

Minutes of the Meeting of **FULL COUNCIL** held at Penn Chamber, Three Rivers House, Rickmansworth on **Tuesday 18 October 2022** from 7.30pm to 9.04pm.

Present: Councillors Debbie Morris (Chair), Kate Turner (Vice Chair), Matthew Bedford, Sara Bedford, Ruth Clark, Stephen Cox, Steve Drury, Andrea Fraser, Stephen Giles-Medhurst, Rue Grewal, Phillip Hearn, Lisa Hudson, Tony Humphreys, Khalid Hussain, Raj Khiroya, Joan King, Stephen King, Chris Lloyd, David Major, Keith Martin, Abbas Merali, Chris Mitchell, Sarah Nelmes, Kevin Raeburn, Paul Rainbow, David Raw, Ciaran Reed, Andrew Scarth, Roger Seabourne, Stephanie Singer, Dominic Sokalski, Alison Wall, Phil Williams and Anne Winter.

At the start of the meeting Council observed a minutes silence following the sad *death of the late HM Queen Elizabeth II with the Group Leaders able to pay tribute*

CL53/22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors David Coltman, Shanti Maru, Reena Ranger OBE, Jon Tankard and Martin Trevett

CL54/22 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Council meeting held on 12 July 2022 were agreed by general assent subject to the amendments below and were signed by the Chair.

12I) Question to Councillor Paul Rainbow, Lead Member for Transport and Economic Development from Councillor Sara Bedford

What provision is being made for new cycle ways to assist with lowering emissions and congestion and enabling safe cycling?

Written response:

The District Council is working with the County Council to develop improvements to several new local routes featured in the current Cycling Strategy (details here <https://www.threerivers.gov.uk/cycling> and the new Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan will propose new direct cycle routes connecting local towns and villages across the District. This is shortly to be consulted on by HCC.

Supplementary question for Councillor Paul Rainbow from Councillor Sara Bedford

What is being done to ensure that the cycle paths that we do already have are being kept free of parking which seems to infest quite a few of the cycle paths we have particularly the shared surface cycle path along the northern side of South Way which was restored due to a combination of funding including Section 106 funding from the Leavesden Aerodrome development however this is frequently parked on by people using the play area by the side of South Way and is obstructing it from being able to be used It is part of a greater route which we are trying to deliver including one which will go up and down the canal. What is being done?

Supplementary response:

Councillor Paul Rainbow advised that from their understanding it does not actually fall under Three Rivers DC and it is part of the County Council and the situation with regard to enforcing would fall with the Police.

Councillor Sara Bedford said the answer they had been given was incorrect. There are double yellow lines down there, therefore parking enforcement is a matter for this Council and not for the County.

The Chair advised that they were sure the Lead Member would take that on board

12bbb) Questions to Councillor Keith Martin, Lead Member for Resources and Shared Services from Councillor Sara Bedford

12bbb i - How many contracted staff are now being paid the Real Living Wage where the roles were previously being paid at a rate lower than the RLW?

Written response:

The Real Living Wage for the Leisure Management Contract is due to commence on 1 October 2022. It will affect 103 colleagues/staff broken down as the below;

Full Time – 15

Part Time – 39

Casual – 49

Tenon FM provide cleaning services for Watersmeet, Batchworth Depot, Basing House and Three Rivers House. Their staff are paid the National Minimum wage. The contract is due for renewal in January 2023 when the requirement to provide the Real Living wage will be implemented

Supplementary question to Councillor Keith Martin from Councillor Sara Bedford:

Does the Councillor share my disappointment that we have not gone to our contract managers and said the Council has agreed to pay these people – the real living wage – and would like to up the value of the contract in order that these people can be paid that? The people that clean these office and who work as our casual leisure staff are very valuable to us and should be being paid the real living wage as agreed by this Council.

Supplementary response

If we have a contract with an outside organisation both parties are bound by the terms of that contract and it is not up to us to change the terms midway through as much as I would like to see people paid the real living wage. I do know as the answer states that we will insist that our counterparties of the contract pay the real living wage when those contracts are up for renewal.

Councillor Sara Bedford advised that was misinterpreting what they had said it is perfectly possible. It is a point of personal information which I am raising. It is perfectly up to us not to break a contract but to go along and say, what I said 2 minutes ago, here is some money and we would like you to pay people more I don't believe anyone would say no we would rather see our cleaners getting less money.

The Lead Member would speak to officers and get a written answer.

Councillor Sara Bedford felt that her question had been misinterpreted and asked to clarify a point stating it is up to us not to break a contract but to offer more money.

Councillor Keith Martin responded that he would speak with Officers and provide a written response.

Supplementary written response provided after the meeting:

At their meeting on 8 December 2020 Full Council approved a motion, in which "...all employees of contractors and Council staff employed on a casual basis should be paid the RLW as soon as practically possible, and that discussions take place with SLM regarding the pay of employees at our leisure facilities." The Council agrees, these employees are very valuable. Noting that the motion requires action is taken as soon as is 'practically possible', changes will come into effect for the Leisure Management Contract on 1 October 2022 and for Cleaning Staff when the contract is re-tendered in January 2023.

12bbb ii - Which areas of the Council's operations do these staff work in?

Written response:

Cleaning Contract, Leisure Management Contract

See supplementary question and response above.

CL55/22 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The passing of Her Majesty the Queen had had a huge effect on the people of this Country. I wrote to King Charles III to express the Council's condolences and laid flowers in the Rose Garden in memory of a truly inspirational monarch. On 11 September at County Hall, I was privileged to receive the scroll setting out the proclamation of the ascension.

I have attended many events since July's Full Council which are documented in the Members Information Bulletin. Some highlights of the visits undertaken were: Speech Day at Merchant Taylors School where kayaking was offered by the school Bursar enabling two groups of young people to spend a day kayaking, who may not have normally have had this opportunity. It is hoped this project will grow in future years. When at Moor Park Golf Club promoting my Pets as Therapy charity, the club offered to send out golfing professionals to teach children in schools basic golfing skills and offer scholarships to talented young people. The Golf Club are also to host a morning for Pets as Therapy in February to encourage local volunteers.

Forthcoming events include a Holocaust memorial event at Three Rivers House on 27 January and a quiz night at Watersmeet on 4 March

Black History month is currently being held with events throughout Rickmansworth and the Pensioners Forum Remembrance service and tea at Rickmansworth School on 11 November.

CL56/22 RECEIVE ANY PETITIONS UNDER PROCEDURE RULE 18

There were none received.

CL57/22 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC UNDER PROCEDURE RULE 15

There were none received.

CL58/22 AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE 14:03

This report was brought to Council to agree a minor amendment to the Constitution which would allow the Solicitor to the Council to delegate to a Principal Lawyer in their absence.

Councillor Sarah Nelmes moved, seconded by Councillor Keith Martin, the recommendations as detailed in the report.

On being put to Council the motion was declared CARRIED by the Chair the voting being by general assent.

RESOLVED:

The Solicitor to the Council (*or*, with the Solicitor to the Council's prior written authorisation, a Principal Lawyer), is authorised to institute, defend or participate in any legal proceedings in any case where such action is necessary to give effect to decisions of the Council or in any case where the Solicitor to the Council considers that such action is necessary to protect the Council's interests.

Subject to the minor amendment being agreed that the Council Constitution be updated accordingly.

CL59/22 RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE FROM THE MEETING HELD ON 12 SEPTEMBER 2022

Council received the recommendations from the Policy and Resources Committee meeting held on 12 September 2022.

Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst moved, seconded by Councillor Sarah Nelmes the recommendations from the Policy and Resources Committee meeting on 12 September 2022 as set out in Minutes PR43/22, PR45/22 and PR49/22

On being put to Council the motion was declared CARRIED by the Chair the voting being by general assent.

