

Surrey Heath Borough Council

Surrey Heath House Knoll Road Camberley Surrey GU15 3HD Telephone: (01276) 707100 Facsimile: (01276) 707177 DX: 32722 Camberley Web Site: www.surreyheath.gov.uk

Division:	Legal & Democratic Services
Please ask for:	Rachel Whillis
Direct Tel:	01276 707319
E-Mail:	democratic.services@surreyheath.gov.uk

To: All Members of the COUNCIL

The following papers have been added to the agenda for the above meeting.

They were not available for publication with the rest of the agenda.

Yours sincerely

Damian Roberts

Chief Executive

SUPPLEMENTARY PAPERS		
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3.	Questions from Members of the Public	3 - 4
12.	To answer questions, if any, received under Council Procedure Rule 10 (Paragraph 3 of the Public Speaking Procedure Rules). Questions from Councillors	5 - 6
	(a) To deal with questions, if any, received under Council Procedure Rule 11.	
	(b) The Leader to answer questions from Members in relation to the Executive functions under Council Procedure Rule 11A.	

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Council 25 October 2023 Item 7 - Questions from Members of the Public

The following question has been submitted in accordance with Part 4 Section E of the Council's Constitution

Cllr Carole Marr has asked the following question of the Leader of the Council

"I am a Windlesham resident and Windlesham Village Councillor.

Tonight you will debate Councillor Wilson's motion about re-visiting Windlesham's Borough boundaries.

As a result of the boundary decision to split Windlesham into two, its boundaries are misaligned at all three levels of local government. At County and Borough level, Windlesham aligns with Chobham and Bagshot. At Parish level, it aligns with Bagshot and Lightwater.

Windlesham residents do not feel they were adequately consulted on this split. They are confused and feel that this has negatively impacted their representation.

This confusion led to the CGR of 2019 and the resulting issues which remain unresolved.

Will the leader of the Council commit to supporting Windlesham in establishing discrete representation for Windlesham village residents in the future?"

The Leader has provided the following response:

"Thank you Councillor Marr for taking the time to come to Council and exercise your right to ask a question as a resident of the borough.

You may not be aware that this administration hopes to gain support from across the chamber tonight to increase access for residents to ask questions at as many council committees as possible, to deliver a manifesto commitment in line with our accountability, community and transparency values.

First of all I am grateful that Councillor Wilson, with assistance from Councillor Wheeler, has proactively brought this issue to full Council and I hope that it will receive broad support across this Chamber.

I am acutely aware, as an adjacent ward councillor of the unique and special character of each of the 6 villages, and especially Windlesham, which I remember well from my more youthful days, through to working at the old BOC building for a period and later bringing my kids up on the tradition that is the Boxing Day charity pram race.

I am therefore mindful of the feeling of village separation, loss of local representation and discontent with the process followed, arising from the current electoral boundary status.

Subject to the outcome of the Motion, I would be happy to commit to raising the Windlesham boundary issue formally with the Boundary Commission and encourage them to consider revisiting the boundaries that they have determined.

I will also respect and champion the outcome of the feedback from local residents, the Parish Council and other local stakeholders as part of the formal consultation process that will need to be undertaken by the Boundary Commission.

It may be other smaller anomalies across the borough, such as a road of Lightwater appearing in Bisley & West End Ward can also be addressed in the same review.

Thank you again Councillor Marr for your question and raising it on behalf of Windlesham residents."

Council 25 October 2023 Agenda Item 12 – Questions from Councillors

Procedure Rule 11 - Questions from Councillors

The following question has been submitted by Councillor Murray Rowlands under Procedure Rule 11:

To the Leader of the Council

"Given the problems and delays with Royal Mail affecting residents in Surrey Heath, what is the council doing to increase the pressure on Royal Mail to improve their performance, and is the Council Leader confident that when the council sends letters to residents that they will actually arrive promptly and on time?"

Response from the Leader:

"The Council has written on three occasions to Royal Mail since May this year about the poor performance of the postal service, and has still not had an adequate response. Given the performance issues, these letters have been sent by email.

While I'm not sure how Cllr Rowlands distinguishes between letters arriving "promptly" or "on time", there certainly does appear to be delays in letters posted through the Royal Mail postal service getting to their recipients.

It is perhaps time to ask the Chair of the External Partnerships Scrutiny Committee if he would formally invite a senior representative from Royal Mail to attend and feedback to the Committee the steps they are taking to improve the performance of postal services in Surrey Heath, and to answer Members' questions. This page is intentionally left blank