improved 5.5 miles of cycling and walking routes since 2011; promoting ultralow emission travel and car free travel.

The Council are on the way to being carbon neutral by 2030. Approving the budget meant a Sustainability Officer can now be appointed. Three Rivers are in the top 1% of Councils for waste collection and recycling and having a Sustainability Officer would enable us to move even further forward. Following the customer satisfaction score of 88% on waste and recycling the Council have employed an Education Officer to raise the score to 100%.

Councillor Phil Williams thanked Councillor Jon Tankard for all his support, expertise and help in drawing up the strategy. He also thanked Rebecca Young for all her time and energy in providing the report.

Councillor Phil Williams moved, seconded by Councillor Sara Bedford, the recommendations in the report.

Councillor David Sansom had asked some years ago if the Council would talk to local bus companies about the emissions from the buses. Although some improvement had been made he would like to ensure older vehicles would not be used in this District.

He also asked whether 15 The Bury was carbon neutral? *Post Meeting Note: The design brief for 15 The Bury was to be policy compliant i.e. 5% less carbon dioxide than Part L of the Approved Documents. The energy report confirms that 17% was achieved thus considerably in excess of the policy requirement. The building also achieves a high sustainability level with each flat being rated as cat B under the SAP evaluation process.*

In the Green Expectations action plan Paragraph 7.1 it stated that recycling and composting at Three Rivers House was to be established, when would this happen?

Councillor Debbie Morris asked when the Three Rivers trials for electric vehicle refuse trucks were going to happen and where Three Rivers were they on the list.

Councillor Reena Ranger said under item 2.6.8 of the Sustainability and Climate Change Review, Flooding, there were concerns that Officers had not requested a Flood Risk Assessment on a planning application before making a recommendation. She requested that in future these Assessments were carried out. There was also no reference in the report on the prevention of vehicles idling outside schools.

Councillor Alison Wall said with regards to flooding she would like more robust partnership working with the Environment Agency and the Woodland Trust. She also mentioned an experiment by the Woodlands Trust using the Beaver Dam System. If the Environment Agency say land is not suitable for development the Council should take note.

Councillor Michael Revan asked whether the Council would donate funds to enable private bus companies who cannot afford them to get electric vehicles.

Councillor Andrew Scarth said electric refuse trucks use a lot of electricity to make the system work so they would have to carry lighter loads and go to the dumping area more frequently which would be a challenge. A trial run is taking place in

London where the maximum speed is 40 miles per hour which would also present a challenge in Three Rivers.

Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst made the following points:

- Noted the success of both the Officers and residents of Three Rivers for the achievement of being in the top 1% for Waste and Recycling.
- Referred to Paragraph 2.6.8 on Flooding which clarified that flooding was the responsibility of Herts County Council. They are a statutory consultee on planning applications if they say a development is unsuitable Three Rivers had an obligation to turn it down. If the Environment Agency advised an application be turned down due to flood plain concerns the Council would again have an obligation to comply.
- Some bus companies within the District would like to install electric vehicles, however as the County Council have not installed any road side charging points this cannot be done. Where it is within Three Rivers control we will do our best and look at trials. Liverpool is about to trial some electric refuse vehicles so we will look at the results. In Three Rivers' car parks rapid and normal charging points are being installed. We all have accept there will be costs in achieving the carbon emission targets to become carbon neutral.

Councillor Shanti Maru asked how the saving of water was being promoted and what feedback had been received?

Councillor Reena Ranger raised the following points:

- It had been asked that the Shopper Service be as green as possible and that vehicles be upgraded to ensure they would be of the best technology they could be. We would be spending £1.9m on waste and recycling vehicles and should ensure we invest well.
- Her tree motion which asked that the Council work with County Council, Parish Council and developers to ensure as many trees were be planted as the number of properties built had been rejected twice by this Council but she would be bringing it back and asked for support.
- Car idling had been raised at the July Council meeting. What had been done around the District to locate land for wild flower verge planting?
- The recycling chain was fantastic, can we ensure our refuse is not ending up on anyone else's shores.
- Please clarify the financial discrepancy, where the budget stated £36,010 and the report stated £80,000.