RESOLVED:

- **Minute PR43/22 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2024/25 AND AMENDMENTS TO 2023/24 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS**
 - That the Calendar of Meetings for 2024/25 be agreed
 - That the proposed changes in the scheduling of the Service Committees as detailed in Paragraph 2.5.3 of the report be agreed for years 2023/24 and 2024/25.
- **Minute PR45/22 ELECTIONS VOTER ID**
 - Recommends Option 1 the implementation of Modern Polling.
 - Recommend that the annual Elections budget is increased by £28,400 to cover the costs of Modern Polling.
- **Minute PR49/22 CIL SPENDING APPLICATIONS**
 - CIL funding for the following schemes detailed in Table 1 and summarised in the table below for 2022/2023:

Applicant & Project Name	Infrastructure	CIL Amount
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Transport & Parking Projects, Regulatory Services TRDC Electric Vehicle Charging Points Installation	Installation of Electric Vehicle Charging Points in District Council car parks to be determined, but located in or near six retail centres at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abbots Langley High Street • Chorleywood village centre • Croxley Green • Rickmansworth High Street • Rickmansworth neighbourhood centres (indicative Moneyhill Parade) • South Oxhey centre 	£460,000.00
Grand Union Towpath Upgrade (Phase 6, Kings Langley Lakes to Red Lion Lane)	Canal Towpath Upgrade (costs to be paid exclude consultancy costs)	£172,282.00

Any request for additional monies for these specific projects is delegated to the Director of Community and Environmental Services, in consultation with the Lead Member, to determine having regard to the economic context and timescales for implementation.

Councillor Keith Martin moved, seconded by Councillor Sarah Nelmes, the recommendation as set out in Minute PR50/22

On being put to Council the motion was declared CARRIED the voting being 25 For, 0 Against and 9 Abstentions.

RESOLVED:

Minute PR50/22 BUDGET MONITORING REPORT TO 31 JULY 2022

That the revenue and capital budget variations as shown in the table a paragraph 5.1 be approved and incorporated into the three-year medium-term financial plan.

CL60/22 QUESTIONS TO THE LEADER, LEAD MEMBERS, CHAIRS OF COMMITTEES

Question to Councillor Sarah Nelmes, Leader of the Council, from Councillor Alison Wall

8a) Why does Three Rivers only fly the Union Flag when it is required to?

Written response:

The Union Flag is flown all year round from the flagpole on the Penn Chamber balcony.

Supplementary question to Councillor Sarah Nelmes, Leader of the Council from Councillor Alison Wall

Could we have the flag flying in a more prominent place as it is not evident to the public?

Supplementary response:

The flag is flying over the Council's front door, it is unlikely that we would move the flagpole.

Questions to Councillor Sarah Nelmes, Leader of the Council, from Councillor Sara Bedford

8b) *What is the purpose of the Pensioners' Forum?*

Written response:

The Pensioners' Forum features presentations, discussions and questions and answers sessions on a wide range of subjects. Recent topics have included advisory services for retirees available from Citizens Advice, volunteering opportunities, tips on helping family members living with dementia, services available from a mental health charity and talks on local history. Guests can also enjoy live music and at the most recent Forum students from a local school also performed a dance routine. Attendees have been asked what topics they would like future Pensioners' Forums to cover and to suggest presenters. The last Forum resulted in one such topic being proposed and one member of the audience volunteering to make a presentation.

The activities of the Forum have been increased this year to include guided tours of Moor Par Mansion and Leavesden Country Park. Both proved popular and we have received requests to run both events again next year, which we hope to do. Other walks and tours are also being planned.

All Members are welcome to attend Pensioners' Forum events.

Supplementary question to Councillor Sarah Nelmes, Leader of the Council, from Councillor Sara Bedford

The original answer given to my question included the phrase "the forum sometimes includes consultations relevant to pensioners." This line had been omitted from the tabled answer, and I would like to know which is correct? As if it has been used for consultations purposes that would slightly change the requirement and format of the forum.

Supplementary Response:

As I had advised earlier, the forum does sometimes include consultations relevant to pensioners. Apologies, there may have been a drafting error between the first and second draft of the responses to these questions.

8c) *Why has the Council stopped refunding taxi fares for attendees at the Pensioners' Forum? With the poor state of local bus routes, this makes attendance for pensioners from some areas of the District difficult/expensive.*

Written response:

Transport to attend a Pensioner Forum meeting was provided up to March 2020 on an ad-hoc basis when requests were received to attend the meetings. It is understood that no requests to receive funding have been received since March 2020.

Officers feel that there is scope to consider this under the work currently taking place this year to review and update our Comprehensive Equalities Policy, this includes a review of our wider community engagement strategy incorporating all our various Forum meetings.

Supplementary question to Councillor Sarah Nelmes, Leader of the Council, from Councillor Sara Bedford

The answers differs from the original answer that I was given, that there is no record of fares being paid to the Pensioner Forum. I knew this was incorrect because I used to Chair the Pensioner Forum and knew that fares were paid at that time. Is the Leader therefore saying that such a request would be agreed if made in the future?

Supplementary response:

As I advised earlier, such a payment would be considered on a case by case basis, should a request be made as was the case I believe. I can explain how the confusion arose in that the Committee Team organise the Forum meetings but it was the Community Team who paid those occasional taxi fares on an ad hoc basis.

8d) A pensioner with mobility or sensory disabilities may struggle to use public transport and may have had to give up their car for a variety of reasons. Surely the Forum should seek to encourage attendance from all areas and pensioner demographics in the District?

Written Response:

Officers feel that there is scope to consider this under the work currently taking place this year to review and update our Comprehensive Equalities Policy, this includes a review of our wider community engagement strategy incorporating all our various Forum meetings.

Supplementary question to Councillor Sarah Nelmes, Leader of the Council, from Councillor Sara Bedford

My supplementary question follows on from the two answers given. I am glad it is going to be looked at on the same basis it was looked at last time. I have been chasing up on this for a while and have had different answers from different officers. Many pensioners have an issue trying to get here under their own steam because they are not able to drive anymore for health reasons or can't afford to run a car, and buses just don't run anymore. Waiting until the review/update of the Comprehensive Equalities Policy has been completed will mean that it will be at least another year and will miss the budget process. Please could this be looked at, it will be a very small amount of money, so that we can provide fares and refreshments for the forum?

Supplementary response:

The review of the Comprehensive Equalities Policy will be within this financial year. Currently we are awaiting up to date census data which I am advised is due imminently and certainly it will be considered within this budget cycle.

Question to Councillor Paul Rainbow, Lead Member for Transport and Economic Development, from Councillor David Raw

8e) Will this local authority fund additional enforcement officers to ensure that unlawful parking in Three Rivers does not adversely impact residents?

Written Response:

Hertsmere BC (HBC) currently provide the parking enforcement service on behalf of TRDC and they use their knowledge and expertise on parking enforcement to prepare relevant deployment plans for their Civil Enforcement Officers (CEOs) to ensure parking controls and restrictions across the District are covered. There cannot be a permanent presence of CEOs in the vicinity of every control at all times. At the current time they have not suggested additional

enforcement officers are required. HBC are consulted as part of any new parking scheme proposals and would advise if additional enforcement officers are required.

Supplementary question to Councillor Paul Rainbow, Lead Member for Transport and Economic Development, from Councillor David Raw

I have been contacted by a resident who is part of a group of 30 residents claiming that current enforcement is not working, specifically outside the Shepherds School and on Moneyhill Parade and is totally inadequate. The residents believe that TRDC are paying for this service and it is down to TRDC to control it with tickets, cameras or target the affected areas. Can you do something please?

Supplementary response:

Hertsmere Borough Council who provide us with the Traffic Officers (Civil Enforcement Officers - CEOs) deploy Traffic Officers where Traffic Regulation Orders exist. If it is further CEOs that you require then you are welcome to submit a budget bid.

Question to Councillor Paul Rainbow, Lead Member for Transport and Economic Development, from Councillor Andrea Fraser

8f) Has this local authority got a strategy to increase the footfall on Rickmansworth High Street?

Written response:

Yes, the Retail Parades Revitalisation (RPR) Programme improves local streetscapes to enhance both access and visual amenity of town and village centres,

The recent **Welcome Back** initiatives in Rickmansworth (including a joint scheme between the Batchworth Community Council and the District Council) and associated schemes are providing better street furniture including seating, planters, wayfinding and signage. These are intended to help businesses recover from the pandemic.

Other current RPR enhancements in Rickmansworth include:

- Improving **wayfinding** signing to enable and encourage walking to local shops;
- **Community Street Audits** currently being carried out in local centres and
- Our programmed scheme to provide **new EV charging** to support businesses, shops and services in local shopping centres, which will enable shoppers to charge electric vehicles while visiting Rickmansworth High Street

Supplementary question to Paul Rainbow, Lead Member for Transport and Economic Development from Councillor Andrea Fraser

Does the RPR reflect what was paid for and what the consultant has recommended that we do? If so, could we see the report?

