



Surrey Heath Borough Council

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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

Tim Pashen

(Acting) Chief Executive

SUPPLEMENTARY PAPERS

Pages

6. Questions from Members of the Public

3 - 6

To answer questions, if any, received under Council Procedure Rule 10 (Paragraph 3 of the Public Speaking Procedure Rules).

7. Questions from Councillors

7 - 8

To deal with questions, if any, received under Council Procedure Rule 11.

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Council
14 October 2020
Item 6 - Questions from Members of the Public

**The following questions have been submitted in accordance with Part 4
Section E of the Council's Constitution**

1. Mr Richard Wilson has asked the following question of the Leader:

“Do the Members representing Bagshot, Cllrs White and FitzGerald, and the Council generally, agree with Surrey County Council plans to have a one-way system in Bagshot High Street?”

2. Mr Richard Wilson has asked the following question of the Environment & Health Portfolio Holder

“Given the increasing frequency of extreme weather events caused by climate change, is the Council confident in the flood prevention plans in place for Surrey Heath, in particular the village wards, for the coming winter and spring?”

3. Mr Alan Ashbery has asked the following question of the Business & Transformation Portfolio Holder:

“There are already a number of empty premises on Frimley High Street and I am concerned that once the full effects of the current pandemic are realised, many businesses currently trading will struggle financially, particularly as it looks likely that further restrictions are to be introduced in the coming weeks and months.

Frimley High Street needs to remain a hub for local residents who do not have the ability to travel further afield to access the businesses they need.

Can you please advise what measures SHBC are proposing to support existing businesses to remain viable and what incentives are being offered to attract new businesses onto the High Street?”

4. Mrs Elisabeth Noble has asked the following question of the Environment & Health Portfolio Holder:

“In 2014 Highways England consulted on a 60mph limit between Junctions 3 and 4 of the M3 to reduce air pollution and particularly pollution from Nitrogen Dioxide and Particulates.

In 2018 Blackwater Valley Friends of the Earth recorded levels of 68 and 83 micrograms in NO₂ against a legal limit of 40mg. There is now a reduced speed limit on the A331 37 deaths each year are attributed to air pollution in Surrey Heath.

Given that there

1. is a known link between Nitrogen Dioxide from Vehicle exhausts and its likelihood of increasing respiratory problems,
2. there are concerns that Covid-19 sufferers may encounter long-term respiratory problems post recovery,
3. SHBC's 2019 Air Quality Annual Status Report in fulfilment of Part IV of the Environment Act published June 2019 shows recorded levels still in excess of the legal limit at the Brick Hill testing site,
4. it is not unusual to have to queue for exceptionally long periods of time on the A322 Lightwater bypass to reach the M3 J3 junction (1 hour on a Saturday lunchtime) Highways England responded to our MP in June 2020 that they would update him on the reinstatement of the traffic modelling exercise by 31 August 2020 and there has been no public notification of that update,

I have travelled that route regularly over the last 27 years and it has always seemed to me that the phasing of the lights between the Northbound exit slip and the Bagshot A322 exit is the cause of Lightwater, West End and Bisley residents misery at trying to get across the roundabout. This is borne out as when pedestrians repeatedly stop the traffic on the roundabout by pressing the pedestrian crossing light between the southbound M3 exit and the A322 Lightwater exit, the queue on the Lightwater A322 moves faster.

What action can Surrey Heath Borough Council take in the interim to avoid traffic diverting into the sideroads to go through Lightwater village itself, and to avoid/reduce the queues on the A322 until a more permanent solution can be found? How quickly could an adjustment to the phasing be implemented to alleviate the problem. How quickly could a temporary change be implemented to reduce the problem which will only get worse when traffic returns to pre-Covid levels.”

5. Mr Jacques Olmo has asked the following question of the Leader:

“With the easing of lockdown restrictions, we have seen a return to the long-standing problem of speeding in Mytchett.

Hamesmoor Road by Mytchett Primary School, Coleford Bridge Road and Mytchett Road being particular hotspots.

