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Three Rivers House
Northway
Rickmansworth
Herts WD3 1RL

To: ALL MEMBERS OF THE THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of Full Council on Tuesday 11 July 2023 at 7.30pm to be held in the Penn Chamber, Three Rivers House, Northway, Rickmansworth for the purpose of transacting the under mentioned business:-

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2. MINUTES

To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the Annual Council meeting held on 23 May 2023

(Pages
39 -
52)

3. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

4. RECEIVE ANY PETITIONS UNDER PROCEDURE RULE 18 - none received

5. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC UNDER PROCEDURE RULE 15

Question 1 from the Public, Resident in Mill End

- 5a) Does the council agree that the public's safety is paramount? Please can you explain why on average only two PCN's have been issued per month since Christmas on Money Hill parade, which is undoubtedly the busiest shopping area in Rickmansworth?

Written response:

The primary purpose of parking penalty charges is to encourage compliance with parking restrictions which are aimed at encouraging sensible and legal parking, reducing traffic congestion on our roads and making our roads safer for all road users. Three Rivers DC have a Parking Enforcement provider who enforce these restrictions around the District.

It is clear from deployment data for Uxbridge Road and the immediate locality that Hertsmere BC continue to visit the area frequently. However, this is just one area of the District with parking restrictions and the Civil Enforcement Officers cannot continually be present in this locality. Hertsmere BC have confirmed their visits and the impact of 'drive offs' and business awareness of Civil Enforcement Officer visits. Public safety is of utmost importance to this Council, but the volume of Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs) should not be used as a sole measure of a parking enforcement response.

Question 2 from the Public, Catherine Green, Mill End

- 5b) The NPPF demands that there should be "exceptional circumstances" before Green Belt boundaries can be changed and says that inappropriate development is harmful to the Green Belt and should be approved only in "very special circumstances". Three Rivers has decided the development on the field above William Penn playing fields is one of those very special circumstances and I'm sure you will be making sure all the boxes are ticked to have the Green Belt boundary officially re-defined. In what way is this

development more 'very special' than another development?

Written response:

Firstly, just to clarify: the exceptional circumstances in the NPPF refer to the alteration of Green Belt boundaries through the plan making process, and this is what the Council needs to consider as part of its Local Plan preparation. Very special circumstances relate to sites that come forward as planning applications that fall within the Green Belt and is part of the decision making process for planning applications. This is a separate process to the preparation of the Local Plan and as such only the exceptional circumstances for altering Green Belt boundaries is relevant in this case.

The first step is to consider whether exceptional circumstances exist for alteration of Green Belt boundaries, and this is not site specific.

The Council is required to consider other needs such as the need to address the lack of affordable housing, needs for older persons and the need to deliver much needed infrastructure all of this constitutes exceptional circumstances.

The Council has agreed an approach to reduce the impact on the Green Belt that will not meet government targets (11,466 over 18 years and which have not yet been changed). It is clear that as Brownfield land will only provide some 1,000 housing units and "windfalls" and existing planning permissions approx. 1,400, that of some Green Belt land release will be necessary as we are required by the NPPF to positively plan to meet the needs of the area. At this stage no decisions have been made regarding specific sites and Three Rivers has not decided as claimed by the question to develop the field above William Penn. The Council will be looked at low harm Green Belt sites that might provide some 3,000 or so homes and larger sites may be considered only if it can be demonstrated that the benefits delivered by these sites in terms of sustainability and infrastructure outweigh any harm to the Green belt.

The Council will consider sites at future Local Plan Sub-Committee meetings prior to going out for consultation where residents and other stakeholders will have the opportunity to comment on the approach and sites included.

Only once that consultation has taken place and a final decision on sites is put before Councillors at a Full Council meeting can it be said that any site is proposed for allocation for development and not until then. It is highly misleading to the public for anyone to falsely claim otherwise, Equally it should be noted that the Final Decision on which sites are actually allocated rests with the Government Planning Inspector who has to approve any Local Plan and will, hear submissions from landowners and make that recommendation – not the Council. It should be noted that in 2011 under the previous Local Plan three sites that the Council had not included and objected to were included by the Government Inspector – one is being developed now and the other two fully built.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL ON GROUP LEADER ALLOWANCE FOR THE NEW GROUP ON THE COUNCIL

(Pages 53 - 56)

Recommendations detailed within the report:

The report is being presented to Council following a meeting of the Independent Remuneration Panel on 20 June 2023 where the Panel were asked to consider whether to amend the Councils Scheme of Members Allowances for 2023/2024 by including a Special Responsibility Allowance (SRA) for the Group Leader of the

Green Group for 2023/24 since they became a Group in May 2023.

7. TO RECEIVE THE RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING ON 12 JUNE 2023

7a) Health & Safety Policy Statement 2023

Recommendation: that the Health & Safety Policy statement be agreed.

7b) Customer Experience Strategy

Recommendation: to approve the adoption of Customer Experience Strategy 2023-2026

7c) CIL Applications:

- Mill End Community Centre

Recommendation to approve CIL funding for the following schemes detailed in Table 1 of this report and summarised in the table below:

Table 1.

Applicant & Project Name	Infrastructure	Total Cost	CIL Amount	Year funds required
Mill End & District Community Association	Replacement Roof	£20,000.	£5,000.	2023
		£4,000.	£4,000.	2023
	Electrical Works		TOTAL: £9,000	

And any changes to the scheme proposals or variation of the financial requirements by up to 25% of the agreed commitment to be delegated to the Associate Director to determine in consultation with the Lead Member.

7d) Pedestrian Bridge, Aquadrome, Rickmansworth

The recommendation is that Members approve CIL funding for the following schemes detailed in Table 1 of this report and summarised in the table below for 2023/2024:

Applicant & Project Name	Infrastructure
Three Rivers District Council <u>Rickmansworth Aquadrome Pedestrian Bridge replacement</u>	Replacement of existing pedestrian bridge from Riverside Drive

Any request for additional monies for this specific project is delegated to the Director of Finance, in consultation with the Lead Member, to determine having regard to the economic context and timescales for implementation, and who would consider an increase of up to 15% of the total CIL monies agreed.

7e) Substitutes on Licensing Committee

Recommendation: to rescind the decision of full Council made on 23 May 2023 which permitted substitutes to sit on Licensing Committee.

7f) Summary of the Financial Year End Position 2022/23

Recommendation:

That the favourable revenue year end variance after carry forwards of £138,356 to be noted.

That the capital year end position as summarised in paragraph 2.6 and Appendix 3 be noted.

To approve to carry forward the unspent service budgets from 2022/23 to 2023/24 which total £490,772 to enable completion of projects as detailed at Appendix 2.

To approve the rephasing of capital projects from 2022/23 to 2023/24 which total £10,885,484 as detailed at Appendix 4.

To approve the creation of a new Commercial Risk earmarked reserve to manage financial risk associated with commercial ventures.

[Agenda for Policy and Resources Committee on Monday, 12th June, 2023, 7.30 pm - Modern Council \(threerivers.gov.uk\)](https://www.threerivers.gov.uk)

8. CHANGE TO THE MEMBERSHIP TO THE LICENSING COMMITTEE, REGULATORY SERVICES COMMITTEE AND ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM

To note that Councillor Sarah Nelmes will replace Councillor David Major on the Licensing and Regulatory Services Committee.

To note the resignation of Councillor Phil Williams on the Environmental Forum.

9. QUESTIONS TO THE LEADER, LEAD MEMBERS, CHAIRS OF COMMITTEES AND REPORTS FROM THE CHAIRS OF THE COMMITTEES AND QUESTIONS ON THE CHAIRS REPORTS

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

9a. How much did the mandatory planning training held in May cost in total?

Written response:
£2021.92

9b. Do you believe that the mandatory planning training

was effective, useful and value for money? What alternatives were considered?

Written response:

Yes, the training was considered to be effective and useful by providing all members with either a reminder or introduction to making planning decisions and the importance of not predetermining or giving the impression of having done so. We considered asking Officers to deliver the training but due to resourcing/capacity limitations, and that external trainers are able to provide more frank advice than Officers, it was concluded that external delivery would be preferred.

9c Do you believe that it is appropriate to hold the same very basic planning training every year, when other councils require refreshers every two or four years?

Written response:

Yes, it is important that all members are given updated advice in respect of planning, including new matters (i.e., legislation/case law) that have happened over the course of the year to ensure that when they make decisions, they understand the right way to do so. It is also a good time to reflect upon decisions of the previous year if there is anything to be learned from those. If there were any major changes to how planning applications are to be considered during the course of the municipal year, Officers would provide an update. I would also consider that training with previous experienced planning committee members mixed with first timers helps spread knowledge and experience because of the discussions that take place in the training session.

9d What is being done to ensure that errors with the elections and the election count do not recur?

Written response:

As is usual after an election, a session has been held with Election Agents and another with the elections team to look at what went well and what did not, in order to build any changes into the next elections. Taking on board some feedback for improvement, overall the majority of feedback has been positive. Changes to be implemented will be communicated to the wider elections staff closer to the time of the next elections.

9e How many communications were sent to Parish Council candidates during the time between their nomination and the deadline for return of expenses? What did each concern and on what date were they sent?

Written response:

Where a parish candidate was standing for a political party information was communicated via the district election agent; district election agents submitted election documents on behalf of the parish political party candidates, however, validity notices were posted directly to all parish candidates on 17 April. The Independent candidate was contacted directly by phone and also sent EC information relating to spending and donations on 15 May by email.

- 9f Why does the Council continue with the high Perspex screens originally brought in for Covid when most other Councils have dispensed with them?

Written response:

The screens provide a degree of noise reduction allowing the count staff to concentrate. The screens also provide an amount of protection from spilt drinks by guests or counting agents, therefore, allowing drinks to be taken into the count.

Question to Leader of the Council, Councillor Sarah Nelmes, from Councillor Oliver Cooper

- 9g Three Rivers former website prohibited search engines – such as Google – accessing 12,954 pages on the council's website. This means that the content of Three Rivers' former site will be lost, as most of the site has not been cached by Google or the Internet Archive. This reduces the transparency of former decisions and actions taken by Three Rivers, and destroys former content.

Will the Leader restore the former website briefly and without such a prohibition, so that it may be cached by the Internet Archive, to ensure that Three Rivers' past isn't wiped out?

Written response:

All news stories from the old site have been imported across to the new site. All previous Council meetings up until 30 April 2023 were also imported, meetings after this date appear on modern.gov.threerivers.gov.uk. If the old 'archive' site was left running and continued to be indexed that would cause problems from the confusion of duplicate content and by not signposting where the most recent relevant information is published. The correct 301 header is set to instruct search engines on where to find the new website content. We will still be in the position to supply details of old archived content by request (e.g. for any FOI requests) as this is all backed up and can be accessed when needed.

Urgent question to the Leader of the Council,

Councillor Sarah Nelmes from Councillor Sara Bedford (allowed under Rule 14(3))

- 9gi Do you believe that adequate communications took place with residents and Oxhey Jets FC following the traveller incursion onto Council property in Altham Way on Friday 7 July 2023? What more should the Council have done to support those affected and what could be done to improve communications and give greater support in future?"

Written response:

The Council was first made aware of the unauthorised encampment at approximately 8pm on Saturday 8 July. As the Member will be aware, the Council does not offer a 24/7 response to such encampments and the procedure requires that action is taken on the first working day following the report. On Saturday evening Officers immediately notified the Council's 'Unauthorised Encampment Work Group', together with the Local Ward Councillors, the Leader, Deputy Leader and Lead Member for Resources and the Oxhey Jets Football Club. A message was also placed on the Council's social media pages, stating that the Council were aware of the unauthorised encampment and that Officers would deal with the issue on Monday.