Supplementary response:

I do not have the details to hand but will provide you with any information that we do have available.

Supplementary written response provided after the meeting:

- The Retail Parades Revitalisation budget, which is an annual programme, is used towards new street furniture and other improvements to enable people to easily access local shopping areas.
- In Rickmansworth, the European Union's Regional Development Funded "Welcome Back" programme, launched in response to the pandemic, enabled two initiatives to be delivered jointly with BCC (*Greening the High Streets* and launching the new *Rickmansworth Market*)
- Both the Retail Parades schemes and Welcome Back schemes are developed largely in-house with limited support from consultants, in response to local desires and opportunities.

Question to Councillor Paul Rainbow, Lead Member for Transport and Economic Development, from Councillor Rue Grewal

8g) Grants are available from the Department for Transport under the On-Street Residential Charge point Scheme to fund up to 75% of the cost of installing publicly-accessible electric vehicle chargers. Broxbourne, Dacorum, St Albans, Watford and Welwyn Hatfield have all received grants worth millions of pounds to install electric vehicle chargers, showing that Hertfordshire Councils do receive permission and can receive funding. Why has Three Rivers not done so?

Written response:

These grants fund 60% of chargers and the scheme is aimed at providing on-street chargers for residents (as stated in the scheme title). Only Watford BC has installed on-street chargers to date.

Hertfordshire County Council as the Local Highway and Traffic Authority, has produced a tool to assess demand from residents without off-street parking and is working on its EV Strategy (draft since June 2021) which is expected to be published this Autumn and which will set out to what extent it will support on-street charging.

Significantly, the County Council's emerging objectives promote charging at destinations (car parks) rather than on-street charging, with on-street charging allowed only in exceptional circumstances, so once it's Strategy is published, District Councils will be in a position to consider whether this addresses local needs.

Supplementary question to Councillor Paul Rainbow, Lead Member for Transport and Economic Development, from Councillor Rue Grewal

Could you advise why TRDC has not applied for the on street residential charge point scheme where 60% of the projects capital cost could be funded? Can you confirm if and when TRDC will be putting in an application as you will be aware that the funding is also allowed for car parks?

Supplementary response:

There will be a written response regarding the second part of the question. With regards to the first part it is my understanding that as far as street and highways it falls within the County Council.

Supplementary written response provided after the meeting:

The District Council intends to consider demand for charging points for residents (at whom this ORCs grant fund is aimed) following the publication of

Hertfordshire County Council's strategy which is aimed at addressing resident charging needs in Hertfordshire as a whole, as set out above. The ORCs scheme is not relevant to the District Council's current scheme as it "does not support charge points intended to be used primarily by commuters or visitors to destination-style locations such as shopping centres."

Question for Cllr Paul Rainbow, Lead Member for Transport and Economic Development from Cllr Chris Mitchell

8h) I accompanied Living Streets to walk around Croxley Green. They seem to have a wide remit and had lots of ideas. When will we hear the outcome of their survey and recommendation and how will this link with the cycling review currently underway?

Written response:

The report of the surveys will feed into the Local Cycling and Walking Development Plan and will be published alongside it in early 2023. Recommendations will be considered by the Local Highway Authority in the next year.

Supplementary question for Cllr Paul Rainbow, Lead Member for Transport and Economic Development from Cllr Chris Mitchell

I take it from what I have read elsewhere there will be a consultation when the information is fed back to the residents and have you considered how we might fund the plans considering that Herts County Council seem to be very cash strapped?

Supplementary response:

With regards to the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans this is due out for consultation fairly soon on both reports. We will await the recommendations and see where we go from there.

Question to Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst, Lead Member for Planning Policy and Infrastructure, from Councillor Stephen Cox

8i) Exactly what credence were representatives of the Scouts and indeed members of the public entitled to place upon the report to the Planning Committee of 15 December 2016 in respect of this authority's own planning application 16/2305/FUL and does he stand by the contents of that report and if not why not?

Written response:

As advised on a similar questions raised previously on four occasions the Planning Committee report was based on the information as it was understood by officers at the time. Subsequent legal advice has now given a different understanding. Officers are continuing to consider any alternative options but any provision for parking is dependent upon the Leaseholder of the Pavilion being in agreement.

Supplementary question to Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst, Lead Member for Planning Policy and Infrastructure, from Councillor Stephen Cox

I note the slightly weary tone of response despite this being the first occasion the Lead Member has received the question from me on this matter. Could the Lead Member demonstrate the mastery of your brief here and now, in that the answer refers to subsequent legal advice for the Council but it is a fact that the same

advice was available to this authority all the time and not sought. Accordingly everyone, including the Administration were misled, could the Lead Member apologise to the Scouts for the misinformation.

Supplementary response:

As per the four previous answers given by my predecessor, which I did listen to at the time and which I am sure Councillor Cox listened to the answer is no different. Advice was given at the time and was considered to be the professional advice that was in place at the time. It came subsequently to light that it was different advice. As Councillor Cox is well aware the alternative of options for the provision here are dependent on the leaseholder of the Pavilion agreeing to those arrangements.

Question to Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst, Lead Member for Planning Policy and Infrastructure, from Councillor David Raw

8j) *Can this Council consider bringing back a Conservation Officer in-house who is able to develop a knowledge of the local area?*

Written response:

The Council has a contract in place with Place Services until June 2023. Whilst the Council could consider recruiting a Conservation Officer, however it should be noted that we were unsuccessful in recruiting one in the past and this is now a common problem with many Council's. It is difficult to find experienced candidates that can provide conservation advice to the level that we are currently receiving from Place Services.

Using an external organisation rather than recruiting an individual conservation officer strengthens the Council's resilience in this area by having multiple specialists that provide conservation advice rather than relying on one individual covering all of the work.

Supplementary question to Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst, Lead Member for Planning Policy and Infrastructure, from Councillor David Raw

Will you keep an eye on costs and continue to look for a permanent staff member?

Supplementary response:

The two don't go hand in hand and the answer you have already been provided with shows that we get a better service from the current arrangements rather than necessarily having a permanent member of staff who would only be working part of the year (ie they would take holiday and leave) whereas the arrangement we have here provides a service for 365 days. This particular arrangement provides more detailed advice than perhaps we might get had we an individual member of staff. As per the original answer we have had great difficulty, as indeed have a large number of other Local Authorities, in recruiting a single Conservation Area Officer.

Question to Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst, Lead Member for Planning Policy and Infrastructure, from Councillor Abbas Merali

8k) *Ensuring the planning process is complied with is fundamental to ensure the credibility of the planning system. There have been a number of incidents across the District where work has taken place without appropriate planning permission and without being enforced. What is the Council doing to ensure that robust action is taken when the planning process is not abided by to prevent this trend continuing?*

Written response:

Officers are aware of some incidents where work has taken place without the appropriate planning permission, I do not consider that this is a 'trend'. The department receives over 180 enforcement cases a year (sometimes this has been nearer 300) and is heavily reliant on members of the public to report works.

Importantly, it should be noted that breaches of planning control do not constitute a criminal offence. The National Planning Policy Framework states that Council's should act proportionally and proactively to enforcement matters and this is reflected in the Council's own Enforcement Plan (2021). The Council must only take the appropriate enforcement action where it is expedient to do so. In a large majority of cases it is simply not expedient to pursue enforcement action as the works may not be harmful and would accord with the Council's development plan. Additionally, the planning system allows the submission of retrospective planning applications and such applications must be determined by the Local Planning Authority. Where breaches of planning control have been identified Officers will request appropriate actions with specific timeframes. Some actions may require works to be removed or encourage the submission of a pre-application or a formal planning application with a view of formalising the breach. The submission of part retrospective or retrospective applications enables Officers the ability to alter works, if applicable, to ensure they are acceptable in planning terms. In many other cases, breaches are rectified informally or enforcement notices served whereby the breach is considered expedient and contrary to the development plan.

Supplementary question to Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst, Lead Member for Planning Policy and Infrastructure, from Councillor Abbas Merali

I am not sure the response provided actually answers the question. We all agree here the importance of a robust approach to planning enforcement is key to ensuring the credibility and fairness of our planning system. You mention in your response that there were 180 enforcement cases and in some years 300. Why is then the case that only 9 enforcement notices were issued by TRDC? This compares to 149 in Buckinghamshire and 90 in Hillingdon which is obviously significantly higher both on per capita basis as well as per application basis. Would you agree that TRDC is a soft touch on Planning Enforcement?