Councillor Sara Bedford thanked Councillor Phil Williams for taking this on board and coming up with some imaginative ideas. He had a good working relationship with Elen Roberts and Jennie Probert which helped immensely. She thanked Councillor Jon Tankard who had also worked hard on this project. She paid tribute to the late Councillor Ann Shaw OBE who had been a passionate environmentalist.

Councillor Sara Bedford had written to the bus companies in 2014/15 as the Lead Member for air pollution. The response had been that they used cheaper buses here which they could not use in London as Hertfordshire did not have a ban on old vehicles nor does it have any emission zones. Malcolm Clarke had been looking at the refuse truck trials for a while, but currently the vehicles are not very good at going up hills. A meeting took place last week to look at wild verges with Hertfordshire County Council who said we could only have a certain number within

the rural swathe. Three Rivers had done an immense amount of rewilding on their own land, with a very successful project at the Horses Field at Leavesden Country Park.

She again thanked Councillors Phil Williams and Jon Tankard, the late Ann Shaw and Rebecca Young for putting the Council in this position.

Councillor Phil Williams responded to the above points as follows:

- Three Rivers only have the power to enforce vehicle idling for their own vehicles, for all other vehicles it would be down to the Police and Hertfordshire County Council.
- The Woodlands Trust use of the beaver dam system needs to be looked at very carefully.
- The Council were considering having a Sustainability Forum as part of the Environmental Forum once the Sustainability Officer comes into post.
- The tree motion had to be taken to Policy and Resources in the first instance.
- He advised that 70 verges had been chosen by Herts County Council to be rewilded for a trial period. He asked Members to let him know of any verges they thought could be suitable.
- He offered to organise trips for Members to go to see the process at the waste and recycling plants used by Three Rivers.
- He would provide a written response to Councillor Reena Ranger on the costing for the Sustainable Officer role as the budget document had a figure of £80k but the report had a figure of £36k.

On being put to Council the motion was declared CARRIED by the Chairman the voting being unanimous.

RESOLVED:

1. For Officers to develop a new Climate Change and Sustainability Strategy and Action plan over the next 12 months in consultation with the Lead Member for Environmental Services and Sustainability and the Leisure, Environment and Community Committee;
2. For Officers to note Council's view on the scope and options for the Climate Change Strategy and for Officers to further consult the Lead Member for Environmental Services and Sustainability and the Leisure, Environment and Community Committee on the implications of that revised scope for the developing Strategy and Action Plan;
3. For Council to support the growth bid to fund an officer post which will provide the corporate capacity to develop the new Strategy and Action Plan; and
4. For the new Climate Change Officer post to identify costs associated with the new Strategy targets and actions for consideration with the proposed new Strategy by the Policy and Resources Committee.

CL75/19 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

A) MINUTE PR64/19 - HERTFORDSHIRE GROWTH BOARD – MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Councillor Sara Bedford moved, duly seconded, the recommendation from the Policy and Resources Committee with regard to Minute PR64/19 Hertfordshire Growth Board – Memorandum of Understanding.

On being put to Council the motion was declared CARRIED by the Chairman the voting being unanimous.

RESOLVED:

Agreed to the Memorandum of Understanding as set out in Appendix 1 to the report.

B) MINUTE 65/19 - CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE STRATEGY

Councillor Sara Bedford moved, duly seconded, the recommendation from Policy and Resources Committee with regard to Minute PR65/19 Customer Experience Strategy.

On being put to Council the motion was declared CARRIED by the Chairman the voting being 27 For, 9 Against and 1 Abstention.

RESOLVED:

Agreed to the adoption of the Customer Experience Strategy.