It is not considered that any further actions or communications would have been necessary or could have been made to improve the situation.

Question to the Lead Member for Public Services, Councillor Paul Rainbow, from Councillor Narinder Sian

- 9h The Beryl bikes cycle scheme in Watford recently celebrated its third anniversary having recently amassed over 308,000 journeys across more than 900,000km. The scheme is a fun, sustainable and healthy way for residents and visitors to get around Watford, without having to rely on petrol or diesel-powered vehicles. Some 38 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions have been saved; the equivalent of around 2242 litres of petrol or more than 222.4 flights from London to Edinburgh. Can a feasibility study be requested for extending the Beryl bike scheme from *Watford to Rickmansworth via Croxley Green*.

Data source:

<https://www.watfordobserver.co.uk/leisure/23363390/watfords-beryl-bike-scheme-celebrates-three-years/>

Written response:

The Council supports initiatives to encourage Active Travel which allows our residents and visitors an alternative choice to the private motor vehicle and

supports the Council Climate Change agenda. Officers and Members have already initiated new discussions with Watford Borough Council, and I understand that Councillor Sian was personally informed of this by the Deputy Leader, on a potential expansion of the Beryl bike scheme specifically across shared Council boundaries, this would be such sites as Croxley Station, the Aquadrome, Leavesden Country Park, Croxley Business Park and others.

Once this is progressed further, and potential sites and feasibility agreed, local ward members would be consulted over docking station locations.

Question to the Lead Member for Public Services, Councillor Paul Rainbow from Councillor Chris Mitchell

- 9i France has legislated that all open air car parks must have solar panels installed. Also, CPRE have published an article, "shout from the rooftops, May 2023" stating how this could be such an important contribution to sustainable energy, and they include car parks. I realise rooftops are being considered, but can the use of car parks be included in the review along with the EV installations proposed. I am particularly interested in the community way car park in Croxley Green. Please confirm this can be carried out and I am willing to help out in any way.

Written response:

As the Member will be aware, there is no such legislation regarding mandatory installation of Solar Panels in UK car parks. At the present time the Council is investigating the installation of EV charge points in its public car parks. Whilst Solar PV Shelters have been mentioned during those discussions, there are a number of practical considerations to installing a Solar PV Shelter in a public car park. One major concern is the propensity for vandalism within urban environment.

There are other practical considerations regarding the placement of Solar PV Shelters including the layout, capacity and usage of the car park and the effect on any proposed structure. Wherever Solar PV Shelters would be installed, a height-restriction barrier would need to be installed at all entrances; parking bays would need to be aligned to be south-facing. It should also be noted that in heavily used open car parks this may reduce capacity and the ability of shadowing / leaf falls from neighbouring sites would need to be considered. Maintenance and annual cleaning, together with accessibility to a local grid connection are also areas for further consideration. There may also need to be thought given to battery storage options and any 'private

wire' agreements, where the energy produced could be sold to adjoining occupiers if not accessible for use by the Council.

In general, the installation of Solar PV Shelters in TRDC's car parks might be considered beneficial but as the Member indicates, installation of Solar PV in less 'accessible' locations remains the priority i.e., roof tops, etc.

At this time there is no formal budget to explore this type of installation, but such a proposal will be considered as part of the Council's commitment to renewable energy/carbon reduction.

Should a future government open up new funding schemes, PV panels in such locations is worth serious consideration.

Question to the Lead Member for Economic Development and Planning Policy, Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst from Cllr Rue Grewal

- 9j Does the Council plan to do anything about the large amount of fly-tipping at the privately-owned Delta Gain car park in Carpenders Park, which has been reported multiple times to the Council and which causes significant harm to neighbouring residents and visitors?

Written response:

The land at Delta Gain is privately owned by a company called Orbit property. Residential bins are stored in a public alleyway which runs between a car park and a shopping parade so are subject to passers-by using the bins and dumping around them. Council officers have worked with Orbit for several years to try and resolve issues and keep this area tidy and have recently suggested that the solution to this issue would be a purpose-built bin store away from the direct public eye with a lockable door which is only accessible to residents, however, Orbit have not been amenable to this idea.

Any reports the Council receives are passed directly to Orbit Property who are always quick to action any requests for fly tipping and excess/bulky waste removal.

Question to the Lead Member for Public Services, Councillor Paul Rainbow from Councillor Oliver Cooper

- 9k In 2021, the Policy & Resources Committee resolved to oppose the then-proposed Greater London "boundary charge". While this was dropped, Sadiq Khan is similarly now extending ULEZ to the borders of Three Rivers, which will have a similar impact on Three Rivers residents – and impact some residents far more than the boundary charge was planned to. Did Three Rivers District Council respond to the

Transport for London consultation in 2022 on ULEZ expansion?

Written response:

A letter was sent from the Council Leader in March 2021 detailing the Council's opposition to the proposed Greater London Boundary Charge. With regard to the ULEV consultation a response was not sent. A motion was submitted in February 2023 but never debated, however a new motion is on these papers.

Question to the Lead Member for Public Services, Councillor Paul Rainbow, from Councillor David Raw

- 9l At the Infrastructure, Housing, and Economic Development Committee meeting on 15 November to discuss the Rickmansworth West parking scheme, many residents raised the issue of lack of enforcement of the current parking restrictions. The administration said they would address this. However, just one PCN was issued in January and two in February on the Uxbridge Road. Has the Council therefore decided not to fulfil its promise made at that meeting in November?

Written response:

The primary purpose of parking penalty charges is to encourage compliance with parking restrictions which are aimed at encouraging sensible and legal parking, reducing traffic congestion on our roads and making our roads safer for all road users. Three Rivers DC have a Parking Enforcement provider who enforce these restrictions around the District. It is clear from deployment data for Uxbridge Road and the immediate locality that Hertsmere BC continue to visit the area frequently. However, this is just one area of the District with parking restrictions and the Civil Enforcement Officers cannot continually be present in this locality. Hertsmere BC have confirmed their visits and the impact of 'drive offs' and business awareness of Civil Enforcement Officer visits.

Public safety is of utmost importance to this Council, but the volume of Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs) should not be used as a sole measure of a parking enforcement response.

Questions to the Lead Member for Public Services, Councillor Paul Rainbow, from Councillor Philip Hearn

- 9m What was the rationale for Three Rivers' administration insisting to Hertfordshire County Council that the way for residents to respond to the LCWIP consultation should be different in Three

Rivers than was the case for other districts in the county? What feedback has this Council received on how effective this different approach has been? Does the Lead Member feel that the consultation approach has been clear and easy for residents to use?

Written response:

The first question is inaccurate . HCC have confirmed the public consultation in Three Rivers on the LCWIP has been conducted in the same way as previous LCWIPs with the only difference being the layout of the mapping. Lessons have been learnt from previous LCWIP consultations and have influenced subsequent consultations to ensure they are robust. All LCWIP consultations have been conducted online and publicised via posters, members and social media with some public engagement where possible and appropriate. Some minor changes have been made to the current consultation as a response to feedback.

9n Does the Lead Member believe that enough has been done to advertise to residents in Chorleywood the potential impact on their lives resulting from the LCWIP proposals? These include the closing to cars of the bridge over the railway by Chorleywood Bottom, the closing to cars of the tunnel under the M25 on Shepherds Lane, making Common Road one way to cars, and the narrowing of the A404.

Written response:

Yes, at this stage of the proposals. As advised, this consultation exercise has replicated other consultations for LCWIPs across the County. A more detailed consultation exercise will occur on specific schemes if/when an LCWIP is adopted. The member should note that the final LCWIP is an HCC approved plan.

Reference is made within the draft LCWIP to suggested interventions on priority routes, but these are only suggestions at this stage of the process. No formal designs have been completed as at this stage HCC are seeking comments to assess whether the public are in broad support of improvements being made in the highlighted areas. The consultation supports comments and suggestions of other routes and improvements that can enable people to walk or cycle for short journeys more often.

Question to the Lead Member for Public Services, Councillor Paul Rainbow, from Councillor Oliver Cooper

9o Two years ago, Three Rivers had 58 working public

electric vehicle charge points: most of the ten Hertfordshire District Councils. Now, it has just 43: the seventh-most of the ten and fewer than it's had in years. Why has Three Rivers failed to install electric vehicle charge points?

Written response:

Council priorities and funding refocused the work of the Transport and Parking Projects team during covid and an emerging HCC EV Strategy (now expected Summer 2023) and details of new Government funding were awaited. Further investigation and new EV funding opportunities has resulted in Officers delaying the current procurement exercise for 6 sites for rapid charging points whilst alternative opportunities are considered across the District specifically in the Council's car parks. The HCC Strategy is also still awaited.

Question to the Lead Member for Public Services, Councillor Paul Rainbow, from Councillor Reena Ranger

- 9p Parking is often displaced from Watford Borough Council's roads into Oxhey Hall, around Silk Mill Road, due to parking restrictions on the Watford side of the boundary and particularly due to the greater pressure on match day. What can the Lead Officer do to address Silk Mill Road residents' concerns that cars from the Watford end of the road, which has tighter parking restrictions are overspilling to the Three Rivers end of the road?

Written response:

The effect of other neighbouring Council's parking policies for new development and their own parking restrictions is increasingly leading to displaced parking on roads in the Three Rivers Council area. These specific concerns along Silk Mill Road have been raised with Officers and added to the Parking Management Programme request list. When this list is reviewed a scheme in this area may be considered. It should be noted a parking scheme was introduced on other parts of Silk Mill Road in 2019.

If there are specific safety concerns these need to be directed to Hertfordshire County Council as the Highways Authority.

Question to the Lead Member for Public Services, Councillor Paul Rainbow, from Councillor Ciaran Reed

- 9q A resident has informed me that, once again, the Council are failing to provide replacement brown bins for ones that have broken. Given the increase in charges for garden waste collections this year,

does the failure to provide the service that residents are paying for represent another case of Lib Dem Three Rivers District Council being bad with residents' money?

Written response:

The question is factually incorrect as the Council do provide replacement brown bins for those that are broken. Regular audits of replacement bin stocks are undertaken, however, there are limits to how many excess bins we can store at any one time due to the size of the depot. Supply chain issues and delays in production, delivery in recent months have also had an impact on the timeframe in which bins are then delivered to residents however officer try to deliver bins within 20 days of a request being received and in most cases are successful in doing so.

Questions to the Lead Member for Public Services, Councillor Paul Rainbow, from Councillor Andrea Fraser

- 9r The Eurobins on Northway are consistently overflowing and often block the pavements. Bins should not be kept on the pavements which are meant to be kept clear. What measures will TRDC be taking to address the issues with these bins so that residents and visitors alike will not have to all past overflowing, rat infested bins when walking through the town centre.

Written response:

Of the 22 bins located along Northway, only 4 are owned and serviced by Three Rivers District Council. These four bins are used by residents for containment of residual waste. An enforcement officer has, in response to this question, visited the site and reported that at the time of the visit all bins were empty and were not blocking the footpath. The Council has no enforcement powers with regard to bins blocking footways. This responsibility sits with Hertfordshire County Council as the Highway Authority.

- 9s The administration announced at the beginning of the year there would be a consultation on car park pricing in April? Why has this not happened yet?

Written response:

I do not recall this statement or claim made and indeed due to purdah no consultations would be started in election periods, even if this was the case, work on a parking review including charging continues and will be considered in due course. Any proposals will initially be presented to the relevant Service Committee and/or Planning and Resources Committee.