Supplementary response:

No. Buckinghamshire has a population six times larger than TRDC and Hillingdon's population is four times larger than TRDC. They both have significantly more planning applications and therefore potentially more enforcement cases. In terms of my answer it is a full and detailed answer and if Councillor Merali would like to speak to officers about individual cases they are welcome to do so. But as is explained in the answer it is often not always the case that enforcement action is relevant and can be taken, if actually the infringement can be overcome by an additional planning application or indeed by the consent of the owners amending what they have undertaken. Expensive

enforcement action is not always the answer if we can reach the right result by another method.

Question to Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst, Lead Member for Planning Policy and Infrastructure, from Councillor Ciaran Reed

8l) You have suggested at a number of Committee meetings that the Planning Inspectorate have been instructed to not refuse Local Plans for failing to meet the housing numbers set out in the Standard Methodology. Where have you found this and what impact will this have on our Three Rivers Local Plan?

Written response:

The instruction was from the then secretary of state Greg Clark prior to the election of the current Prime Minister. This will not impact the Three Rivers Local Plan as it stands and as you know this Council does not support the figures arrived at for Three Rivers through Standard Methodology. We await the Prime Minister and the new secretary of state to deliver on their promise 'to abolish the top-down, Whitehall-inspired Stalinist housing targets'.

No supplementary question.

Question to Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst, Lead Member for Planning Policy and Infrastructure, from Councillor Philip Hearn

8m) Has this administration's failure to implement a Local Plan put our green spaces in the Green Belt and AONB, such as Green Street in Chorleywood, under threat?

Written response:

No, national policies on Green Belt and AONB still afford these areas protection. Appeal decisions on development proposals within the Green Belt and AONB have given significant weight to these policies and as reported have led to refusals. It should be noted that there may be appropriate development in these areas and these have to be considered on a case by case basis and on their merits against planning policies.

No supplementary question

Question for Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst, Lead Member for Infrastructure and Planning Policy, from Councillor Chris Mitchell

8n) I want to thank you and the officers who are working on the local plan for seeing good progress being made. I am aware that time has slipped by, and can you confirm when you will now put the draft plan out for its second Regulation 18 consultation. I would like to know you are going to avoid the Christmas period to ensure residents have the time to fully respond.

Written response:

A report updating the Council's Local Development Scheme (Local Plan timetable) will be brought to one of the forthcoming Local Plan Sub-Committees for consideration. I can give an assurance that there will not be any consultation over the Christmas/ New Year period and if we did consult and it covers over holiday periods I expect us to extend the consultation as appropriate.

No supplementary question

Question for Councillor Andrew Scarth, Lead Member for Housing, from Councillor Chris Mitchell

80) I have been informed by officers that despite pledging to take 20 refugees via government resettlement programmes in September 2020 TRDC currently only have three, with another three having left. Is the lead member satisfied with this progress and how would he explain this to the several hundred Afghan families currently waiting to be resettled in hotels, many of whom have waited for more than a year? I am not including Ukrainian which is a different scheme.

Written response:

In September 2020, following a motion at Full Council, the Council agreed to house 20 Syrian refugees via the VPR Scheme (limited to five families). It was agreed that this commitment would begin in April 2021.

This was in addition to ten Syrian refugees that the Council agreed to house in the district previously. This earlier commitment was fulfilled in 2017, with two families of five Syrian refugees moving to the District in the August and September of that year. These two families remain in the District.

Whilst recruitment was undertaken for the post that would be responsible for this new commitment and the search for suitable and affordable began, due to the developing situation in Afghanistan throughout May and June 2021, the UK Government launched the Afghan Relocation and Assistance Program (ARAP).

The ARAP Scheme offered relocation to former locally employed staff in Afghanistan. In June 2021, the Council agreed to accept two families as part of this scheme. Because of the urgent nature of the circumstances, this program was prioritised over the Syrian refugees.

In July 2021, the Council were informed that a Syrian refugee family of five people, that was originally housed in East Lothian, Scotland in 2017, had facilitated a mutual exchange of social housing tenancies and had moved into our District. A request was made to the Council if we would provide support for this family and become responsible for the management of Home Office funds allocated to this family. It should be noted that this family have recently decided to relocate to another area of the country.

The Council were able to secure accommodation for the first Afghan family to be moved to the District via the ARAP Scheme in August 2021. This family decided that they did not wish to remain in Three Rivers and in February 2022 they moved out of the accommodation to reside with family members that were located in the Greater Manchester area. By undertaking this move the family were removed from the ARAP Scheme by the Home Office entirely.

The Council secured a second property in late 2021 and in February 2022 a second Afghan family moved to the District via the ARAP Scheme. This family remain in the District, are receiving ongoing support from the Refugee Council and from all reports are settling into the area well.

Although the Council have technically fulfilled our commitment to house two Afghan families in the district as part of the ARAP Scheme, as the first family left the District in February 2022, we are still looking for a suitable property to house a further Afghan family via the ARAP Scheme.

Once a property is secured for the remaining Afghan family, work will continue to secure properties for our remaining commitment to house Syrian refugees.

It was agreed by the Council that any property secured for either group of refugees would need to be via the private rented sector with a rental price that would not exceed the current Local Housing Allowance (LHA).

This creates a difficulty to secure suitable accommodation as the vast amount of rental properties available in the District have rental prices that vastly exceed the LHA. A further difficulty is created by landlords that are often reluctant to offer a tenancy to a family from this cohort.

Additional pressures placed on the private rental market in the district by external influences, such as the COVID 19 pandemic, the Homes for Ukraine Scheme and the cost of living crisis cannot be ignored and have also had a significant impact in the Council's search for suitable properties.

Supplementary question for Councillor Andrew Scarth, Lead Member for Housing, from Councillor Chris Mitchell

Your answer refers to a motion at Full Council in September 2020 where it was agreed to take Syrian families but I have looked at it seems that we agreed 20 extra refugees from any available schemes. According to the response, and despite offering to host 20 refugees and up to 5 families we only have 1 family of three at the moment which happens to be in Croxley Green. This response does not answer the question. It was estimated there were 10,000 Afghan refugees still remaining living in hotels across the country and 306 of these in Hertfordshire. Three Rivers should have space for 4 families but right now those 4 families are sitting in hotel rooms not very far from here. How does the Lead Member feel about this and would they like to rectify the situation and honour the motion agreed and maybe take some advice from Watford Council who have taken 20 refugees.

Supplementary response:

We would like to take more refugees, but one of the key problems we are finding is accommodation. The rental levels are prohibit ably expensive and they cannot be used as they are at that level. We had to divert from the Syrian to the Afghan refugees as that became a crisis and we have done our best there but that has provided very difficult to house them and they have moved themselves away which was their choice. The crunch here is getting accommodation which is affordable and if we do find some landlords, even if they have the space, don't want those people. It is more complex than it would appear.

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

8p) Is this authority aware that disabled access to South Oxhey Playing Fields and other areas is being restricted as RADAR keys which should allow access do not work on many gates. What action is proposed to be taken to resolve the problem?

Written response:

Grounds Maintenance have checked the gates which require a RADAR key and have found that the only issue is the Hayling Road Play Area which they are looking to resolve. If Councillors or members of the public could make officers aware of the location of any other gates that are causing issues then these can be looked into.

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

Since the question was submitted most of the problems with the gates around the playing fields in South Oxhey have been sorted. Unfortunately the padlock that radar keep on the footpath opposite St Catherine's House in Gosforth Lane has been cut by bolt cutters and is irreparable. Can you tell me when this will be repaired?

Supplementary response:

This will be followed up as I was unaware of this until you raised it this evening and will follow up.

Supplementary written response provided after the meeting:

An email has been sent after the meeting confirming that the padlock at the South Oxhey playing fields has been replaced by Grounds Maintenance.

Post meeting note:

A further email was sent because there was an error in the supplementary response, to confirm that the lock had been replaced on the footpath opposite St Catherine House in Gosforth Lane

Questions to Councillor Chris Lloyd, Lead Member for Leisure, from Councillor Sara Bedford

8q) What does the Lead Member believe is the purpose of S106 funds for leisure and associated projects?

Written response:

S106 funds are to be used for the stated purpose for which they are given as set out in the definition section of the particular Section 106 deed which secured them.