C) MINUTE PR66/19 - REVOCATION OF DELEGATED POWERS TO HOLD A MARKET IN ST ANDREWS ROAD SOUTH OXHEY DUE TO RELOCATION OF THE MARKET AS PART OF THE SOUTH OXHEY DEVELOPMENT

Councillor Sara Bedford moved, duly seconded, the recommendations from Policy and Resources Committee with regard to Minute PR66/19 Revocation of Delegated Powers to Hold a Market in St. Andrews Road South Oxhey due to Relocation of the Market as part of the South Oxhey Development.

Councillor Joan King pointed out that this market was not a Three Rivers Market but had been initiated in the 1980s by Watford Rural Parish Council.

On being put to Council the motion was declared CARRIED by the Chairman the voting being unanimous.

RESOLVED:

That on or before the 20 March 2020 the Council revokes the powers delegated to Watford Rural Parish Council in 1990 to hold a market at St Andrews Road, South Oxhey and that the Chief Executive be authorised to formally revoke that delegation and to take all necessary steps in connection with the revocation.

That the Council using Section 101 of the Local Government Act 1972 agrees to delegate its powers under Section 50 of the Food Act 1984 to Watford Rural Parish Council to hold a market in Prestwick Road South Oxhey on the basis that the Parish Council will seek and obtain all necessary permissions licences and consents to operate a market at Prestwick Road at its own cost.

That the Chief Executive (in consultation with the Leader of the Council and Ward Councillors) be authorised to agree and approve:-

- all the specific details around the delegation including, but not limited to, the date the delegated powers can be exercised from, the actual location of the market in Prestwick Road and any decisions on the Operator of the market.
- the Business Plan to be produced by Watford Rural Parish Council.

D) MINUTE 67/19 - CORPORATE FRAMEWORK 2020-23

Councillor Sara Bedford moved, duly seconded, the recommendations from Policy and Resources Committee with regard to Minute PR67/19 Corporate Framework 2020-23.

On being put to Council the motion was declared CARRIED by the Chairman the voting being 27 For, 0 Against and 10 Abstentions.

RESOLVED:

Agreed the Corporate Framework 2020-23.

CL76/19 REVISED LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

Councillor Sara Bedford in her role as Chairman of Local Plan Sub Committee moved, duly seconded, the recommendation from the Local Plan Sub-Committee meeting held on 22 January 2020 with regard to the Revised Local Development Scheme.

On being put to Council the motion was declared CARRIED by the Chairman the voting being unanimous.

RESOLVED:

That the revised Local Development Scheme as set out in Appendix 1 of the report be agreed.

CL77/19 TO RECEIVE ANY PETITIONS UNDER PROCEDURE RULE 18

None received.

CL78/19 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC UNDER PROCEDURE RULE 15

A question was received from a Member of the Public as follows:

The climate change strategy and action plan which was due to be presented by the end of 2019 is now overdue. Can the council please demonstrate to the public what steps it is taking to compile the report and give a timescale for when the report is expected to be presented?

Councillor Phil Williams, Lead Member for Environmental Services and Sustainability, advised that the Council had intended to get the Climate Change Strategy published before Christmas but had been delayed due to the General Election and the Council needing to observe purdah guidelines.

The Member of the public asked a supplementary question stating that he understood that when the motion was passed the strategy was going to be brought forward by the end of the year. Although he understood it was late being presented due to Purdah he did not think the report presented a strategy

as there was no detail on baselining our Eco-emissions so we could measure this and no detail on consulting with the public.

Councillor Phil Williams replied that he did see the formation of a strategy which the Council would take forward and build on. He thanked the member of public for the question and attending the meeting and to let him know that he can email any questions or ask for any updates. His email address is phil.williams@threerivers.gov.uk

RESOLVED:

Noted and responded to the question.

CL79/19 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman had attended the Abbots Langley Tough Ten Awards and also the Holocaust Memorial Day. She reminded the Council that the Civic Service was taking place on Sunday 1 March at St. Mary's Church.