Question to the Lead Member for Public

**Services, Councillor Paul Rainbow, from
Councillor Joan King**

9t The Lead Member advised me at the Full Council on 21 February in respect of provision of double yellow lines at road junctions in Oxhey Drive that “officers are currently looking at how the schemes can be delivered and will update members as soon as possible”. Was he aware then that there would be no further communication until 19 May three months later, that this is a disappointing and that he failed to answer the question specifically in relation to whether further consultation was required and it now appears that double yellow lines at the junction with Gosforth Lane which are as desperately needed as at all the others may not be included any scheme being currently progressed a slow place?

Written response:

Members will be aware the Senior Transport Planner left the Council at the end of January 2023 and subsequently the remaining Officers have had to find an alternative resource to progress parking schemes across the District. The proposals for junction protection have been progressed along Oxhey Drive and are at the final Statutory Notice stage having been out to public consultation. This was the consultation members were notified of.

The current scheme does exclude the junction of Oxhey Drive and Gosforth Lane. Other parking measures were being considered along Gosforth Lane and this junction was considered a comprehensive part of those proposals. However, Officers have been made aware of Member concerns and receipt of HCC funding and are now progressing this specific junction improvement as a separate scheme.

**Questions to the Lead Member for Public
Services, Councillor Paul Rainbow, from
Councillor Stephen Cox**

9u When is the Lead Member to be advised, or was advised of the results of the statutory stage of consultation regarding the provision of double yellow lines at road junctions with Oxhey Drive which presently don't have them and which finished on 16 June and when will this information be supplied to Ward Councillors, if as we expect, it won't be simultaneous?

Written response:

The Local Improvement parking schemes Statutory Notice parking consultation responses are currently being reviewed by the Council's retained Highway Engineer. It is anticipated final confirmation on decisions to progress these local improvement

schemes will be shared with the relevant Ward Councillors in July.

- 9v The Lead Member advised me at the Full Council on 21 February in respect of the further consultation required on the Gosforth Lane parking scheme “that officers are currently looking at how the schemes can be delivered and will update members as soon as possible”. Was he aware then that I would receive no such communication until 3 June over three months later and that is only because I initiated it and is he aware of my displeasure that despite advising this authority that the double yellow lines at the junction of Gosforth Lane and Oxhey Drive which are as vital as all the others needed to proceed, I was surprised to learn that no such accommodation had been arrived at and what does he intend to do about this situation?

Written response:

Due to the departure of the Senior Transport Planner at the end of January 2023 and the current difficulty in recruiting to this role alternative resource has had to be found to progress current parking schemes, which has unfortunately led to delays.

Whilst the current scheme, recently out for Statutory Notice consultation, does exclude the junction of Oxhey Drive and Gosforth Lane, this Gosforth Lane/Oxhey Drive junction is now to be progressed.

Questions to the Lead Member for Public Services, Councillor Paul Rainbow, from Councillor Stephen King

- 9w On 12 May, the then Lead Member and high-ranking officers were asked specifically to tackle the on-going issues regarding refuse collection at Forfar House in South Oxhey which I raised at Full Council last year, although there are also similar issues nearby at Erskine House. The questions posed were:
1. What are the access arrangements/issues for refuse vehicles?
 2. What vehicles are used, standard size or should a smaller vehicle be deployed?
 3. Can more of the 'bulk' green bins be provided and if not, why not?
 4. What action have you taken as the Lead Member to address the whole issue with Thrive Homes as clearly unfettered access by Uncle Tom Cobley and all?
 5. Do you wish to meet on-site with representatives of Thrive Homes, councillors and residents to discuss a way forward and if so could you ask officers to arrange such?
- The then Lead Member asked officers to respond

later but provided no answers. Having not had a response this was chased again on 7 June and ended up with the new Lead Member. To date no response has been received from officers. Why is this so and can our questions finally be answered which we know is not this Council's forte?

Written response:

The Lead member and high-ranking officers are fully aware of ongoing issues with various mansion blocks in South Oxhey and officers continue to work alongside Thrive Homes to identify and implement resolution of not just the immediate issues but also the underlying issues which are causing the problem.

Officers from the waste services department have made several visits to the area, specifically on this matter and have on numerous occasions had to send dedicated teams to clear the area (emptying of bins and clearing rubbish from the ground).

Environmental Enforcement Officers have also attended on numerous occasions ensuring that all bins are clearly labelled and educational information on refuse and recycling has been distributed to all properties, again on several occasions.

The Council's refuse and recycling crews have significant access issues at this location due to badly parked vehicles, as often several large vans mount the kerb and park along the side of the service road which leads to the bins. Crews also regularly experience access issues as a result of vehicles parking directly outside the bin stores which does not allow enough room to wheel the bins out to the lorry. Where the refuse crew is unable to empty the bins on the scheduled collection day due to these issues, they always return (often on multiple occasions) and try again later in the week. Officers are in the process of determining what the effective measure may be (signage, barriers, other parking restrictions) to install at this location to deter vehicles from blocking access. There will be budgetary implications for such action.

As per the TRDC refuse policy, each household is entitled to 140 litres of waste, collected on a fortnightly basis all three blocks are already receiving a much larger overall capacity than stated on our refuse policy, whilst also receiving a weekly collection. The refuse and recycling bins are emptied by a standard size refuse truck, and this is not something we are currently able to change at present given the current vehicle fleet capacity. Regular meetings are now taking place between Council and Thrive officers to discuss the ongoing issues and facilitate collaborative working to keep on top of the situation.

9x Can I congratulate the Lead Member on the

provision of parking bays at Ballater Close and Birstall Green in South Oxhey and can the Lead Member advise the locations at which others will be provided in this financial year?

Written response:

Officers are continuing to investigate proposals for School Mead, Abbots Langley under the current Programme. There are no other programmed locations at the current time.

Questions to the Lead Member for Economic Development and Planning Policy, Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst, from Councillor Sara Bedford

9y Will the Lead Member please confirm that the Council has neither earmarked sites for development in the Green Belt nor agreed a Local Plan?

Written response:

The emerging Local Plan is currently at Regulation 18 stage, effectively this is the preparation stage of the plan. It can involve multiple consultations seeking views on what ought to be contained in the draft Local Plan. These consultations can cover a range of issues from the vision and objectives of the plan, the policies that the plan may contain, and potential development sites that could come forwards for allocation.

At this stage none of the sites that have been consulted on have been allocated and as such cannot be considered 'earmarked for development'. This has been confirmed in writing by the Chief Executive.

As has been agreed by Council a further Regulation 18 is set to take place later this year on a revised approach to the Local Plan which will not match the government's target housing figure and this approach was agreed by all councillors last December.

At the Regulation 19 Stage the Council consults on its proposed final draft of the Local Plan.

It is only at this stage that the Council will have agreed the version of the Local Plan they wish to submit to the independent Inspector for examination. The Council's Local Development Scheme sets out that the Regulation 19 stage is expected in the autumn of 2024.

Indeed, even then the final allocation of sites will not be known until the Government Planning Inspector make their report and as the councillor knows back

in 2011 the Inspector overruled this Council and allocated three sites it had not included.

- 9z Can the Lead Member confirm that the content of the most recent consultation on sites proposed by developers and landowners was agreed by Conservative Councillors?

Written response:

At the Full Council meeting on 13 December 2022 the recommendation from the Policy and Resources Committee on the Local Development Scheme, with an amendment proposed at the meeting, was agreed unanimously by all Councillors present including the Conservative Councillors. At the Policy & Resources meeting on 5th December, prior to this council meeting the Conservative councillors at that stage declined to support the recommendation for further public consultation.

In addition, Full Council also received at the meeting the recommendations from the Local Plan sub-committee and P&R Committee on the Regulation 18 consultation which allowed the Council to consult on the additional sites. These recommendations were again agreed unanimously by all Councillors present at the meeting including the Conservative Councillors.

- 9aa Where are the site(s) of the 1,100 homes that the Conservative MP for South West Herts says have been agreed in an AONB?

Written Response:

This I believe refers the totally misleading information issued by the South West Herts Conservative MP.

Any sites promoted by landowners and/or developers through the Local Plan in the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) were rejected by officers earlier in the process. There were therefore no sites in the AONB included in the Regulation 18 Sites for Potential Allocation consultation. Neither have there been any recent planning applications approved in the AONB.

The two planning applications for developments of 800 or 300 homes in an area of AONB in Chorleywood, as per my report, were rejected by this Council on 23 March. The site promoters have appealed this decision.

Question to the Lead Member for Economic Development and Planning Policy, Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst, from Councillor Matthew Bedford

- 9bb Can the Lead Member confirm what further public consultations are planned in relation to sites for potential future housing development; and when these consultation plans were made public?

Written response:

The Council's revised Local Development Scheme was adopted at Full Council on 13 December 2022 and agreed by all Councillors present. This set out that the Council will be consulting further on its preferred (lower) housing numbers in the autumn. This council also agreed a further Regulation 18 consultation, again supported by all Councillors on some additional sites. That consultation was undertaken in February/ March and results from that and earlier consultations will be considered alongside our agreed new approach for a lower housing for Three Rivers. Once the details of this have been considered by the Local Plan Sub-Committee and Council this will be what goes out to further consultation.

Following this the timetable sets out that the Regulation 19 draft Local Plan is expected to go out for consultation in autumn 2024.

Questions to the Lead Member for Economic Development and Planning Policy, Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst, from Councillor Andrea Fraser

- 9cc At the SaveTheHighStreet.Org presentation in 2022, businesses requested that Three Rivers talk to landlords and shop owners to support them in making Rickmansworth High Street look more attractive. Landlords were to repaint buildings and provide shop front signage, and TRDC were to paint railings and remove graffiti. What steps have TRDC taken to fulfil these requests?

Written response:

I believe that the Member is referring to SaveTheHighStreet.Org Online Conference Event hosted by SaveTheHighStreet.Org and held on 23 November 2022. This event was held to discuss the findings of the SaveTheHighStreet.Org/Three Rivers Local Champion Survey Data. A series of recommendations were made as a result of the survey. Having consulted with Officers, I am unable to specifically identify where TRDC committed to remove graffiti from any specific locations as part of the survey or meeting – however, where and when reported these issues would usually be dealt with on a 'business as usual' approach by the Council. Has the Councillor reported any issues to the Council? One survey response made reference to 'beautify railings'. Again, subject to requirements, railings and

other street furniture will be attended to when need and budget allows. Some of these, if not all will, be the responsibility of Herts County Council and your local County Councillor has a dedicated budget that can be used towards such items.

As far as the overall package of survey recommendations, the proposals arising from the SaveTheHighStreet.Org work were to identify the issues and suggest how these could be addressed. The survey was in effect a 'wish list' from local businesses and High Street traders, rather than a developed and budgeted work programme. TRDC also recognise that the recommendations included roles for other key stakeholders and interested parties.

9dd Due to the administration not presenting any business to the General Public Services & Economic Development Committee, it is now not due to meet until October. This is despite several key issues being progressed elsewhere and requiring scrutiny in Three Rivers.

In particular, an extra meeting has just been called of the High Street Recovery Board at Hertfordshire County Council, so how will Three Rivers be able to consider, let alone execute, any let alone execute, any potential immediate action needed regarding the High Street?

Written response:

Officers will progress work and carry out business as usual within their delegated powers. If any urgent business arises as a result of decisions around ongoing projects or other matters that require a Member decision there are detailed processes in place that enable urgent decisions to be made including additional Committee meetings. Meetings will not be held if there are no business and no decisions to be made.