8r) How does the Council determine when a project should be funded using S106 funds, rather than using other capital funds?

S106 funds are used for the stated purpose for which they are given as set out in the definition section of the particular Section 106 deed which secured them. They are the primary source of funding in the particular area in which the deed was secured. Capital funds are then used for the remaining budget if required. Recent examples include the funding of a Wildwood Den (Natural Play Space) at Rickmansworth Aquadrome, stock fencing for the cattle grazing at The Horses' Field, The Swillet Play Area, Chorleywood and the Abbots Langley Leisure Project.

Projects are identified for the funding to be used and then approval is sought from the Lead Member and the Director of Community and Environmental Services.

No supplementary questions.

Question for Councillor Chris Lloyd, Lead Member for Leisure, from Councillor Chris Mitchell

8s) Can you update us on the No Mow policy used this year? What percentage of the normally managed grass land was this policy actually applied to and how do you calculate this? What plans are there for next year? Can you look at putting up information boards to explain to residents why this is being done?

Written response:

A report will be presented to the 7 November Policy and Resources Committee and 23 November Leisure, Environment and Community Committee with an update on the 2022 Alternative Grass Cutting Management.

No supplementary question.

Question for Cllr Phil Williams. Lead Member for Environmental Services, Climate Change and Sustainability from Cllr Chris Mitchell.

8t) One of the most important projects has been to insulate the housing for less well-off residents. Progress has been made using the funding that did exist. To take this further how can Three Rives benefit from the ECO4 funding and what is being done to make sure we can get the best funding possible from this source.

Written response:

The Council will have two access routes for ECO4 funding and has plans to promote both extensively.

The first routes is a dedicated ECO4 project with E.ON (an obligated energy company) which will initially target eligible homes in South Oxhey. Officers are at the final stages of contract negotiation to enable this partnership project with E.ON which will deliver targeted schemes with E.ON for the duration of the ECO4 scheme until 2026.

The second route to ECO4 funding is through our Home Energy Support Service which is provided by independent fuel poverty charity 'Better Housing Better Health'. Under this route, residents who have not been contacted to partake in the targeted E.ON scheme can contact the Home Energy Support Service team who will undertake an assessment of their eligibility for ECO4, and refer the resident to the most suitable pre-qualified contractor who can deliver ECO4-funded measures on behalf of obligated energy companies.

It is also likely that ECO4 installers outside of the two routes above will be working to deliver ECO4 measures around the District. Residents who qualify under the main ECO4 criteria (not Flex criteria) will be able to have measures installed by these ECO4 installers independently of the Council and the organisations mentioned in the two main routes.

At the current moment, Ofgem are yet to release final delivery guidance for the scheme. Once this final guidance is published, the Council will be able to finalise and publish our Statement of Intent on our website and commence both ECO4 initiatives.

No supplementary question

Question for Cllr Phil Williams. Lead Member for Environmental Services, Climate Change and Sustainability from Cllr Chris Mitchell

8u) I recently attended an Institution of Civil engineers Hazard forum event on Resilience. Climate change is happening now, proven by the summer we have just had with record temperatures, and fires in South Oxhey and other parts of the UK. We are now having far more serious rainfall events that are causing flooding in places that have not seen them before. The "rain bomb" in Western Germany last year is a frightening example.

To mitigate the damage to people and property, we need to start taking resilience seriously. The process is Resilience, Adaptation and mitigation. We first need to understand what our risks are now and what will get worse. The body of knowledge on this subject considers that for every £1 spent now, will save £5 plus in the future.

I suggest we need to start working seriously on Resilience for Three Rivers as soon as possible. Does the Lead Member agree and if so, what is planned to take this forward?

Written response:

The Hertfordshire Climate Change and Sustainability Partnership (HCCSP) which Three Rivers is a member of, and whose meetings I attend, have been working on adaptation for nearly a year now. It is recognised that this requires county-level involvement as well as local action.

At Three Rivers, our Climate Emergency and Sustainability Strategy and Action Plan both address adaptation. This, together with the support provided by HCCSP, has enabled the Council to get a head start on this planning. To date, key officers have attended adaptation training and an internal core working group has been established. This group has identified the need for the updates required under each service to include climate risks and work is commencing with Heads of Service to include this in the current service planning cycle.

The Lead Local Flood Authority has identified two vulnerable flood areas in the district to be pilots for retrofit SUDS installations. These are in South Oxhey and Northwood. They have secured funding for scoping work but it is likely that CIL funds will be required for some or all of the installations.

Supplementary question for Cllr Phil Williams. Lead Member for Environmental Services, Climate Change and Sustainability from Cllr Chris Mitchell

It is a start which is very good but I would like to see some actions on resilience and adaptation. I would be interested to know what flood mapping has been used to identify the areas? Why is fire risk not on there? What events have taken place for resilience/adaptation during the year? As a retired water engineer I would like to offer my help if needed.

Supplementary response:

Thank you for your offer of help, I will take up with officers and come back to you on that if required. With regards to everything you have mentioned, this is all in hand but the wheels of bureaucracy are often not as fast as we would like them to be but we are all working in the same direction and everyone in the room wants that to happen.

Questions to Councillor Roger Seabourne, Lead Member for Community Safety and Partnerships, from Councillor Sara Bedford

8v) What action has Council taken, including with partners, following the definition of Antisemitism adopted at the meeting on 1 September 2020?

8w) What has been the results of these actions?

8x) How is the success or otherwise of any actions measured?

8y) What action has Council taken, including with partners, following the definition of Islamophobia adopted at the meeting on 1 September 2020?

8z) What has been the results of these actions?

8aa) How is the success or otherwise of any actions measured?

Combined response to questions 8v to 8aa

Since the adoption of both the anti-Semitism and Islamophobia definitions on 1 September 2020

- Appointed a dedicated Community Liaison Officer with a remit to work on hate crime and provision of support for and engagement with refugees in the District
- The Equalities Sub-committee has received reports and considered the work of the Council and its partners in identifying and addressing issues related to hate crime and Prevent
- Officer from the Community Partnerships Service have worked with our communities through mosques and synagogues in neighbouring districts/borough throughout the pandemic in order to identify need and offer support. (The support offered included but was not limited to finance, mental health and domestic abuse).
- the community safety partnership continues to have Hate Crime and remains an identified priority of the Community Safety Partnership and its levels are monitored by the Board with interventions and awareness raising activities planned as appropriate for example join engagement events with local Police Services in key areas to inform communities where they can access support. This next events will take place during Hate Crime Awareness Week (8-15th October)
- Learning and Development has been provided and made available to TRDC staff and partners. The most recent workshop was on 28 September with further sessions to take place through-out the year
- The Councils new equalities objectives have been developed and agreed as:
 - To promote Equality of Opportunity in Employment & Training
 - To improve equality and access to services for all residents.
 - To strengthen knowledge and understanding of all Three Rivers communities.
 - To celebrate diversity, promote inclusion and enhance community life in partnership with communities
- The Councils Auditors (SIAS) undertook an Audit of Equalities and Diversity and officers have acted to deliver on its recommendations which primarily concentrated on the development and roll out of mandatory Equalities training across the organisation
- The Councils Equalities Policy in undergoing its scheduled review and the renewed policy will be presented to Committee and Council in due course. The work is currently programmed to be completed by March 2023

Supplementary questions to Councillor Roger Seabourne, Lead Member for Community Safety and Partnerships, from Councillor Sara Bedford

8w and 8aa

Whilst this is a comprehensive list of good things which I thank officers, I was hoping to see some data here on how hate crime across the District has changed in the past few years, although I realise it would have been effected by lockdown, particularly regarding incidents relating to islamophobia and anti-Semitism. Could such data be supplied to Members in a written response?

8x

Again I was hoping to see something a little more concrete as well as the statistics I have asked for the incidents of hate crime. It would be helpful in future to see some research. We know that the fear of crime is actually worst in many circumstances than the effect of crime itself. It would be good to see some research on how Members of both Jewish and Muslim communities feel about their personal safety and the effects of hate crime on how they operate their lives.

Supplementary response:

Under Rule 14 item 7 Councillor Roger Seabourne declined to answer the supplementary questions.

Question to Councillor Keith Martin, Lead Member for Resources and Shared Services, from Councillor Alison Wall

8bb) What is being done to reduce call waiting times when residents try to contact Three Rivers?