CL80/19 REPORTS AND QUESTIONS TO THE LEADER AND LEAD MEMBERS

LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

Councillor Sara Bedford advised that Anne Morgan, Solicitor to the Council and Monitoring Officer would be retiring from the Council in April, having been with the Council for 36 years. She had achieved 19 Lexcel accreditations during her time at the Council. The Council owed a great debt to Anne for all the hard work she had carried out.

She thanked the Grounds Maintenance Team under Howard Ringland for the work they had carried out over the last few weeks following the storms. She also advised that any trees that had been lost would be replaced.

She thanked the Elections Team under Michael Summerville. Michael, Matthew and Adam had coped exceptionally well during the General Election and an immense number of compliments had been received.

She advised that the number of families being housed in the temporary accommodation in Harlow had been cut from 23 to 5. The plan was to get them back into the District as soon as possible.

Question to Councillor Sara Bedford, Leader of the Council, from Councillor Alison Wall

When is this Council going to step up and formally remember significant events, such as the 75th anniversary of VE Day and are we ever going to recognise all that Barbara Owen MBE did for Three Rivers?

The Council would be raising the Union flag on 7 May 2020 for the VE Day celebrations and the flag would be in place until Monday 11 May. We would be supporting the large number of local community events that will be taking place. She understood that Councillor Giles-Medhurst was planning events in Abbots Langley.

With regards recognition for Barbara Owen, we need to think of ways to recognise the many people who have served this authority and its residents. We usually speak to the relatives to find out what they feel would be appropriate.

Councillor Alison Wall asked a supplementary question on whether Barbara Owen's family would be contacted to find out what their wishes are. Councillor Bedford said that this would be done after an appropriate length of time.

INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Lead Member for Transport and Economic Development, Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst had nothing urgent to report due to the lateness of the hour.

Question to Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst, Lead Member for Transport and Economic Development from Councillor Donna Duncan

There is no community toilet in South Oxhey and there seems to be no plan to allocate one. Is this correct?

There is a community toilet facility in South Oxhey at the Centre. Officers would be considering finding a facility near to the precinct and will be contacting local businesses there.

The Lead Member for Housing, Councillor Andrew Scarth had attended a Homeless Forum.

Question to Councillor Andrew Scarth, Lead Member for Housing, from Councillor David Raw

Can you update us on the current homeless figures, since the Bury has been operational?

- *No of single persons that have used the facility;*
- *No of families that have used the facility;*
- *The longest staying occupants to the facility;*
- *How many of the residents of the facility are from outside the area.*

As at 18 February, since 15 Bury Lane opened in September 2019 there had been 24 households occupy the flats (including current residents). Of those 24, 14 households were families and 10 were single people. It should be noted that in order for single people to qualify for temporary accommodation they must be considered to have a disability and/or be vulnerable.

There are 5 residents in 15 Bury Lane that have been there since the first week of opening.

All of the 24 households mentioned have a local connection with Three Rivers Council (as defined by legislation). It should be noted that the rules on local connection are different for the housing register than for homeless applications.

Lead Member for Infrastructure and Planning Policy, Councillor Steve Drury had nothing to report.

LEISURE, ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY

Reports from the Lead Member for Leisure (Cllr Chris Lloyd), Lead Member for Environmental Services and Sustainability (Cllr Phil Williams), Lead Member for Community Safety and Partnerships (Cllr Roger Seabourne) and questions.

The Lead Member for Leisure Councillor Chris Lloyd, reported that the Council had dealt with 48 dangerous trees. 41 of the tree works had been completed with the remaining 7 due to be completed by the end of the week.

He thanked Angela Borges and Javier Garcia in the Landscape Team for all their work in responding to tree damage in the recent storms and thanked the Grounds Maintenance Team for their pro-active approach. He also thanked Herts County Council for their quick response to tree issues during recent storms.