The agreement to not go ahead with the July meeting was agreed not just by the administration but the leaders of all the political groups including Cllr Fraser's own. In addition, at each meeting the work plan is considered by the Committee and members can suggest or propose items. No members had suggested items for the July meeting. If actions are agreed by the Rickmansworth High Street Recovery Board (a joint board with HCC) then officers, depending on if they relate to TRDC issues will be able to implement them. As I understand the most recent board meeting did not require any decisions to be considered by this Councils committee system.

Question to the Lead Member for Economic Development and Planning Policy, Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst, from Councillor Oliver

Cooper

- 9ee As a proportion of market rents, what are:
- a) the average social rent and
 - b) the average affordable rent

secured as conditions of planning permission in Three Rivers?

If precise figures are not available, approximately what proportion of market rent would the Council expect each to be?

Written response:

As a proportion of market rents, the average social rent is around 50-60% of market and the average affordable rent around 80% of market. Core Strategy Policy CP4 (the Development Plan) allows us to secure 45% of all new housing as affordable housing, and of that, 70% as social rent and 30% as intermediate.

Questions to the Lead Member for Housing, Public Health and Wellbeing, Councillor Andrew Scarth, from Councillor Sara Bedford

- 9ff Has any further thoughts been given to allowing pets by arrangement in some temporary accommodation provided by the Council? If not, why not?

Written response:

A detailed response was provided at Full Council on 22 December 2022 regarding the rationale for not allowing pets in temporary accommodation. It was confirmed that the Council cannot commit to allowing pets in temporary accommodation.

- 9gg What are the Council's procedures regarding the response to reports of noxious smoke and unusual burning at a residential property?

Written response:

The Councillor will be aware of the Council's process for responding to complaints about burning at a residential property as a detailed email exchange took place in June 2023 with Officers. An overview of our process for domestic bonfires is as follows:

1. Complaint is acknowledged and the residents asked to keep a diary log over a period of 7 to 14 days (depending on how often the bonfires occur).
2. For domestic bonfires and where we can obtain contact information for the person burning, an advisory letter/email is sent advising them that we have received a complaint and outlining the action that can be taken by the local authority. If reports state the bonfires are occurring consecutively, we will try to obtain a telephone number and call them.

3. Where completed record sheets are returned and it is considered that there is a smoke problem, we will attempt to visit the property to witness the smoke emission.

Question to the Lead Member for Community Partnerships, Councillor Steve Drury, from Councillor Reena Ranger

- 9hh A number of Councils provide pre-application advice to licensing applicants to ensure that applicants are applying for the correct licence, with the correct terms and conditions. This can create a budget surplus, whereas – currently – applicants often spend the money on external consultants. Has Three Rivers considered, or will it consider introducing this service line?

Written response:

Offering a pre-application licensing service has previously been considered, recognising the benefits in streamlining the application process for certain license type and possible income generation. However, given the size of the department and workloads it has not been pursued nor is it considered that the circumstances have since changed to re-consider introducing the service at this current time. Furthermore, any formal pre-application service would potentially mean that all informal advice offered would have to cease in favour of a paid service which must operate on a cost recovery basis, which could impact on the perception of service provision by our customers.

Question to the Lead Member for Resources, Councillor Keith Martin, from Councillor Sara Bedford

- 9ii How many business properties are registered by the Council?

Written answer:

2117

Of these how many qualify for:

- a) small business relief
- b) Retail, hospitality or leisure relief
- C) Rural rate relief
- d) full or partial charitable or CASC relief
- e) empty property relief
- f) transitional relief
- g) supporting small business relief
- h) hardship relief, or are
- i) exempt buildings

In the case of:

- a) how many receive full relief?
- d) how many receive full relief?

Written response:

- a) small business relief **475**
- b) Retail, hospitality or leisure relief **438**
- C) Rural rate relief **0**
- d) full or partial charitable or CASC relief **130**
- e) empty property relief **212 empty, 51 of those receiving relief**
- f) transitional relief **1,651**
- g) supporting small business relief **249**
- h) hardship relief, or are **0**
- i) exempt buildings **22**

In the case of:

- a) how many receive full relief? **369**
- d) how many receive full relief? **1**

- 9jj What was the total amount of NNDR payable in 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24?

Written response:

2021/22 £26,476,722.23
2022/23 £28,527,917.26
2023/24 £33,185,389.27

- 9kk What was the average % increase in NNDR payable between each of 2021-22, 2022-23 and due in 2023-24? Please include ALL properties and not just those paying full or partial NNDR 2022-23

Written response:

2021/22 14.8%
2022/23 8.5%
2023/24 14.5%

***Question to the Lead Member for Resources,
Councillor Keith Martin, from Councillor Chris
Mitchell***

- 9ll There was an update on the Red Cross Building in Croxley Green at the Local area forum in Croxley Green on the 15 June 2023. Following a robust discussion, it was agreed at the meeting that Three Rivers would set up a meeting urgently with the Parish Council to discuss the facts surrounding the Hall and the current situation. One reason being to dispel the many rumours that circulate through Croxley Green. It was noted the residents feel very strongly about the value of the hall, and they want to know what is happening and want to be involved. It was felt that there has been a serious lack of consultation in the decisions reached in the past few years.

Please can you commit to consult fully from here on with the Parish Council and in due course any interested community groups in securing the future of this valuable asset of community value for the residents of Croxley Green. Three Rivers to be open to all options for its future including retaining the existing building for community use.

Written response:

As has been agreed a meeting between interested parties is set to be held on 14th July to discuss issues.

***Questions to the Lead Member for Resources,
Councillor Keith Martin, from Councillor Paul
Rainbow***

- 9mm Some Croxley Green residents received an email asking why Three Rivers District Council had allowed the Red Cross Centre in Barton Way to become so dilapidated. Is this statement accurate?

Written response:

This is inaccurate for two reasons. Firstly, as is standard with TRDC leases it is the responsibility of the leaseholder, not TRDC, to maintain the building. Secondly, the state of the building remains within the terms of lease. If the state of the building was such that the terms of the lease were breached, TRDC would issue a notice to the leaseholder, setting out what work was required to be completed and by when. As there has been no such breach, no notice has been served.

- 9nn Some Croxley Green residents received an email suggesting that TRDC intends to build a six or seven storey block of flats on the site of the Red Cross Centre. Concerned and worried residents will be keen to know if TRDC is planning to build a six or seven story block of flats there. Is it?

Written response:

TRDC has never suggested or stated that there is any intention to build a six or seven storey block of flats on the Red Cross Centre site. There never has been and never will be any such intention. Croxley Green residents can be assured that anything they might hear or read suggesting that a six or seven storey block of flats is to be built on the site is wrong. Hope that this accurate statement, rather than a rumour with no factual foundation assures Croxley Green residents that TRDC never has and never will seek to build a six or seven story block of flats on this site.

9pp ***Urgent question to the Lead Member for Resources, Councillor Keith Martin Councillor Sara Bedford (allowed under Rule 14(3))***

Do you believe that enough was done to protect the Council's assets at the former Sir James Altham site and also to protect the assets of Oxhey Jets FC following the traveller incursion on the evening of Friday 7 July? What should be changed to ensure a more supportive response on any similar incursions in the future?"

Written response:

The unauthorised encampment was established on the former Sir James Altham swimming pool car park. This car park is well used by patrons of the Oxhey Jets Football Club and users of the Council's 3G pitch off of Altham Way. The car park is also currently partly occupied by a contractor's compound in connection with an external insulation project operating in South Oxhey. It would not be possible or appropriate to block this car park area off without causing detriment to the users of the car park and the contractors using the site compound.

Upon receiving a report regarding the unauthorised encampment, the Head of Property contacted the General Manager of the Oxhey Jets Football Club and shared his personal mobile number in the event that any further urgent actions might be required between Saturday evening and Monday morning. It is not considered that any changes are required to the process at this time.

Whilst the Council are in the process of seeking to recover possession of its land, Members will be aware that the Police can exercise powers in the event that urgent intervention is required.

10.

LEADER AND LEAD MEMBER REPORTS AND RECEIVE ANY QUESTIONS

Report from the Leader of the Council, Councillor Sarah Nelmes

As my first report since the local elections, I first want to comment on the voter suppression that was the introduction of the need for photo ID to be produced at polling stations, nationally it is reported that 14000 were turned away by polling station staff and no doubt more were turned away by 'greeters' who were used in some areas or just stayed at home because they knew they would not be able to vote. 70 people in Three Rivers applied for a ballot paper but were not issued with one! 38 were turned away and

did return, this is an affront to democracy, and expensive cost to tax payers, a large sledge hammer to crack a virtually non-existent nut, Jacob Rees Mogg has publicly admitted it was jerrymandering! It was a failed experiment that should be scrapped before the next General Election, an event that cannot come too soon!

At the time of writing this I am preparing to go to the LGA Conference. This will be the first anniversary of the 'Debate not Hate' campaign, a campaign on civil behaviour in public life. Debating and disagreeing with one another is a healthy part of democracy but abuse and intimidation crosses the line into dangerous territory. Seven in ten councillors reported experiencing some level of abuse or intimidation in the LGA 2022 councillor census. Let us all vow that none of that should ever happen in this chamber, we should be setting a good example, not a poor one.

Another thing that is of great concern is some outright lies being told to residents both by one of our MP and in some literature, especially on matters concerning the Local Plan. Spin is one thing, but outright lies are a step way too far, those lies will be called out, will be evidenced, and will be corrected.

After much perseverance I have secured a meeting with the Director of Defra concerning the Government proposals for waste reforms. As in many things District and Boroughs tend to know what is best for residents and for Districts and Boroughs to share best practice with each other is way better than having Westminster dictate a one size fits all approach.

Report from the Lead Member for Public Services, Councillor Paul Rainbow

General Public Services Report

Parking Schemes

Sandy Lodge Way and Harefield Road

Currently with Consultants who are reviewing the outcomes of the recent public consultations in preparation for next stage.

Croxley CG Permit Parking Zone Review

Responses from the recent public consultation around new P&D proposals are being reviewed by Hertsmere BC (in their capacity as Highways Engineers) in preparation for the next stage.

Primrose Hill

Closing date for Stage 3 detailed design consultation is 5 July 2023, results to be reviewed following

closure. This is being led by consultants.
Rickmansworth West
Currently with Hertsmere BC in their capacity as
Highways Engineers to finalise a Statutory Notice for
consultation.

Locally Important Schemes including Oxhey Drive
area and Junction of Oxhey Drive/Gosforth Lane and
Fairfield Avenue/ Gosforth Lane

Final Statutory Notice consultation has recently been
completed and Officers are reviewing any responses
in preparation for the next stage (Making of the
Order) with anticipated implementation expected
later this summer.

Following discussions with Local Ward Councillors
and funding from HCC a final Statutory Notice has
been drafted for further junction improvements
around Oxhey Drive/Gosforth Lane and will be put
out to consultation imminently.

Ongoing discussions are progressing with Ward
Councillors around wider parking scheme proposals
for Gosforth Lane.

Chorleywood Area Wide

Consultants are preparing the next stage of public
consultation..

Verge Hardening

Two schemes have been completed in South Oxhey
in Ballater Close and Birstall Green. School Mead
preparations are ongoing, subject to agreement from
the landowner (Watford Community Housing Trust).

Bus Shelters

Two shelter schemes have been completed. A
standard sized shelter on Prestwick Road (near
Markeston Green) and a double sized shelter at the
terminus on Downings Wood, Maple Cross.