Written response:

For most customers online self-serve forms is the easiest and most convenient way for customers to contact the Council. The Council are continuing to encourage customers to use online self-serve contact methods if they have internet access across multiple methods including the phone queue messages, social media, the Council's website, and by offering to show people how to sign up to an online account or e-newsletter when speaking to a CSC Representative either on the phone or in person in the Visitor Centre. Encouraging customers to make use of self-serve online forms will reduce the call waiting times for those that cannot use online services. The CSC continue to monitor live calls waiting and adjust the number of CSC Reps answering calls at peaks in demand and when there is officer resource available. In recent months staff resources have been limited within the CSC due to vacancies and the challenges relating to the reduced number of applicants applying for jobs. Following a recent recruitment drive we now have filled those vacancies, but it will take several weeks to train those new officers.

Supplementary question to Councillor Keith Martin, Lead Member for Resources and Shared Services, from Councillor Alison Wall

It was good news about the recruitment and extra officers but do we have a target for the waiting time that we would like to see?

Supplementary response:

The answer will be provided after the meeting in a written response. May I suggest something and also because question 8gg from Councillor Mitchell is on a similar issue if you would like me to check up and come back to you within 2 weeks and a month to see whether or not call waiting times are reducing because we now have more people. I am happy to do this and don't need to wait until the next Council meeting. The questioners agreed this would be helpful.

Supplementary written response provided after the meeting:

There is no current wait time target. Call wait times are monitored as a service volume. We will provide average call wait times for October and November once the months have completed.

Question to Councillor Keith Martin, Lead Member for Resources and Shared Services, from Councillor Andrea Fraser

8cc) What is being done to reassure residents that their FOI requests will be responded to in a timely manner?

Written response:

The majority of FOI requests are responded to within the 20 working day guidance, however in some cases if they are particularly complex then it may take slightly longer, in this instance the customer will be contacted with an updated timeframe.

Supplementary question to Councillor Keith Martin, Lead Member for Resources and Shared Services, from Councillor Andrea Fraser

The Information Commissioners model publication scheme states that public bodies should publish on their websites all their FOI responses. As many Councils are doing this already, including Harrow, please could TRDC, in our new age of transparency also do the same?

Supplementary response:

This seems reasonable but I will provide a written response to this.

Supplementary written response provided after the meeting:

It is not a requirement to publish FOI responses and the Council does not intend to publish all responses due to the resources required to redact relevant information. Where multiple similar FOI requests are received on a regular basis, these responses may be published on the Council's website to provide customers with easily accessible information.

Questions to Councillor Keith Martin, Lead Member for Resources and Shared Services, from Councillor Sara Bedford

8dd) Two years ago, this Council agreed that all contractors working for the Council should be paid the Real Living Wage. At the last Council meeting, the Lead Member for Resources stated that contractors working for this Council are still not being paid the RLW, because the Council could not vary existing contracts. The Solicitor to the Council has confirmed the legal principle that a contract CAN be varied with the consent of both parties. As the SLM contract has already been varied (or reprofiled) including at the last Council on more than one occasion, could the Lead Member tell me when the offer was made to SLM to vary the contract to pay the RLW to all staff, with the full cost being paid by Three Rivers?

Written response:

There have been ongoing discussions with SLM over the reprofiled management fee, increase in swimming lesson prices and the Real Living Wage. Agreement was made about the RLW on 27 June 2022 and a formal contract variation was made on 3 August 2022

Supplementary question to Councillor Keith Martin, Lead Member for Resources and Shared Services, from Councillor Sara Bedford

My answer was around the Real Living Wage, I would like to know why these offers were not made earlier. I don't think the answer given last time of 18 months later is as soon as practically possible and I hope that there is no reason

why we could not have re-negotiated the contract earlier with SLM in terms of paying the extra money it did not need to wait until the re-profiling of the contract and were certainly could have renegotiated the tender regarding the cleaning. I hope we will seriously look at paying back pay to those people who have missed out on this because we have been slow to negotiate. Does the Lead Member agree?

Supplementary response:

I will respond to this in writing.

Supplementary written response provided after the meeting:

We renegotiated the contract as soon as practicable on emerging from the pandemic and SLM had a better understanding of their financial position post pandemic.”

“The proposal to pay the Real Living Wage will be included within the specification for the new Cleaning Contract when it is renewed next year. The Council remains committed, in line with the Motion, to pay Contract Cleaning Staff the Real Living Wage when the contract is renewed.

8ee) Could the Lead Member tell me what reason SLM had for declining this offer, which would have increased staff recruitment and retention?

Written response:

SLM have not declined the offer

Supplementary question to Councillor Keith Martin, Lead Member for Resources and Shared Services from Councillor Sara Bedford

I have already made my point.

8ff) Could the Lead Member also tell me whether a similar offer regarding the RLW was made to other companies who supply the council with contract staff and when and why it was declined?

Written response:

Tenon FM provide cleaning services for Watersmeet, Batchworth Depot, Basing House and Three Rivers House. Their staff are paid the National Minimum wage. The contract is due for renewal in January 2023 when the requirement to provide the Real Living wage will be implemented

Supplementary question to Councillor Keith Martin, Lead Member for Resources and Shared Services from Councillor Sara Bedford

The point has already been made and the meeting should continue.

Question to Councillor Keith Martin, Lead Member for Resources and Shared Services, from Councillor Chris Mitchell

8gg) I have had a number of complaints about the customer services phone service. Residents are waiting for long times, up for an hour but usually around 30 minutes to get through to an operator. The staff are very pleasant and sometime apologise. This is not a good service; I have mentioned this to the CEO. Do you keep records of how long people are waiting and providing you agree that this is not a good service what are you doing about it.

Written response:

The average call wait time in September was 8 minutes 40 seconds and longest individual call wait time was 41 minutes 31 seconds. The phone line is

particularly busy on Mondays, early mornings and lunch times and wait times fluctuate depending on particular circumstances e.g. Council Tax rebate claims.

Please refer to answer to question 8bb for further response.

Supplementary question to Councillor Keith Martin, Lead Member for Resources and Shared Services, from Councillor Chris Mitchell

Do you really think this is good customer care for a customer having to wait 41 minutes for a call to be answered? I had a lady of 75 tell me that they waited 45 minutes last week. I understand you can supplement people in at short notice, who are on the switchboard downstairs, is that possible to do in the immediate future before we get extra people when we know t's a peak time? I look forward to a new target which I hope will be a lot lower than the 8 minutes 40 seconds.

Supplementary response:

I think I have covered the target bit earlier. I am happy to come back to you on targets and response times. On the other points I will provide a written response.

Supplementary written response provided after the meeting:

The Council does not have any specific call wait time targets, but wait times are monitored as a service volume. It is possible to supplement people at short notice and this already happens during the day while the call queue is monitored in a live environment. We have a responsibility to deal with all customer enquiries through all channels including email and online forms and this needs to be balanced with the staff resources available. The staff resources within the CSC are limited (even with a full staff compliment), and CSC Reps are responsible for providing admin support for services as well as responding to customer enquiries, in the Visitor Centre, online and on the phones. Providing more staff to answer phones would have a direct impact on processing of admin work effecting response and processing times for customers, and the ability to respond to online enquiries efficiently.

CL61/22 WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS AND REPORTS FROM THE CHAIRS OF COMMITTEES

The Chair advised that the written reports would be taken as read.

Report from Councillor Sarah Nelmes, Leader of the Council

Noted the written report provided in the summons link provided [here](#)

Councillor Sarah Nelmes gave the following oral update:

Regarding my comments on the increase of renewable energy generation I would like to add that I am firmly in agreement with any views to reject fracking in this or surrounding areas.

Councillor Sara Bedford asked a question on the report:

Is the Leader of the Council surprised at the attitude of some Members of this Council to the cost of living crisis which is blighting the lives of many of our residents who have now seen so many u-turns on the budget and the loss of the energy support scheme from next March.

Response:

When I wrote my report I had no knowledge of any possible motion but as the motion is not on the Council agenda under Rule 14.5 and 14.6 I do not feel I need to respond.

Report from Councillor Paul Rainbow, Lead Member for Transport and Economic Development

Noted the written report provided in the summons link provided [here](#)

Councillor Paul Rainbow provided the following oral update:

We have helped procure for HCC some new bus stop signage, we also have also now got the shopper bus up and running. Last week we moved forward with the LCWIP.