**Post Meeting Note: Health Update from Andy Stovold
Active Watford and Three Rivers**

205 TRDC residents have been referred onto this programme in the first year. It is targeted at people that are inactive, and not motivated to do exercise. (As opposed to the Exercise on Referral Programme that is targeted at people with specific conditions). The number of referrals are double the initial target for 2019 – and the programme has achieved the same performance as for Watford (where it was already established). All GP surgeries are referring into the scheme – and the project is working to increase referrals from those that are under-represented. 139 TRDC people have engaged with the programme 185% of the target set for 2019.

Healthy Hub

With funding from Public Health we have established a Healthy Hub in South Oxhey at Step Up. Delivered by ASCEND it will support residents access to health improvement services. Working with Herts Mind Network we will be delivering other pop-up hubs in Mill End and Leavesden.

Community Support Service

Herts Mind Network have continued to provide this mental health outreach service with partnership funding from TRDC, the PCC, Thrive Homes, Watford Community Housing and Public Health. 113 people have received support during quarters 1-3 – with positive evaluation results – 100% reporting improved wellbeing and mental health. Case studies have shown how this has helped people to maintain their tenancies and homes reducing the pressure on our Homelessness services.

Domestic Abuse Service

Herts Mind Network have also continued to provide this service with partnership funding from Watford Community Housing, Thrive Homes, TRDC, and the Violence against Women and Girls County Grant. The service has received 167 referrals during quarters 1-3 providing a wide range of support to victims in terms of safety planning, support regarding child contact, and mental wellbeing. 100% of clients reported satisfaction with the service. 92% report a reduction or total cessation of the abuse experienced.

Mental Health First Aiders / Time for Change

The Council's Mental Health First Aiders have been working to support our Time to Change pledge to become an employer aware of mental health issues. 12 staff have been actively promoting discussions about mental wellbeing, and

offering one to one support to staff. Many thanks for those that have undertaken the training.

Intensive Family Support

The Families First Partnership has seen that 97% of the families being supported in Three Rivers by early intervention services have mental health as a presenting need, and 67% were affected by Domestic Abuse. The partnership funding of services from Herts Mind Network shows that we are responding jointly to the key presenting needs of our communities.

Arts on Prescription

Our arts on prescription service has continued, with funding support from Public Health, with the latest course being delivered in Mill End. The programme is aimed at people with poor mental health working with artists to develop their creative activity and support mindfulness.

Targeted physical activity programmes

Leisure have worked with groups of 20 people from Slimming World and Weight Watchers to deliver a complementary physical activity intervention – including low intensity classes, HITT classes, running groups and leisure venue vouchers.

We have also delivered a targeted activity at the 3G pitch in South Oxhey for men over 45 who are inactive.

Working with the Stroke Association we have provided a Swimming After stroke programme of 2 blocks of 12 weeks receiving positive feedback from participants.

Question to Councillor Chris Lloyd, Lead Member for Leisure, from Councillor Alison Wall

Is it right that the Leads of Committees take items for discussion away from Committees and discuss them individually away from the Committee forum? I am referring specifically in this instance to a recent communication to the LEC.

In carrying out their role, a Lead Member or any Member of a Committee cannot be restricted to the forum of that Committee's meeting alone to discuss matters arising out of its business. Members do have to bear in mind matters such as data protection and, where applicable, commercial confidentiality, but subject to that, must be allowed to carry out their role freely and without undue restriction.

Supplementary Question: A tree strategy would be really helpful within the Climate Change Strategy. Councillor Phil Williams stressed we are resident driven, but when a resident emails us we brush aside an offer of help with tree planting. What should the process should be? Can we develop a tree strategy that would go to Policy and Resources Committee?

Councillor Chris Lloyd advised that the email was forwarded to officers and Cllr Seabourne spoke to the individual. We will be discussing trees at the environmental forum and are working in partnership with St Mary's Church to celebrate 750 years. I suggested that they look to plant trees within the original Parish Boundary. They can also approach schools. A tree strategy was being worked on.