LCWIP

The draft Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure
Plan is out for public consultation. Three Rivers and
Hertfordshire County Council Officers have a
meeting arranged for 4th July with Local Ward
Councillors, Chorleywood Parish Councillors,
Chorleywood Residents Association to discuss local
concerns over the live consultation specifically where
is relates to Chorleywood.

The consultation is scheduled to close on 17th July.
Any comments received will be considered and could
influence the final decision on how to proceed. Any
final decisions and plans will be agreed with HCC as
the Highways Authority.

Electronic Vehicle

Following a pause in the procurement exercise work
has recommenced on securing a wider portfolio of
EVCP which will be eligible for Government funding

***Report from the Deputy Leader and Lead Member
for Planning Policy and Economic Development,
Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst***

Local Plan

The Local Plan Subcommittee on 13th June agreed the following recommendation

That the Local Plan Sub Committee:

- Note the contents of this report
- Agree the approach to housing need and Green Belt where only sites in areas of moderate Green Belt harm or less, as set out in the Stage 2 Green Belt Review, are considered acceptable for residential development unless the site is considered strategic and the benefits of the site are considered and can be justified with supporting evidence to outweigh the harm caused by its release from the Green Belt.

Notwithstanding the above that Officers,

1. Conduct a further search for brownfield land, with publicity to landowners and the public.
2. In preparing any draft Local Plan it will be an evidence-based approach to safeguard undeveloped Green Belt land.
3. That final decisions on any proposed Green Belt release and thus the final indicative housing numbers only be considered after all the above has been undertaken and agreed by councillors.

As indicated in the report this will mean a very significant reduced housing number being included in any draft Local Plan far below the original Standard Method Calculation from the Government of 12,624 new homes. This is in line with the December Council decision on the motion I proposed. The figure could be as low as 4,500 with 3,000 of these being in low or moderate harm Green Belt sites but officers still have much work to do to evidence and justify this and any other figures and these and other sites to enable a Local Plan submission to be robust and stand up to examination by the Government appointed Planning Inspector. We will in any event consult the public again before agreeing a final plan (Regulation 19).

Development Management Performance Highlights

The Government have recently released data relating to performance for planning authorities across the country. We have reviewed our performance against the other Hertfordshire authorities and are second out of 10 for speed of determining major planning applications and the fastest at determining non-major applications. Full

data will be released in the MIB.

Planning Appeals

Officers are currently preparing to defend appeals lodged against the refusal of two planning applications for speculative housing development on unallocated Green Belt sites in Sarratt. The two appeals, which relate to a total of 92 houses, are being dealt with by a Public Inquiry which will take place in Three Rivers House over five days at the start of September.

Officers have also received formal notification that the refusal of planning permission agreed by this Council of 800 homes at land east of Green Street (Chorleywood) in the AONB will be subject of an appeal. The appeal is expected to be received by the time of the Council meeting and I will, if required, update verbally. The applicant has suggested this appeal will also proceed as a public inquiry, expected to last three weeks.

Other issues

In light of Government changes and policies from Herts CC we are now reviewing the EV procurement exercise with a view to expanding the EV proposals across the District in our car parks. More detail will follow in due course including an updated EV Strategy

Rickmansworth Project Board and experimental part road closure

I attended the Batchworth Community Council public meeting on this. A range of different views were expressed on this. As already presented to the project board County Officers showed a presentation indication that numbers visiting the High St were above 2022 levels (apart from Sundays) and that people were staying longer in the period between 10am and 6pm.

I have asked council officers to review signage for town especially for the many car parking options. In the meantime amendments have been made to the Northway car park to improve accessibility.

Report from the Lead Member for Housing, Public Health and Wellbeing, Councillor Andrew Scarth

My portfolio has recently expanded as can be seen below:-

Housing

There are currently 62 households in temporary accommodation that has been provided by the Council. This figure includes two households that are

currently in refuge accommodation, six households that are in contractual lets with a registered provider (2 based in Watford and 4 in Three Rivers). This also included six households that are in nightly let accommodation outside of District. Two of these are sensitive lets, one individual has restrictions and cannot reside in our District therefore has been placed in Kingston upon Thames, another household has been placed in a disabled unit in Ealing near the Hospital for ease of access. The remaining four households will be brought back to District as soon as suitable accommodation becomes available.

The advertisement for the Housing Navigator role closed on 3 July 2023 and interviews will take place on 14 July 2023. Ashley Russell has started in post as our Housing Development Officer and following an unsuccessful attempt to recruit a suitably qualified permanent member of staff for the Senior Housing Enforcement Officer role, we have appointed a temporary member of staff, Luisa Dos Santos, in post, to ensure the Council comply with our statutory obligations in Environmental Health. The vacant Housing Options Officer post has now been filled, with Kayleigh Ashby commencing her employment in April.

As of 23 May 2023, Three Rivers have had 173 Homes for Ukraine guests arrive in the District (133 Adults and 40 Children). It is worth noting that Hertfordshire County Council have reported to the Council that although sponsor rematching for families that have been asked to leave their current sponsors accommodation continues to take place, it is often difficult to rematch larger families to new sponsors. However, although difficulty has been communicated, since my last report to Full Council in February 2023, the Service has only had one homelessness application from a family who moved to the UK via this scheme.

On 29 March 2023, Central Government announced that they will be ending hotel accommodation for Afghan guests in the UK, who were housed in these hotels following Operation Pitting. Although there are none of these hotels located in Three Rivers, there are two hotels located in Hertfordshire. There have been significant resources allocated by the Home Office to work with these families currently in this hotel accommodation to find them permanent accommodation before the hotels are closed, however following the closure of these hotels, the Housing Service may receive some homelessness applications from families who were not able to secure permanent accommodation. The Service is unable to anticipate the number of applications that may be received; however, increased Government

funding will be available to the Council, should this occur.

The long-awaited Renter's Reform Bill was introduced to Parliament on 17 May 2023. The Bill aims to deliver on the Government's commitment to "bring in a better deal for renters" including consideration of abolishing "no fault" evictions and reforming landlords possession grounds. It will legislate for reforms set out in the private sector white paper, published in June 2022. The Bill is only in its early stages, therefore, is likely to change significantly before it becomes legislation. Further information on this will be provided once it is published.

Public Health & Wellbeing

There are 5 projects funded through HCC Place Based Health Inequalities funding. "Man On" is a football and conversation café project being delivered in Mill End on a weekly basis by Watford FC Community Sport & Education Trust with the aim of improving mental health for men. There are currently 11 attendee's engaging with the project. Local health providers have been engaged to encourage a higher number of attendee's.

A project is being developed with Ascend at the Dig Deep allotment site, to engage men experiencing social isolation with an outdoors project where they will learn new skills, develop social networks and find out more about support services available in the local area.

Residents who have been invited to breast cancer screening but not engaged with the invitation, will be contacted by officers to understand barriers, support with transport and arrange an appointment, to increase the number of residents accessing breast cancer screening.

Cancer awareness events and initiatives have been taking place. Two 'time to check' events have been held at the South Oxhey Healthy Hub.

Breast and Prostate Cancer awareness organisations attended the recent Leavesden Community Fair and engaged with residents that attended (300+).

Funding was awarded to Watford African Caribbean Association (WACA) to increase health protective behaviours within their community. A diabetes awareness event is being organised by WACA in partnership with a local GP to share information.

Work will be done in relation to hypertension and prostate cancer.

Beezee Bodies were awarded funding to deliver cooking and physical activity sessions in South Oxhey for families over the Easter and Summer holidays. 52 residents attended the Easter provision.

Three Rivers Healthy Hubs are taking place weekly in 3 locations in the district. Attendance at these locations has been improving as more residents are aware of the support available through the hubs. Advice sessions held by the Housing team, Revenue & Benefits team have been successful in providing outreach to local residents. Advice sessions are also held by Thrive Homes.

During quarter 1, 500 engagements were carried out by the Healthy Hub, both virtually and face to face. Majority of residents found out about the Healthy Hubs through the craft events held there.

Health and Wellbeing partnership will be developing an action plan based on the information provided through a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment focussing on health inequalities, and linking this into the new Community Strategy for Three Rivers Local Strategic Partnership.

Report from Lead Member for Leisure, Councillor Chris Lloyd

Parkrun

- New Junior Parkrun at King George V playing field (opposite William Penn Leisure Centre) started on 23rd April. It is for ages 4 to 14. It is a 2Km run and parents can run with their children.
- Parkrun we now have 2 Junior Parkruns – Leavesden and King George V at 9am on a Sunday.
- On Saturday at 9am with 3 Parkruns – South Oxhey, Rickmansworth and Leavesden County
- I have volunteering at all 5 events this year.
- If any Councillor would like to volunteer at any event please contact me.
- Link to Blog

[Parkrun: a 5K event making strides in boosting health - BJSM blog - social media's](#)

[leading SEM voice \(bmj.com\)](http://bmj.com)

Grazing

Grazing at 4 locations -

- Croxley Common Moor – April 2023
- The Withy Beds – April 2023
- Chorleywood House Estate – July 2023
- Leavesden Country Park – July 2023

Management Plans

Final Versions of two management plans presented to July meeting of Climate Change , Leisure and Community

- Bishops Wood (inc. Batchworth Heath) Management Plan is out to public consultation.

- CWHE Management Plans out to public consultation

The management plans can be found on the Three Rovers website at

<https://www.threerivers.gov.uk/services/trees-landscape/open-space-management-plans>

Herts Sport Partnership

- Had a meeting with Herts Sports Partnership about the project they started on Long Covid and exercise.

- The Herts School games on Friday July 7th were cancelled due to Teachers strike. No other date could be found.

- There will be no awards ceremony in 2023 as venue not available.

- Link to website [Home - Herts Sports Partnership \(sportinherts.org.uk\)](http://sportinherts.org.uk)

Three Rivers Sports Partnership

- June attended Awards Evening at Watersmeet. Guest speaker – Danielle Brown MBE Double Paralympic archery gold medallist.

- Attended finals of Year 5 Tag Rugby in June

- Link to website [HOME | TRWSSP \(threeriverswatfordssp.co.uk\)](http://threeriverswatfordssp.co.uk)

Outdoor Gyms , Denham Way , South Oxhey , Barton Way

- New outdoor fitness zones across the district

- Denham Way leisure facilities upgrade and partnership with Get Set 4 Tennis to deliver activity programme, including the refurbishment of the pavilion to provide a multifunctional space.
- Works at South Oxhey playing fields are progressing well, which will include a new skate zone, dog park, multi-use games area, tennis courts and improved footpaths.
- Barton Way MUGA is re-opened (Partnership Parish and TRDC), new path built for access.

Watersmeet

- Capital works:
 - Phase 1 of the bar rewire is complete, the stage 2 works will be undertaken in August.
 - The projection server and associated works are expected to be completed in August.
- Box office:
 - The new box office system launched in September 2022 is a big improvement over the previous system providing a more customer friendly system.
 - New self-serve box office system (iPad in lower foyer) will be implemented. This allows patrons to purchase tickets whilst the venue is open but the box office is closed e.g. after a film or show, or during a hire which is not using the box office.

Report from Lead Member for Sustainability and Climate, Councillor Jon Tankard

Introduction

I am pleased to present my inaugural sustainability and climate report highlighting our commitment at Three Rivers District Council towards a sustainable future. In this report I've aimed to provide an overview of

our efforts, achievements, and future plans in addressing climate change and promoting sustainability across our Three Rivers population.

Being new in post, over the last month I have spent time meeting and establishing relationships with the officers and understanding their parameters and responsibilities.

I can honestly report back that whilst the local authority may lack funding for the decarbonisation of our district, the officers of the principle council teams whom I have met have made up for that by enthusiasm and an utter commitment to meet the targets set. As such I am even more enthused about working with you all and I look forward to progressing and building upon the work carried out by my predecessor Councillor Williams.