What can Surrey Heath Borough Council do to pressure Surrey County Council into finally sticking to their promises and doing something about this issue? Our Frimley Green, Mytchett and Deepcut County Councillor has long promised change. We need actions, not more empty words.”

6. Dr Nirmal Kang has asked the following question of the Support & Safeguarding Portfolio Holder:

“What does Surrey Heath Borough Council think of the government's plans to change the law regarding on-street parking, particularly taking into account the affect this will have on local schools that have no car park available to them?”

7. Ms Lisa Finan-Cooke has asked the following question of the Finance Portfolio Holder:

"As many of you will know, I am a resident of Watchetts Ward and have been an active member of my community since I moved here almost 16 years ago. Like the neighbouring ward of St Michaels, we have suffered from over development in the past, resulting in the levels of development in recent years, quite rightly, being very low. The knock-on effect of this is that we have had little to no CIL money available and as a result, our amenities have had next to no investment. Green spaces such as Crabtree Park, Orchard Way Playground, Watchmoor Nature Reserve and the area of land to the rear of Bain Avenue have been left wanting when it comes to maintaining and increasing the quality of these beautiful green spaces.

Clearly the current arrangements for the distribution of CIL money across the borough is a challenge for Surrey Heath Borough Council. Wards like ours could be perceived as being left to rot. What plans has the council to ensure that does not happen?"

8. Ms Kel Finan-Cooke has asked the following question of the Leader:

"Members of the Executive will have received photos of the flooding at Watchmoor Nature Reserve over the weekend of the 3rd and 4th of October. This is by no means a one off occurrence, and the users of the reserve witness this after every heavy or prolonged rainfall. Our community group, Save Watchmoor Reserve, cannot fathom why the council believes that this land is suitable for human habitation not only because of the flooding issue, but also due to the noise and air pollution levels. It is also worth noting, and ensuring all are aware, that a study completed by the Freshwater Habitats Trust identified the presence of Great Crested Newts. This land is perfect for wildlife but not for humans. At your last meeting you voted to undertake a feasibility study, we have received information which suggests that this study is yet to be commissioned but is due to finish in the spring. The council may be aware that it is impossible to assess the reserve for the presence of great crested newts during this time of the year, the next nearest reliable opportunity will be early summer. We would like to ask the council who will be completing the feasibility study, how they will consult with residents and users of the reserve, and how much has been budgeted by SHBC to cover the costs of this study which, given all currently known factors, is likely to deem the reserve unsuitable?"

9. Mr Rob Lee has asked the following question of the Business & Transformation Portfolio Holder:

"During the first lockdown, a sign in Camberley town centre clearly announced "businesses are open as usual" as part of the ongoing works.

As you can imagine, this is somewhat artistic at best and insulting at worst given most if not all were told to close in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Are they under or over budget and by how much?

When were the works meant to be finished?

When will they be finished?

Can you offer a guarantee that the parking and access will be fully back to normal by the Christmas trading period - traditionally a time when most trade at their best to cover quieter months?"

Verbal responses will be provided at the meeting

Council
14 October 2020
Agenda Item 7 – Questions from Councillors

Procedure Rule 11 - Questions from Councillors

- 1. The following question has been submitted by Councillor Helen Whitcroft to the Leader and Chairman of Planning Applications Committee**

"I understand that the Council will not be defending a decision made by the Planning Applications Committee in regard to a development at Chapel Lane at an upcoming public inquiry. Given that this was refused unanimously by the Planning Applications Committee please could the Leader explain this decision and the process by which it was made?

As a Member of the Planning Applications Committee I would like some reassurance that voting at planning meetings is not irrelevant and that the constitution will be reviewed to avoid any such misunderstandings in the future?"

A verbal response will be provided at the meeting.

- 2. The following question has been submitted by Councillor Morgan Rise to the Finance Portfolio Holder**

"With the commitment from the Conservative Government to provide coronavirus funding to local authorities now no longer forthcoming, can the Portfolio Holder for Finance confirm how much of the reserves will be used to fill the funding gap caused by the coronavirus pandemic, and what financial preparation has been undertaken to mitigate any future potential lockdown in Surrey Heath?"

The Finance Portfolio Holder will provide a verbal response at the meeting.

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