Question to Councillor Chris Lloyd, Lead Member for Leisure, from Councillor Stephen King

When is the Walnut tree in Hayling Road being replaced?

Councillor Chris Lloyd advised that the walnut tree would be replaced in November and would be approximately 3 metres high.

Councillor Stephen King asked a supplementary question on whether the lack of maintenance on the Walnut Tree contributed to its demise.

The Chairman announced that due to time constraints the meeting was to close at 10.30pm.

Councillor Stephen Cox said that having been economical with their comments throughout the meeting his group would not now have the opportunity to ask their questions which remained outstanding. Councillor Stephen Cox said that he strongly deprecated this situation and written answers were not acceptable.

Post Meeting Note: Due to time constraints the following questions and answers were not covered during the meeting:

Question to Councillor Chris Lloyd, Lead Member for Leisure, from Councillor Stephen Cox

What progress has been made in assisting Watford Rural Parish Council in their desire to secure Village Green status for South Oxhey Playing Fields?

Council Officers have been in contact with Watford Rural Parish Council following the Council Motion to assist them with their village green application. Officers have and will continue to respond to the Parish Council as and when it seeks assistance.

Question to Councillor Chris Lloyd, Lead Member for Leisure, from Councillor Reena Ranger

Please can we have an update on the wildflower verges behind Eastbury Tennis Courts and any others that have been planted since the July 2019 Council meeting?

Behind Eastbury Tennis Courts - The grass has not been cut and wildflower seeds are ready to be sown as soon as conditions allow this.

There are biodiverse grasslands across the District including Prestwick Road Meadows, The Withey Beds, Chorleywood House Estate, South Oxhey Playing Fields, Leavesden Country Park, The Horse Field in South Way and Stones Orchard.

Woodcock Hill Woodlands Cemetery - A cut and lift takes place once a year at the end of the season. There is also a planting programme every year where family members can get involved with the planting of bulbs within the woodland part of the Cemetery.

The top end of Oxhey Playing Field - There are a number of selected areas where there is a cut and lift that takes place once a year.

Horse Field in South Way - Grounds Maintenance now only cut the pathways and the land has been seeded with wildflowers.

Leavesden Country Park, wildflowers will be planted around the Little Blossom Orchard in the south of the park over the coming months

As part of the works to East Lane Cemetery, woodland wildflowers will be planted across the cemetery over the coming months

The Friends of Leavesden Country Park have also planted 5,000 bulbs across the park over the last 2 years (Crocuses, Morning Glory, Star of Bethlehem, Daffodils etc.)

The Garden at Leavesden Country Park has a wildflower/grasses area around the Bug Hotel, as well as planting in raised plant beds and edible planting around the perimeter.

Questions to Councillor Phil Williams, Lead Member for Environmental Services and Sustainability, from Councillor David Sansom

When will the residents of Maple Cross get reliable up to date information on their air quality?

Councillors will be aware a recent report went to LEC Committee (15 January 2020) on air quality as a response to a petition requesting air quality monitoring in Maple Cross. I have incorporated some of the detail in the following response to the question:

In keeping with other Local Authorities, TRDC are legally obliged to monitor air quality in the whole of Three Rivers and to review and report the data annually to DEFRA. This is undertaken via monitoring equipment installed in specific locations across the District. The data from this monitoring equipment is analysed in conjunction with other data such as background data and traffic modelling. There is no evidence of a specific concern in Maple Cross and as such no monitoring equipment is installed in the vicinity and no evidence of a need to do so has been shown. All current information is up to date as published on the DEFRA website.

Notwithstanding the above, in response to the receipt of a recent petition we have written to the lead petitioner (letter sent 30 January 2020) requesting further details and evidence of their concerns regarding air quality in Maple Cross. We are yet to receive a response.

Why is cardboard and plastic recycling being put in the skip behind Three Rivers House to go to landfill and not being recycled?