National Policy Update and implications for Three Rivers District Council (TRDC)

On 28th June the Climate Change Committee published the 2023 Progress Report to Parliament. This report focused on Carbon budgets, targets and progress and saw the release of new detail on the Government's plans for Net Zero with the publication of the carbon budget delivery plan (CBDP) prompted by last year's High Court judgement.

[\(https://www.theccc.org.uk/publication/2023-progress-report-to-parliament/ \)](https://www.theccc.org.uk/publication/2023-progress-report-to-parliament/)

Reflecting on this plan the Climate Change Committee state:

“despite new detail from government, our confidence in the UK meeting its medium term targets has decreased in the past year.....the CBDP is welcome, but a key opportunity to raise the overall pace of delivery has been missed”

Overall, the report is critical of the Government's lack of urgency, lack of delivery of existing commitments and loss of leadership.

Sadly, this evidence clearly suggests that should we as a Council want to protect and promote the health, wellbeing and happiness of our children's and future generations, we do not have the luxury of awaiting guidance or direction from our current Government. We (TRDC and our residents) must set the pace now.

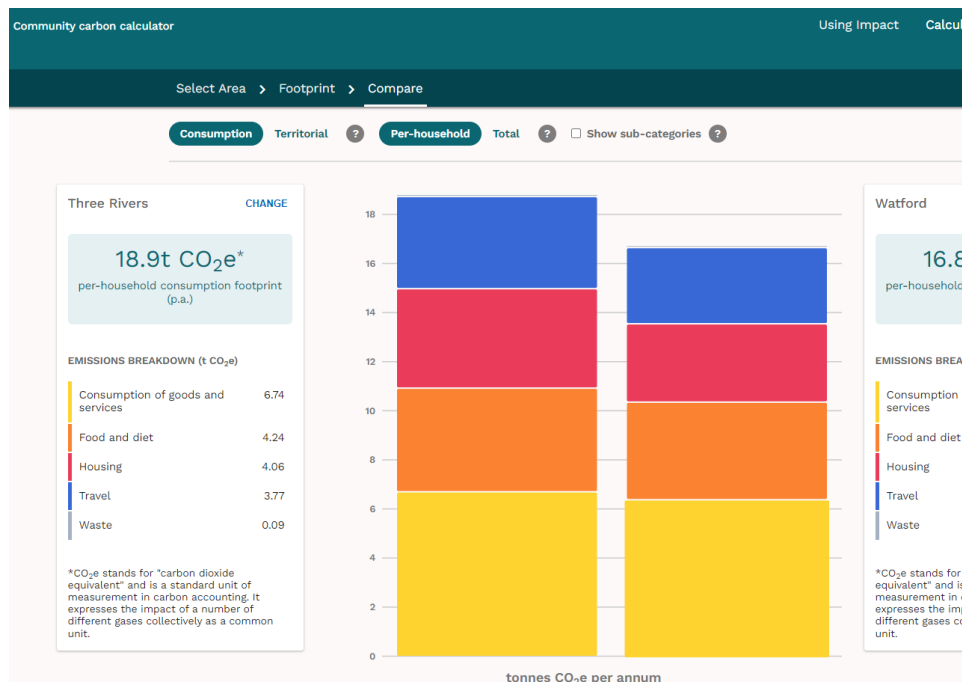
District Wide Carbon Emissions and Net Zero Trajectory

- We have now received last years' Three Rivers 'District Wide Carbon Emissions

and Net Zero Trajectory'. This demonstrates a Carbon footprint of each house.

- The Base Line report, demonstrates that we have to cut Carbon emission by 48% by 2030, and by 75% by 2050 in order to reach Net Zero
- We also have access to the Community Carbon Calculator. This is a digital visualisation tool that helps you understand your community's carbon footprint, giving a 'per-household' value based on council/ward/parish (see image below).
- As way of example, I have calculated that my own personal Carbon Footprint is approximately 11.5 tonnes per year, this means that by 2030, I have to reduce to 5.72 tonnes, and by 2050 to 2.75 tonnes.
- There are items within my footprint that are outside of my control, but my major emissions are within my control, namely, Consumerism, Food and Travel. Currently they account for about 9 tonnes of the 11.5. Now whilst I cannot completely eliminate any of these elements, I can make more informed choices in order to reduce that down.
- I am looking to record those variations in an online blog on the council website and I invite you all to access this, and see where we can all make reductions, and where we are held back.

Community Carbon Calculator:



Enable and Engage

- The consultation on the draft Climate Emergency and Sustainability strategy is underway and live on the Council's new Community engagement platform <https://haveyoursay.threerivers.gov.uk/hub-page/environment-and-climate-change>.

Please look at, assess, and respond. Please also promote this to your residents and local groups.

- The TRDC Greener Living e-newsletter** continues to be sent to residents and businesses to give updates on campaigns and Green news items.
- #Worth Saving campaign:** We are currently awaiting the analysis of the pilot scheme and a waste compositional analysis in TRDC. Following the analysis, we are expecting the campaign to go county-wide later this year.
- HCCSP Behaviour Change Strategic Action Plan:** We are actively working with and inputting into this plan which explores behaviour change as a methodological, systematic approach to engagement with individuals. Behaviour change has a central role to play in helping Hertfordshire on the journey to Net Zero and this plan will be a key driver for our future TRDC plans.
- Tree Giveaway** commenced mid-June, with half of the district's allocation given away with the first week. Given the

demand locally the Council has secured additional trees under the programme.

Energy

- **Fast Followers (Project funded by Innovate UK)** Following the Council's success in securing external grant funding through Innovate UK, project planning has commenced. We will shortly be recruiting a new grant funded officer to support this project. As part of this project, we are looking to identify some hard-to-treat property owners who would be willing participants in a retrofit project and for a localised community in either Abbots Langley, Leavesden, Penn and Mill End, or Rickmansworth to take part in a Transition Street programme encompassing a major module on retrofit.

Domestic Retrofit Programmes

- Officers have advised HCCSP of the councils continued participation in Solar Together Round 2
- Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF) Wave 1 coming to an end but has incurred difficulties with the subcontractor. Completion extended to end August.
- SHDF Wave 2 (120 Thrive Homes, 34 infill) retrofit assessor appointed, still waiting to start procurement on managing agent.
- Looking to assist and support District Schools in bidding for retrofitting and decarbonisation grants. We have noted in previous meetings the complications with these bids and how incredibly frustrating (given the severity of the Climate Emergency) there are such hurdles in place for schools to be able to achieve funding. Whilst we feel it beneficial to give out officers time to such matters, we all be making the Local MP Mr Dean Russell, aware of our frustrations of having to commit local resources to what should be a government led 'roll out'.

Tree protection and woodland

- HCC have secured £145,500 revenue funding from Defra to deliver a Tree Planting Concierge Service for landowners, which aims to facilitate the planting of 300,000 trees over the next 24 months – funding will deliver a range of

measures to create behaviour change in landowners including technology mapping and 2 woodland creation officers to identify, design and support landowners with planting schemes. TRDC have committed £5k match funding to this fund from Sustainability budgets. Planting will begin from November 2023 and completed by March 2024.

TRDC Tree Management

- Ash Die Back – July will see inspection of Ash trees in high-risk areas of TRDC land to identify those which are in particularly poor health and may need to be pruned or felled.
- Oak Processionary moth – Low levels reported / detected so far, this season.

Biodiversity

- Noted that there have been several concerns regarding areas of uncut amenity space. We are continuing to engage, educate and if necessary, adjust the management. to ensure a greener and more Bio Diverse district whilst maintaining support of residents. It is essential that we continue to engage with residents, as every amenity space we gain, we lose when a resident removes a hedge, or a garden is paved over.
- Cattle are being grazed on Croxley Common Moor and The Withey Beds already. Cattle are due at Chorleywood House Estate and Leavesden Country Park from W/c 3rd July.
- Horses Field (Leavesden) is looking fantastic, in the years that I have followed this project, it has moved from a rather managed field of wild flowers, to a large grass area with flowers interspersed in it, the local reaction is fantastic, and I know the community are looking forward to the re-introduction of the cows.
- Hay cutting of open space by contractor and grounds maintenance will be undertaken during July.
- An Exec summary of the Nature Recovery Strategy is being prepared for use on the website alongside the full version.
- The Bury, Rickmansworth: Initial meeting held with Batchworth Community Council to discuss development of a partnership

project on the site. Improvements may include, conservation of surviving garden features, river habitat improvements, woodland management works, new interpretation, and tree planting.

Air and Noise Pollution

- **Clean Air Day:** Behaviour change comms took place on June 15th with over 6000 views and 1200 opens

Cemeteries and Crematoriums

- A report is being written to go to Policy and Resources Committee for members to consider extending the Exclusive Right of Burial for a further 50 years, once the original lease (of 100 years) expires following requests from current plot holding families.

Environmental Forum and Water Partnership

- **Water Partnership:** Officers are liaising with Colne CAN (Catchment Action Network), to establish how the Council can support the Smarter Water Catchment application.
- Work needed to review enforcement approach to river pollution incidences.
- Myself and Councillor Lloyd will be meeting with The Chiltern AONB to see projects being carried out in the Chess Catchment area.

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

1. General Environment.

In common with all local authorities, TRDC continues to face inflation-driven cost increases, whilst our revenue remains static. The Bank of England raised the base rate by 0.5% in June, in the face of core inflation being at 30-year high. This all makes for a challenging externally driven economic environment for TRDC. There is no reason to expect conditions to significantly ease during this Council year. As such, colleagues are advised that the 2024-25 budget formation process will be a difficult one.

2. 2022-3 Council Year Financial Position.

The final year-end figures were approved during the June Policy & Resources Committee and form a separate agenda item for this meeting.

3. Foxgrove Path Development, South Oxhey.

The purchase of the Foxgrove Path site from Herts County Council was expected to have completed by 31/03/23, i.e. in the previous Council year. For reasons beyond TRDC's control this did not happen. The transaction did, however, complete in April 2023, as did the transfer to Watford Community Housing Trust, who will be responsible for developing this site. A planning application has been submitted for the construction of 53 affordable homes. We expect the first tenants to move into their new homes by late spring 2024.

4. Red Cross Building, Barton Way

The Red Cross Centre in Barton Way is still leased to the British Red Cross. At the time of writing a meeting is being arranged with local District Councillors and members of Croxley Green Parish Council. The objective of this meeting is to answer those questions that Councillors have and which would not breach commercial confidentiality. That meeting is expected to have taken place shortly after Full Council is held.

11.

WRITTEN REPORTS FROM AND QUESTIONS TO CHAIRS OF AUDIT, PLANNING, LICENSING AND REGULATORY SERVICES COMMITTEES

Report from the Chair of the Planning Committee, Councillor Sara Bedford

The Planning Committee has had two meetings, both with relatively light agendas. There are however several major applications due to be presented at the Planning Committee in the next couple of months. These include:

- 2 x applications at Land to South of Foxgrove Path/Heysham Drive in South Oxhey (Ref: 23/0701/FUL & 23/0699/AOD) – likely August/September*
- An application for the alterations to the attenuation pond, access and earthworks at Killingdown Farm in Croxley Green (RE: 23/0319/FUL) – likely August *
- An application for the proposed Lidl store at World of Water Aquatic Centre in Hunton Bridge (Ref: 22/1764/FUL) – likely August*
- An application at Croxley House in Croxley Green for the proposed day nursery (Ref:

23/0483/FUL) - likely September *

- A hybrid application at Land to the east of Langleybury Lane for a Film Hub (Ref: 22/1945/FUL) – likely October*

*These are indicative dates, and the Council is often dependent on the responses of statutory consultees, including Hertfordshire County Council as the Highway Authority and Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA). Amendments sought by applicants, often in response to objections, can also slow the process. I understand that residents dislike the uncertainty of a delayed application, but it is invariably unavoidable.