Councillor Philip Hearn asked a question on the report:

As noted in the report the Chorleywood area wide review of parking in that it will go out for public consultation in November. Is it possible to inform the Councillors that cover the Chorleywood area of that report before it goes out to public consultation?

Response:

Yes the report would be circulated as part of the regular process to all Ward Councillors before going out for public consultation.

Councillor Abbas Merali asked a question on the report:

I note that the parking proposal on Main Avenue and Astons Road in Moor Park have been withdrawn. Could the Lead Member explain why the Ward Councillors who worked so extensively on these proposals were not informed that the outcome could be shared prior to the inclusion of it in the Council summons.

Response:

I am not aware of what you are referring to but will get a written response.

Written response provided after the meeting:

Officers believe that Ward Councillors were not asked to withhold the outcomes of the parking scheme consultation. However, Officers have not formally advised members of the final decision on the proposed scheme as this site is part of a wider scheme of which other sites are still to be determined, albeit we have advised at Full Council elements of the scheme are to be withdrawn. We will ensure Ward Councillors are provided a final decision to share with their residents.

Report from Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst, Lead Member for Planning Policy and Infrastructure

Noted the written report provided in the summons link provided [here](#)

Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst provided the following oral update:

I understand that a leaflet has been circulated claiming following a meeting with a Conservative Councillor present tonight and others that Warner Bros made changes to its planning application. I have it in writing from Warner Bros that no changes have been made to their application and they are hugely disappointed (the way that they have publicly agreed to engage others) that a leaflet has been put out distorting what they said and the claims in the leaflet are

categorically denied. Perhaps the Members who were involved in that meeting would like to apologise.

Councillor Ciaran Reed asked a question on the report:

If Councillor Giles-Medhurst read our leaflet correctly the Councillor would be aware that no one sat in this chamber nor actually sat on our benches was at such a meeting. Please check your facts.

Response:

Cllr Stephen Giles-Medhurst responded that he had proof in writing that a Member from this Council on your side had attended the meeting. I would like an apology please.

Councillor Ciaran Reed refused to provide an apology.

Councillor Stephen Cox asked a question on the report:

Since the Lead Member was asking for apologies could the Labour Group have an apology on behalf of the Scouts.

No apology was provided.

Report from Councillor Andrew Scarth, Lead Member for Housing

Noted the written report provided in the summons link provided [here](#)

Councillor Andrew Scarth provided the following oral update:

A crucial part was left out of my report as follows: as of 7 October 2022 Three Rivers had 135 confirmed "Homes for Ukraine" guests arrive in the District (100 adults and 35 children).

Councillor Stephen Cox asked a question on the report:

Can the Lead Member assure South Oxhey residents that failings in the first tranche of tenancies will not be repeated in the second tranche? Those failings include:

- Not voluntarily informing Ward Councillors of properties purchased in their wards for this purpose
- Actively not mentioning those in South Oxhey in a previous report as revealed in a Freedom of Information request
- Failure to pepper pot properties District wide
- Selection of an unsuitable tenant in a large block of private flats which when this Group was informed that mixed tenancies were not allowed which resulted in a closure order
- The appearance of armed police at a property
- Lack of support for vulnerable people

Response:

I am pleased we have this housing and by the end we should have 10 properties. They were pepper potted around the area and I apologise on behalf of the Council that you as a Ward Member were not informed of dwellings in your Ward. These are for people who are likely to become homeless, rough sleepers. Errors were made, in terms of a closure order in your ward. I am not sure if they were armed police do you know if they were? There are lessons to be learned from that and the person is now being looked after by Three Rivers.

Report from Councillor Chris Lloyd, Lead Member for Leisure

Noted the written report provided in the summons link provided [here](#)

Councillor Chris Lloyd provided the following oral update:

Councillors are welcome to join the park run and either walk or run, anyone would be more than welcome.

Councillor Sara Bedford asked a question on the report:

The report mentions the sculpture trail, does Councillor Lloyd know where the two missing sculptures in trail have gone?

Response:

I was not aware of this but will follow up. If you have any further details please supply them.

Written response provided after the meeting:

On Councillor Lloyd's request, an Officer contacted Councillor Bedford with an update regarding the sculptures.

Councillor Abbas Merali asked a question on the report:

I note with pleasure the approved grant in the South Oxhey tennis courts. Would the Lead Member support a scheme of encouraging greater participation and utilisation of the tennis courts in the Eastbury Recreation grounds?

Response:

I am happy to have a discussion about this, I am keen to see more sport whatever sport it is.

Report from Councillor Phil Williams, Lead Member for Environmental Services, Climate Change and Sustainability

Noted the written report provided in the summons link provided [here](#)

Councillor Phil Williams provided the following oral update:

Malcolm Clarke has retired from Three Rivers after 45 years' service. Councillor Williams wished to show their appreciation for Malcolm's service over the years. Malcolm had led a team over those 45 years from being mediocre to being No1 in the recycling of 360 Councils in the country. A few years ago when the other Councils in the County didn't send their recycling teams out because of the snow our recycling teams went out. They did this for Malcolm and that shows the measure of them and we should note and minute our gratitude to Malcolm and everything they did for Three Rivers. This was endorsed by the Council Members.

Councillor Sara Bedford asked a question on the report:

I am delighted to see the number of events being run to help residents reduce their carbon footprints and minimise their waste. It is disappointing that we sometimes hear of these at short notice. Could the Lead Member ensure that plenty of notice is given to residents so we can maximise attendance and share best practise to as many residents as possible as officers do put on some great events.

Response:

They do put on some fantastic events and I will speak to Officer about publicising these events further in advance.

Councillor Alison Wall asked a question on the report:

Regarding the solar bulk buy scheme, I registered for this out of interest and I have had a quote today for over £8,100 to install these solar panels with a saving of about £150 per year. Does the Lead Member think this bulk buy scheme will be affordable to Three Rivers residents?

Response:

Given the demographic of Three Rivers it would be affordable to most but certainly not to all but there are grant schemes available. Details were provided in the MIB and in my report. It is expensive but a saving over the long run.

Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst asked a question on the report:

Does the Lead Member agree that the benefit to Three Rivers residents would be considerably higher had the current Government not reduced the feed in tariff to a very minimal amount?

Response:

Yes it would be beneficial if the Government had not changed the tariff funding.

Report from Councillor Roger Seabourne, Lead Member for Community Safety and Partnerships

Noted the written report provided in the summons link provided [here](#)

Councillor Roger Seabourne had no oral update.

There were no questions.

Report from Councillor Keith Martin, Lead Member for Resources and Shared Services

Noted the written report provided in the summons link provided [here](#)

Councillor Keith Martin provided the following oral update:

With the recent changes in Government there are going to be cuts announced across the board. Officers are doing their best under very difficult circumstances. In February we have to come up with a budget and put it before Council. This will be the most challenging year for quite some time.

Councillor Lisa Hudson asked a question on the report

Regarding the new website, we feel that the timing on the website is about six months out. Would you be able to advise what the delay is for?

Response:

I will obtain a written answer as to why there has been a delay.

Written response provided after the meeting:

The new website is due to go live in April 2023. The extended launch date is due to a revised approach which involves a full rebuild of content rather than simple data transfer of copying large quantities of information from the current website, and to allow a pool of residents, officers and Members the opportunity to trial the new website in a test phase and feedback prior to launch. This is to ensure the new website better supports the Customer Experience Strategy and provide a better online experience for customers.

CL62/22 MOTIONS UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 11

Motion 1

Councillor Stephen King, seconded by Councillor Joan King moved under Notice duly given as follows:

This Council notes the 50th Anniversary of Oxhey Jets Football Club, which has been an integral part of the South Oxhey community for all that time.

This Council instructs the Chief Executive to write to John Elliott B.E.M. who, along with his parents, formed the club in 1972 and who has selflessly put in thousands and thousands of hours making the club the success it is today. The letter shall thank him and personally and all the other club volunteers both past and present for their dedication and true community spirit.

The letter shall make it clear that this Council fully acknowledges all that club means to the people South Oxhey and this Council's appreciation of its role it plays in the wider community."

Councillor Sara Bedford moved an amendment to the second Paragraph of the motion as detailed below:

This Council instructs the Chief Executive to write to John Elliott B.E.M. *and Dave Fuller* who, along with *John and his* parents, formed the club in 1972 and who *have* selflessly put in thousands and thousands of hours making the club the success it is today. The letter shall *congratulate them both on their receipt of the Football Association's 50 year Long Service Award seven weeks ago*, thank *them both him and* personally and *also thank* all the other club volunteers both past and present for their dedication and true community spirit..