Regarding the cardboard items in the skip, there were two cardboard boxes that had been placed in the skip by a hirer over the weekend. Hirers are reminded by staff during the hire to separate recycling, and place in the appropriate bin, and should not have been using the skip. The cardboard items have now been removed and placed in the recycling bins.

Going forward we have taken the following action:

1. Updated the information sent to hirers in advance to include where to put waste and to separate recycling
2. Reminded all upcoming hirers about recycling and where waste needs to be placed
3. Reminded staff to check hirers comply and ensure any Watersmeet waste is placed in the correct bin

The majority of the waste in the skip is from Watersmeet. The remainder was from Basing House, namely some old office furniture.

RESOURCES AND SHARED SERVICES

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

How many Councillors have experienced problems with their surface pros since they were first issued and how many have been returned to Three Rivers District Council?

We have had Surface Pro related calls from 34 Councillors. Please note this total includes problems connecting to the VPN, unable to power on, McAfee lockouts, problems connecting to Wi-Fi etc. Very few are directly related to the Surface Pro.

We have replaced 5 units:

2 have been replaced with laptops for specific health related issues

3 through physical damage or failure e.g. battery issues or where members have dropped liquid onto the machine - where another Surface Pro has been issued as a replacement

What percentage of affordable housing and of what tenure is Three Rivers District Council's target for the South Oxhey Initiative and what percentage of each tenure has been achieved thus far?

Including the detailed scheme for phase 3, currently being considered by Planning Committee, there will be a total of 659 homes of which 182 are "affordable", being some 28% overall. Of those 182, some 96 (53%) are social rent, some 32 (17%) are LHA rent and some 54 (30%) are shared ownership units.

To date a total of 140 units are complete and occupied where 69 are "affordable" being 48 social rent and 21 shared ownership units.

Further Post Meeting Note - the figures provided post the Council Meeting were inaccurate, they have been amended as follows: Including the detailed scheme for phase 3, currently being considered by Planning Committee, there will be a total of 659 homes of which 182 are "affordable", being some 28% overall. Of those 182, some 96 (53%) are social rent, some **33 (18%)** are LHA rent and some **53 (29%)** are shared ownership units.

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

Why did Three Rivers District Council lock the gates to the doctor's surgery car park in Oxhey Drive, thus preventing doctors, staff and patients using it for many months longer than necessary?

Post Meeting Note:

Response provided The Council has not locked the gates to the car park for some time, they were locked by the Council only for a few weeks at least over two years ago. This was in order to regularise the lease after the departure of the previous leaseholder (Scouts).

The car park is currently leased to NHS Property Services as they wanted to ensure its availability for the health centre on Oxhey Drive. They have had control of the car park since 1 October 2019.

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

Was an acknowledgement received by Watford Rural Parish Council in the first instance following its submission to this council of two Freedom of Information requests last year? Why was there a delay in providing a full response to the FOI requests and should everyone who makes a FOI request be expected to chase twice for a response and then submit a complaint because no reply has been forthcoming? Further, can it be confirmed if the redacted figures supplied as part of the answer were previously supplied in un-redacted form to members and if so when and to whom?

Acknowledgements are not sent when requests are initially received, as there is no requirement to do so. The delay in responding to these 2 requests was due to an administrative error but they have now been responded to with apologies for the delay. Over 95% of all FOI requests are completed within the 20 working day time limit.

Neither the original report nor the report with the redacted figures (that was sent in response to the request) was circulated to Members.

CL81/19 REPORTS AND QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMEN OF THE AUDIT, PLANNING, LICENSING AND REGULATORY SERVICES COMMITTEES (RULE 14)

Due to time constraints the reports and questions were not discussed.

CL82/19 MOTIONS UNDER PROCEDURE RULE 11

Due to time constraints the motions were not debated.

Post Meeting Note: An Extraordinary Council Meeting was arranged post meeting to take place on Monday 23 March to cover these motions, outstanding questions and Chair of Committee questions and reports, however this meeting was postponed due to the Covid-19 emergency.

CHAIR