I am keen to ensure that the members of the committee have the skills and knowledge to make robust, defensible decisions. I made a number of comments to officers regarding the mandatory training provided in May, which I felt did not cover many areas, or did not cover important areas in sufficient depth. I have attended the training offered online by PAS (the Planning Advisory Service, part of the Local Government Association) and found it very good, although still only an introduction. I am talking to our senior planners and to our planning solicitor to see what other training could and should be offered.

12.

MOTIONS UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 11

Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst, seconded by Councillor Sarah Nelmes, to move under notice duly given as follows:

Motion 1

Council notes that the Member of Parliament for South West Herts (covering the majority of the Three Rivers Council area) has issued a leaflet at the end of May signed by him making a false claim about this Council.

The MP stated in this leaflet:

"The Liberal Democrat Council in Three Rivers have been pressing on with plans to build over 1,000 new dwellings across two of our green belt sites, which falls within the Chilterns' Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)".

This is false.

In fact, the Council has not proposed or supported any development on any site within the Chilterns' Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). Without exception, every application for development on any site within the AONB has been rejected by Three Rivers Council (including both the current applications in

respect of the Green Street site in Chorleywood).

The Council has not consulted about Green Street, Chorleywood or any other site in the AONB as a potential development site in its emerging Local Plan.

Council therefore expects the MP to withdraw the leaflet, issue a retraction and a public apology for misleading residents if he has not already done so as asked of him on 31 May.

Council instructs the Chief Executive to write again to the MP setting out the facts, seek assurances that he will not repeat misleading facts again and request a retraction and a public apology for misleading residents within 5 working days of this motion being passed if so a retraction has not already been received.

Council notes that its officers will, as have they have done so previously, rigorously defend any refusal of planning before the governments planning inspector and will do so re the Green Street, Chorleywood proposals.

Motion 2

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

Green Belt and Local Plan

Council notes various pronouncements made by Michael Gove as Secretary of State for Levelling Up & Communities and other prominent Conservative MPs that the standard methodology for calculating housing numbers is not going to be compulsory and that councils need not build on the Green Belt, although such changes have not yet been applied to legalisation councils are required to follow.

Council believes that our towns and villages are important to communities and that the green space within and around them is precious.

Council therefore requests that officers continue to work on:

1. Conducting further search for brownfield land, with publicity to landowners and the public.
2. Preparing a draft Local Plan with an evidence-based approach to safeguard undeveloped Green Belt land.
3. Ensure there is an evidence-based response to support the approach outlined in 2 above in any submission we are required to make to the planning inspectorate.

Motion 3

Councillor Reena Ranger, seconded by Councillor Ciaran Reed to move under Notice duly given as follows:

This Council notes that on 4 March 2022, the Mayor of London announced his plan to expand the Ultra-Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) from its current boundary of the North and South Circulars to cover almost all of Greater London. These plans would see ULEZ expanded by 29 August 2023 to the border of Three Rivers.

This Council notes that, whilst ULEZ was originally introduced covering the same area and with the same boundaries as the Congestion Charge Zone, on 25th October 2021, it was expanded by 18 times its original size to its current boundaries.

This Council notes that this significant change took place less than two years ago and that the ramifications have yet to be fully assessed.

This Council notes that expansion would mean that those with non-compliant vehicles would pay £12.50 per day to drive within the ULEZ. Some of our residents would be forced to pay more to get to visit their doctor, dentist, drop or collect small children from school or nursery, work, visit friends and family and local businesses and high streets. This will cost jobs, damage the social fabric of the local area, and encourage businesses to locate elsewhere.

This Council notes that Transport for London's own modelling shows there would be no air pollution benefits in Three Rivers, despite the high cost to Three Rivers residents.

This Council notes this would be a regressive tax and those with less choice disproportionately penalised.

This Council further notes that this expansion would mean many more areas with poor public transport would be included within the zone; this is fundamentally unfair on those residents, who would be unable to afford to keep or replace their car and would thus be forced to rely on inadequate levels of public transport.

This Council welcomes the claim brought by Harrow, Hillingdon, Bexley, Bromley, and Surrey councils in challenging the lawfulness of the decision to expand ULEZ on the grounds that the Mayor did not comply with statutory requirements, the Mayor did not consider all material considerations, the Mayor conducted an unfair and unlawful consultation, and the scrappage scheme is irrational.

Therefore, this Council:

- opposes measures to push up the cost of living in Three Rivers by imposing taxes and charges on residents who rely on motor vehicles without providing them with realistic alternatives and have no democratic option to oppose this
- calls on the Leader to send a letter to the

Mayor of London calling on him to withdraw his planned ULEZ expansion and instead, to focus the almost £400 million that he has set aside for it on fairer and more effective ways of improving London and Hertfordshire's air quality.

- supports the application for judicial review brought against the Mayor of London by Harrow, Hillingdon, Bexley, Bromley, and Surrey councils.

Motion 4

Councillor Abbas Merali, seconded by Councillor Philip Hearn to move under Notice duly given as follows:

Three Rivers District Council recognises the important place that local sports clubs have for the communities in Three Rivers.

Three Rivers District Council believes that local sports clubs provide great social and health benefits to the community, increasing participating in physical activity and providing locations and activities that bring people together for a common purpose.

Three Rivers District Council further supports the independence of local sports clubs as excellent examples of the community self-organising.

Three Rivers District Council therefore understands that it should be an objective of the council to support local sports clubs and ensure their long-term financial viability.

Three Rivers District Council supports the Government's new funding to invest in grassroots football facilities to ensure that local clubs across the country can flourish, with a further £168 million being invested into facilities in England by 2025, on top of a continued £18 million annually.

Three Rivers District Council commits to support local sports clubs across the District by highlighting grants available to them and providing advice on how to apply for grants as well as to consider favourably funding applications including CIL applications, from this council.

**Joanne Wagstaffe
Chief Executive
3 July 2023**

Livestreaming details

To watch the meeting remotely please use the livestream details below:

https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_MGRmZDUzZWYtYjQ5YS00ZjAwLWl0ZWMtODY3N2I0YmNkOTM%40thread.v2/0?context=%7B%22Tid%22%3A%2258420664-1284-4d81-9225-35da8165ae7a%22%2C%22Oid%22%3A%22e4bd9f48-5936-485c-82c1-bd8660567ae4%22%2C%22IsBroadcastMeeting%22%3Atrue%2C%22role%22%3A%22a%22%7D&btype=a&role=a

General Enquiries: Please contact the Committee Team at committeeteam@threerivers.gov.uk

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Annual Council MINUTES

Of a meeting held in the Penn Chamber, Three Rivers House, Rickmansworth, on Tuesday, 23 May 2023 from 7.30 - 9.24 pm

Present: Councillor Debbie Morris (Chair until item 4), Councillor Raj Khiroya (Vice-Chair, in the Chair from item 5), Councillor Matthew Bedford, Councillor Sara Bedford, Councillor Ruth Clark, Councillor David Coltman, Councillor Oliver Cooper, Councillor Stephen Cox, Councillor Steve Drury, Councillor Andrea Fraser, Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst, Councillor Rue Grewal, Councillor Philip Hearn, Councillor Lisa Hudson, Councillor Tony Humphreys, Councillor Khalid Hussain, Councillor Joan King, Councillor Stephen King, Councillor Chris Lloyd, Councillor David Major, Councillor Keith Martin, Councillor Abbas Merali, Councillor Chris Mitchell, Councillor Sarah Nelmes, Councillor Louise Price, Councillor Kevin Raeburn, Councillor Paul Rainbow, Councillor Reena Ranger OBE, Councillor David Raw, Councillor Ciaran Reed, Councillor Andrew Scarth, Councillor Narinder Sian, Councillor Jonathon Solomons, Councillor Jon Tankard, Councillor Chris Whately-Smith and Councillor Anne Winter

Officers in Attendance:

Emma Sheridan, Associate Director Customer and Community
Kimberley Grout, Associate Director, Strategy, Housing and Partnerships
Alison Scott, Shared Director of Finance
Stephen Rix, Associate Director Legal and Democratic (Monitoring Officer)
Joanne Wagstaffe, Chief Executive

CL1/23 ELECTION OF CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL

The Chair had agreed to take this item as urgent business as the report had been published late due to confirmation on the appointment being agreed.

Councillor Sarah Nelmes moved, seconded by Councillor Andrew Scarth, that Councillor Phil Williams be elected Chair of the Council.

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

RESOLVED:

Councillor Phil Williams be elected Chair of Council.

CL2/23 CHAIR ELECT

As the newly appointed Chair of Council was not present at the meeting they would sign their declaration outside the meeting.

The Chair announced to Council that item 8 (Health and Safety Statement) had been deferred to the July Council meeting.

The Chair also announced that they had agreed to change the order of business with the order now being item 4, then item 5 and then item 3.

CL3/23 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL

Councillor Sarah Nelmes moved, seconded by Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst, that Councillor Raj Khiroya be elected Vice-Chair of the Council.

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

RESOLVED:

Councillor Raj Khiroya be elected Vice-Chair of the Council.

CL4/23 VICE-CHAIR ELECT

Councillor Raj Khiroya made and signed the declaration of Acceptance of office.

COUNCILLOR RAJ KHIROYA – VICE CHAIR IN THE CHAIR

CL5/23 VOTE OF THANKS TO RETIRING CHAIR

Councillor Keith Martin led the vote of thanks to the retiring Chair, Councillor Debbie Morris, who had done a tremendous job as the first citizen of the District and Chair of the Council meetings. They thanked Councillor Morris on behalf of the residents, Members, businesses and not for profit organisations in Three Rivers.

Councillor Ciaran Reed also wished to thank Councillor Morris for the way they had Chaired the Council meetings and served in their civic capacity and how they had led the proclamation in the District with the change of monarchs. The Councillor also wish to record their thanks for the service Councillor Morris had initiated for the Holocaust Memorial Day.

Councillors Stephen Cox, Chris Mitchell, Reena Ranger, Sarah Nelmes and Stephen Giles-Medhurst also wished to record their vote of thanks to Councillor Debbie Morris for their Chairing of the Council meetings and how they had undertaken their civic duties during the year.

Councillor Debbie Morris responded by thanking Members for their kind words and for the tremendous opportunity to be Chair of the Council. They had been to many events in the community and had been Chair during a momentous year for the monarchy. In June the Queen had celebrated their Platinum Jubilee with the Council holding a beacon lighting in the Rose Garden attended by hundreds of people. Following this the Queen had sadly passed away and all the Mayors and Chairs were invited to the proclamation at County Hall for the new King, King Charles III. Other events Councillor Morris had attended during the year included visiting community centres and attending community events, visiting schools, an art exhibition, cutting ribbons, judged competitions, learnt about the work of local charities and voluntary organisations.

Councillor Morris had chaired all the meetings of Council during the year and wished to thank Sarah Haythorpe for the excellent briefing notes and to officers for their sound advice during the meetings. Councillor Morris also wished to thank Andrew, the Councillors husband and Consort, who accompanied them on many of their engagements Mike Simpson for their support and assistance and who was instrumental in organising their diary and events.

Pets as Therapy was my chosen charity for the year and I have been able to raise over £5,000.

