

## **Motion 1**

**Councillor Sara Bedford, seconded by Councillor Ruth Clark, to move under Notice duly given as follows:**

### **Extending Free School Meals to support health, wellbeing and learning**

Council believes that:

1. The government must support the health and wellbeing of children to ensure they are able to make the most of the opportunities which are open to them.
2. Children cannot learn properly if they are undernourished or hungry.
3. Schools are seeing growing evidence of pupils coming to school without having eaten breakfast, unable to pay for school meals or with empty lunchboxes.
4. For a growing number of children, the school dinner is the only proper meal they will eat during a day.
5. The current system of Free School Meals is unfit for purpose and makes it difficult for those in insecure employment to sustain a claim.
6. The growing cost of living emergency makes action to support disadvantaged children urgent.

Council therefore believes that free school meals should be extended to all children in primary education and to all secondary school aged children whose families receive Universal Credit, as well as promoting school breakfast clubs.

Council resolves to ask the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Education, the Chair of the Education Select Committee and the three MPs representing areas within the District to ask them to support this policy and to press for its rapid adoption through secondary legislation.

## **Motion 2**

**Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst, seconded by Councillor Sara Bedford, to move under Notice duly given as follows:**

### **Equitable access to identification to enable voting**

Council believes that the Elections Act 2022 will make considerable unnecessary changes to the conduct and administration of elections.

Council further believes that the Act will reduce the likelihood and ability of certain disadvantaged groups to vote without any gains in electoral security or in tackling many fundamental issues with our electoral law.

Council understands that implementing the Act will cost every Local Authority a large sum in set-up costs and increasing running costs for elections every year, for no gain to the electors of this District.

Council is particularly concerned that the list of identification permitted to be used at polling stations is discriminatory towards young people, as the range of passes allowed is much smaller than for senior citizens. This is likely to deter young voters from voting and make it less likely that they will vote later in their lives. Council believes that identification widely used by young people should be added to the list, including (but not exclusively): an 18+ bus pass, a Young Person's Railcard, a student ID card or NUS card or an 18+ Oyster Card.

Council resolves to ask the Chief Executive to write to the Cabinet Minister and the three MPs representing areas within the District to ask them to support this policy and to press for its speedy incorporation into the guidance for the next set of elections in May 2023

**Council are asked to note the motion (motion 3) has been referred to the Policy and Resources Committee for the meeting on 23 January 2023 Rule 11(6) of the Council Constitution**

### **Motion 3**

**Councillor Abbas Merali, seconded by Councillor Alison Wall to move under Notice duly the motion as given as follows:**

This Council believes its Customer Services Centre (CSC) should be easily accessible to all trying to call it.

This Council acknowledges that over many months, call answering times have been unacceptably slow throughout the working week. Call queue position numbers are frequently in double digits resulting in waiting times of 15 minutes or more.

This Council resolves immediately to address the slow speed of call answering by the CSC and aim to ensure that call waiting times do not regularly exceed five minutes.

### **Motion 4**

**Councillor Ciaran Reed, seconded by Councillor Philip Hearn to move under Notice duly the motion as given as follows:**

Three Rivers District Council notes that the United Kingdom is leading the way on climate change, with 90% of the world's economy covered by net zero targets, a significant increase from the 1/3 that was covered before the UK's COP 26 presidency.

Three Rivers District Council is supportive of the UK Government's ambition to make this country a clean energy superpower and is proud of the UK's record on cutting greenhouse emissions.

Three Rivers District Council fully supports the right of every citizen to peaceful and law-abiding protests on all matters, including climate change.

However, Three Rivers District Council is considerably concerned by the impact that the lawbreaking Just Stop Oil have on residents through threatening nationally important infrastructure.

Three Rivers District Council understands the need to act on the environment but believes that cooperation with the government and residents is the right way to go about it, not ruining people's days as they try to go about their law abiding lives.

Three Rivers District Council therefore condemns Just Stop Oil and their illegal activities that: fail to positively engage with government; significantly harm residents; and immorally impact on emergence services.

Three Rivers District Council demands that Just Stop Oil: just stop harming residents' lives; just stop breaking the law; and just stop harming the public perception of the climate initiatives.

**Council to note that the motion below (motion 5) has been referred to the Infrastructure, Housing and Economic Development Committee meeting on 17 January 2023 under Rule 11(5) of the Council Constitution**

## **Motion 5**

**Councillor Philip Hearn, seconded by Councillor Ciaran Reed to move under Notice duly the motion as given as follows:**

Three Rivers District Council recognises the incredible value of Chorleywood Common to our area. Chorleywood Common is a County Heritage Site, a Conservation Area, a Local Nature Reserve and home to a rich range of fauna, flora, fungi, birds and wildlife. Chorleywood Common is a vital source of open green space that allows people from across the area to access rural beautiful scenery. Cycling is not currently allowed anywhere on Chorleywood Common.

This Council fully supports efforts to improve cycling routes across the District and acknowledges the physical constraints on achieving this. However, this Council cannot support any proposal to introduce a cycling path on Chorleywood Common, especially any path that includes lights or tarmacked surfaces. Such proposals would irreparably damage the wildlife and rural nature of this precious asset.

Three Rivers District Council resolves that Chorleywood Common will be protected from any cycle path on it to preserve this precious green space for future generations.

**Council are asked to note the motion has been referred to the Policy and Resources Committee for the meeting on 23 January 2023 Rule 11(6) of the Council Constitution**

## **Motion 6**

**Councillor Chris Mitchell, seconded by Councillor Ciaran Reed to move under Notice duly the motion as given as follows:**

We thank Josh Sills for the Sept and Oct stats for the wait time on answering phone calls to TRDC. Cllr Chris Mitchell is still getting complaints from residents who have waited for over 30 minutes and even 40 minutes for an answer. One, a 75-year-old, who has said she will not ring Three Rivers again because she cannot cope with the long waits. If we believe in good customer service then this is totally unacceptable. Our understanding is that if we were trying to sell goods 50% of callers abandon the call after 45 seconds, and if we were providing technical support 50% of caller abandon the call after 95 seconds. We are providing customer service, so people will hang on longer, but get very frustrated and it gives Three Rivers a bad name.

The Council therefore resolves to:

1. Set a target of 80% of calls been answered within 90 seconds to be achieved in a reasonable time period, say by April 2023, to allow sufficient training of staff.
2. This can be achieved by using extra staff at peak periods for short periods of time to back up the customer services team.