The amendment to the motion was accepted by the proposer and seconder of the motion

On being put to Council the motion was declared CARRIED by the Chair the voting being by general assent

RESOLVED:

This Council notes the 50th Anniversary of Oxhey Jets Football Club, which has been an integral part of the South Oxhey community for all that time.

This Council instructs the Chief Executive to write to John Elliott B.E.M. and Dave Fuller who, along with John's parents, formed the club in 1972 and who have selflessly put in thousands and thousands of hours making the club the success it is today. The letter shall congratulate them both on their receipt of the Football Association's 50 year Long Service Award seven weeks ago, thank them both personally and also thank all the other club volunteers both past and present for their dedication and true community spirit..

The letter shall make it clear that this Council fully acknowledges all that club means to the people South Oxhey and this Council's appreciation of its role it plays in the wider community.

Motion 2

Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst, seconded by Councillor Sarah Nemes move under Notice duly given the updated motion, updated on 18 October 2022, as follows:

Housing Targets

Council notes that:

Liz Truss MP has said, 'I want to abolish the top-down, Whitehall-inspired Stalinist housing targets;' - Daily Telegraph, 17 July." and is committed to abolishing the 300,000 new homes target set by the previous Conservative Government and Secretary of State.

Conservative-run Hertsmere and Dacorum Councils have both delayed their Local Plans while they push back on the government housing targets that would be excessive Green Belt development and have boasted about delaying their own Local Plans.

Liberal Democrat run Three Rivers Council has regularly and repeatedly objected to the imposed central government housing target which rendered its existing Local Plan out of date, despite the fact it had been meeting the previous housing targets.

Council therefore welcomes the following:

The commitment to abolish the top-down, Whitehall-inspired Stalinist housing targets.

The Liberal Democrat run Council for pushing back on the government target over the last two years and seeking a lesser figure on every possible occasion, including in letters and appeals to previous ministers, whilst delaying its local plan in order to object to 12,700 new homes target, most of which would be in the Green Belt.

Council agrees to:

Ask the government and new Secretary of State to inform the Planning Inspectorate that the figures imposed using out of date 2014 data no longer apply and to seek the support of the Members of Parliament covering Three Rivers in so doing.

Thank Council officers for their continued hard work on Local Plan and its policies that seek to secure the right and proper level of development suitable for Three Rivers, whilst securing the right type of residential development suitable for the 21st century

Continue to work for a suitable housing figure that reflects the need for some new build to support communities and growth but one that reflects the land and environmental constraints of Three Rivers but not the previous imposed arbitrary figure of 12,700 that was based on 2014 data.

Once clear guidance from the Secretary of State on housing figures that is due to be announced next month, draw up a suitable housing target plan evidenced with a locally calculated housing needs using up to date statistics to ensure the right Local Plan for Three Rivers is presented as an alternative to the Government should arbitrary targets still be in place.

Continue to inform residents of its actions by whatever means possible, including with any further public consultations.

Councillor Chris Mitchell moved an amendment to the motion to remove the words "once clear guidance from the Secretary of State" and put at the end of the paragraph "and we do still draw up suitable housing targets plan based on local calculated housing needs"

The proposer of the motion proposed that it be amended to “irrespective of clear guidance from the Secretary of State” which was supported by the seconder of the motion and the proposer of the amendment.

On being put to Council the motion was declared CARRIED by the Chair the voting being by general assent.

RESOLVED:

Housing Targets

Council notes that:

Liz Truss MP has said, 'I want to abolish the top-down, Whitehall-inspired Stalinist housing targets;' - Daily Telegraph, 17 July." and is committed to abolishing the 300,000 new homes target set by the previous Conservative Government and Secretary of State.

Conservative-run Hertsmere and Dacorum Councils have both delayed their Local Plans while they push back on the government housing targets that would be excessive Green Belt development and have boasted about delaying their own Local Plans.

Liberal Democrat run Three Rivers Council has regularly and repeatedly objected to the imposed central government housing target which rendered its existing Local Plan out of date, despite the fact it had been meeting the previous housing targets. Council therefore welcomes the following:

The commitment to abolish the top-down, Whitehall-inspired Stalinist housing targets. The Liberal Democrat run Council for pushing back on the government target over the last two years and seeking a lesser figure on every possible occasion, including in letters and appeals to previous ministers, whilst delaying its local plan in order to object to 12,700 new homes target, most of which would be in the Green Belt.

Council agrees to:

Ask the government and new Secretary of State to inform the Planning Inspectorate that the figures imposed using out of date 2014 data no longer apply and to seek the support of the Members of Parliament covering Three Rivers in so doing.

Thank Council officers for their continued hard work on Local Plan and its policies that seek to secure the right and proper level of development suitable for Three Rivers, whilst securing the right type of residential development suitable for the 21st century

Continue to work for a suitable housing figure that reflects the need for some new build to support communities and growth but one that reflects the land and environmental constraints of Three Rivers but not the previous imposed arbitrary figure of 12,700 that was based on 2014 data.

Irrespective of clear guidance from the Secretary of State on housing figures that is due to be announced next month, draw up a suitable housing target plan evidenced with a locally calculated housing needs using up to date statistics to ensure the right Local Plan for Three Rivers is presented as an alternative to the Government should arbitrary targets still be in place.

Continue to inform residents of its actions by whatever means possible, including with any further public consultations.

Motion 3

This motion had been referred to the Infrastructure, Housing and Economic Development Committee meeting on 15 November 2022 under Rule 11(5) of the Council Constitution

Motion 4

This motion had been referred to the Policy and Resources Committee meeting on 7 November 2022 under Rule 11(5) of the Council Constitution

Motion 5 - withdrawn

Motion 6

This motion had been referred to the Local Plan sub-committee meeting on 9 November 2022 under Rule 11(5) of the Council Constitution

A Member requested if the motion could be postponed and be brought forward to the Local Plan sub-committee to a December meeting. The Chief Executive advised this would be considered under the rules on motions.

Motion 7

Councillor Chris Mitchell, seconded by Councillor Stephen Cox moved under Notice duly given as follows:

As part of the Three Rivers climate emergency response and declaring a climate emergency, this Council is committed to a just energy transition and to ambitious investments in the green infrastructure and industries that will create jobs and rapidly decarbonise our economy. The construction of new fossil fuel infrastructure and expanded reliance on fossil fuels exposes our communities to untenable risks to public health and safety at the local and global levels, whereas the economic opportunities presented by a clean energy transition far outweigh the opportunities presented by an economy supported by expanding fossil fuel use and extraction. It is recognised that fracking is unlikely to take place in Three Rivers, however to dissuade any organisation taking steps to take initiatives towards investigating the potential, we propose that we vote for the motion set out below.

“It is recognised that fracking is unlikely to take place in Three Rivers, however to dissuade any organisation taking steps to take initiatives towards investigating the potential, we are declaring our opposition to the government decision to lift the ban.”

Councillor Phil Williams moved an amendment to the motion “that we write to our 3 MPs asking them to support us in getting this disgusting fossil fuel extraction band”

The proposer of the motion declined the amendment.

Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst moved an amendment to the motion at the end adding “and therefore Three Rivers is opposed to any fracking in its municipal area.”

The proposer of the motion declined the amendment.

On being put to Council the motion was declared CARRIED by the Chair the voting being 25 For, 0 Against and 9 Abstentions.

RESOLVED:

As part of the Three Rivers climate emergency response and declaring a climate emergency, this Council is committed to a just energy transition and to ambitious investments in the green infrastructure and industries that will create jobs and rapidly decarbonise our economy. The construction of new fossil fuel infrastructure and expanded reliance on fossil fuels exposes our communities to untenable risks to public health and safety at the local and global levels, whereas the economic opportunities presented by a clean energy transition far outweigh the opportunities presented by an economy supported by expanding fossil fuel use and extraction. It is recognised that fracking is unlikely to take place in Three Rivers, however to dissuade any organisation taking steps to take initiatives towards investigating the potential, we propose that we vote for the motion set out below.

“It is recognised that fracking is unlikely to take place in Three Rivers, however to dissuade any organisation taking steps to take initiatives towards investigating the potential, we are declaring our opposition to the government decision to lift the ban.”

CHAIR OF COUNCIL