The Holocaust Memorial Day in January saw over 75 people attending and to see the day being remembered was one of my proudest moments. I hope everyone who came to the Memorial Day will never forget it

Councillors Debbie Morris wished Councillor Williams and Khiroya best wishes for the year ahead.

CL6/23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ian Morris, Roger Seabourne and Phil Williams.

CL7/23 ELECTION RETURN

Council noted the results of the District Council Elections held in the District on 4 May 2023 and the Proper Officer confirmed that all Councillors had signed their Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

A Member advised that the vote result for the Liberal Democrat Group should read 517 for the Chorleywood North and Sarratt District Election.

RESOLVED:

Noted the election results and that the Councillors had signed their Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

CL7/23a THANK YOU TO PAST COUNCILLORS

The Leader of the Council paid tribute to past Councillor Martin Trevett who had been a Councillor since 1979 but had stood down this year. The Other Group Leaders and other Councillors also paid tribute to Councillors who had not stood for re-election in the recent election.

CL8/23 THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY STATEMENT 2023/2024

This item of business had been deferred to the July Council meeting.

CL9/23 RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE FROM THE MEETING HELD ON 13 MARCH 2023

Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst moved, seconded by Councillor Sarah Nelmes, the recommendation as set out in:

a) CIL Governance Arrangements

- i) The draft CIL Governance arrangements as set out in Paragraph 5.3 to 6.2 of the Committee report

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

RESOLVED:

- i) The draft CIL Governance arrangements as set out in Paragraph 5.3 to 6.2 of the Committee report

Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst moved, seconded by Councillor Andrew Scarth the recommendation as set out below:

- ii) Final details on the implementation of the amended Governance arrangements are delegated to the DCES in consultation with the Lead Member with an anticipated commencement date of June 2023.

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

RESOLVED:

Final details on the implementation of the amended Governance arrangements are delegated to the DCES in consultation with the Lead Member with an anticipated commencement date of June 2023.

Councillor Sarah Nelmes moved, seconded by Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst the recommendation as set out below:

b) Minute Writing Standard

That the Minute Writing Standards be agreed and the Constitution amended accordingly

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

RESOLVED:

Agreed the Minute Writing Standards and for the Constitution to be amended accordingly

Councillor Keith Martin moved, seconded by Councillor Sarah Nelmes the recommendation as set out below:

c) Budget Monitoring Report to 31 January 2023

That the revenue and capital budget variations shown in the table at Paragraph be approved and incorporated into the three-year medium term financial plan.

On being put to Council the motion was declared CARRIED by the Vice-Chair in the Chair the voting being 25 For, 0 Against and 11 Abstentions.

RESOLVED:

That the revenue and capital budget variations shown in the table at Paragraph be approved and incorporated into the three-year medium term financial plan.

CL10/23 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 21 February 2023 were confirmed as a correct record and were signed by the Vice-Chair in the Chair.

CL11/23 CHAIRS ANNOUNCEMENTS

As the newly elected Chair of Council was not present at the meeting the Chair's announcements would be made at the July Council meeting.

CL12/23 TO RECEIVE ANY ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE HEAD OF PAID SERVICE

Vice-Chair in the Chair advised that this report was late in being published due to the finalisation of the details – urgency under Section 100B(4) of the Local Government Act 1972.

The Vice-Chair in the Chair had agreed the report as urgent business so that Council can appoint the Leader and Lead Members with the new portfolio details and the delegation and structure changes can be agreed

The Chief Executive advised that the purpose of the report was to:

- To agree a new committee structure
- To agree new lead members
- Agree changes to member and officer delegations.

There would be no changes to actual delegations the changes were around the deletion of a post from the establishment. The report also requested that the Leader be able to delegate to the Deputy Leader.

Councillor Sarah Nelmes moved, seconded by Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst the recommendations in the report.

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

RESOLVED:

- 1 That the new Committee structure reference in 3.1 is agreed.
- 2 That the new Lead Members detailed reference in 3.2 is agreed.
- 3 The Leader maybe delegate to the Deputy Leader
- 4 That in the event that an established post becomes vacant the constitutional delegations can be untaken or reassigned by the Head of Paid Service.
- 5 That the Constitution is updated to reflect the delegations currently to the Director of Community and Environmental Services as shown in paragraph 2.9 and to include any delegations to existing Heads of Service.

CL13/23 APPOINTMENT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst moved, duly seconded by Councillor Chris Lloyd the appointment of Councillor Sarah Nelmes as Leader of the Council.

On being put to the Council the motion was declared CARRIED by the Vice-Chair in the Chair the voting being 25 For, 0 Against and 11 Abstentions.

RESOLVED:

Councillor Sarah Nelmes appointed Leader of the Council.

CL14/23 APPOINTMENT OF THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

Councillor Sarah Nelmes moved, duly seconded by Councillor Chris Lloyd the appointment of Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst as Deputy Leader of the Council.

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

RESOLVED:

Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst appointed Deputy Leader of the Council.

CL15/23 APPOINTMENT OF THE LEAD MEMBERS

Councillor Sarah Nelmes moved, seconded by Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst the appointment of the Lead Members reflecting the changes to the titles of the Lead Members agreed earlier in the meeting.

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

RESOLVED:

Appointed the Lead Members for:-

Resources (Policy and Resources) – Cllr Keith Martin
Economic Development and Planning Policy (General Public Services and Economic Development) – Cllr Stephen Giles-Medhurst
(Public Services) (General Public Services and Economic Development) – Cllr Paul Rainbow
Housing, Public Health and Wellbeing (General Public Services and Economic Development) – Cllr Andrew Scarth
Leisure (Climate Change, Leisure and Community) – Cllr Chris Lloyd
Sustainability and Climate (Climate Change, Leisure and Community) – Cllr Jon Tankard
Community Partnerships (Climate Change, Leisure and Community) – Cllr Steve Drury

The Chair of the two Service Committees will be split between the three Lead Members who will be preside at two meetings of the Service Committees each year with the other two acting as the Vice-Chair when not in the Chair.

In accordance with the Council Constitution these Members are appointed to the Policy and Resources Committee.

CL16/23 APPOINTMENT OF POLICY AND RESOURCES, PLANNING, REGULATORY SERVICES, LICENSING, INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, LEISURE, ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY, AUDIT AND COUNCIL TAX SETTING COMMITTEES

The Chair had agreed to take this item as urgent business so that the Committees can be appointed to for the local government year 2022/23 and agree details on how meetings are held. The details had been agreed with the Group Leaders.

Appoint to the Policy and Resources Committee

To appoint Members to serve on the Policy and Resources Committee in accordance with the Council Constitution to include the Leader of the Council, Deputy Leader of the Council and the 7 Lead Members as appointed in Items 15, 16 and 17 above.

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

RESOLVED:

Appointed Members to serve on the Policy and Resources Committee in accordance with the Council Constitution to include the Leader of the Council and the 7 Lead Members as appointed in Item 15, 16 and 17 above.

Liberal Democrat Members:

Councillors Sarah Nelmes (Chair of the Committee)
Resources (Policy and Resources) – Cllr Keith Martin
Economic Development and Planning Policy (General Public Services and Economic Development) – Cllr Stephen Giles-Medhurst

(Public Services) (General Public Services and Economic Development) – Cllr Paul Rainbow
Housing, Public Health and Wellbeing (General Public Services and Economic Development)
– Cllr Andrew Scarth

Leisure (Climate Change, Leisure and Community) – Cllr Chris Lloyd

Sustainability and Climate (Climate Change, Leisure and Community) – Cllr Jon Tankard

Community Partnerships (Climate Change, Leisure and Community) – Cllr Steve Drury

Conservative Group Members:

Councillors Oliver Cooper, Philip Hearn, Abbas Merali

Labour Group Member:

Councillor Stephen Cox

Green Group Member:

Councillor Chris Mitchell

(b) To appoint Members to the Planning, Regulatory Services, Licensing, Infrastructure, Housing and Economic Development, Leisure, Environment and Community, Audit and Council Tax Setting Committees

Councillor Sarah Nelmes moved, seconded by Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst the appointment of Members as detailed on the spreadsheet with the following amendments:

Councillor Roger Seabourne be replaced with Councillor Jonathon Solomons on the Audit Committee

Councillor Oliver Cooper spoke on the allocation of seats and although they were delighted to see some changes to the allocations on planning and audit they had questioned the percentages allocated for the seats on the committees and the legality of the proportionality which had been provided to Council. It was vital that the details were correct.

The Monitoring Officer responded that the details provided on proportionality were not illegal or unlawful and were in accordance with provisions contained in section 15(4) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989

On the motion being put to Council the Vice-Chair in the Chair declared the motion CARRIED the voting being 25 For, 11 Against and 0 Abstentions.

RESOLVED:

Planning Committee - 11 Members

Liberal Democrats – 6 Members

Councillors Sara Bedford, Steve Drury, Matthew Bedford, Ruth Clark, Chris Lloyd, Khalid Hussain

Conservative Group – 4 Members

Councillors Philip Hearn, Debbie Morris, Ian Morris, David Raw

Labour Group – 1 Member

Councillor Stephen King

Regulatory Committee – 11 Members

Liberal Democrats – 6 Members

Councillors Roger Seabourne, Tony Humphreys, Matthew Bedford, David Major, Andrew Scarth, Raj Khiroya

Conservative Group – 3 Members

Councillors Ciaran Reed, David Coltman, Ian Morris

Labour Group – 1 Member

Councillor Stephen Cox

Green Group – 1 Member

Councillor Narinder Sian

Licensing Committee – 11 Members

Liberal Democrats – 6 Members

Councillors Roger Seabourne, Tony Humphreys, Matthew Bedford, David Major, Andrew Scarth, Raj Khiroya
Conservative Group – 3 Members
Councillors Ciaran Reed, David Coltman, Ian Morris
Labour Group – 1 Member
Councillor Stephen Cox
Green Group – 1 Member
Councillor Narinder Sian

General Public Services and Economic Development Committee – 11 Members

Liberal Democrats – 6 Members
Councillors Stephen Giles-Medhurst, Andrew Scarth, Paul Rainbow, Jonathon Solomons, Kevin Raeburn, Chris Whately-Smith
Conservative Group – 3 Members
Councillors Andrea Fraser, David Raw, Oliver Cooper
Labour Group – 1 Member
Councillor Joan King
Green Group – 1 Member
Councillor Chris Mitchell

Climate Change, Leisure and Community Committee – 11 Members

Liberal Democrats – 6 Members
Councillors Chris Lloyd, Steve Drury, Jon Tankard, David Major, Louise Price, Anne Winter.
Conservative Group – 3 Members
Councillors Ciaran Reed, Abbas Merali, Ian Morris
Labour Group – 1 Member
Councillor Stephen King
Green Party – 1 Member
Councillor Chris Mitchell

Audit – 9 Members

Liberal Democrats – 5 Members
Councillors Tony Humphreys, Ruth Clark, Khalid Hussain, Jonathon Solomons and Raj Khiroya
Conservative Group – 4 Members
Councillors Lisa Hudson, Andrea Fraser, Ciaran Reed and Rue Grewal

Council Tax Setting – 5 Members

Liberal Democrats – 3 Members
Councillors Sarah Nelmes, Keith Martin and Stephen Giles-Medhurst
Conservative Group – 2 Members
Councillors Oliver Cooper, Philip Hearn

(c) To appoint substitute Members

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

RESOLVED:

Agreed the appointment of all Members to act as substitutes on the Council Committees excluding the Licensing Committee.

Following the voting and agreement of this resolution under Rule 22(1)(a) 10 Members requested that the vote be retaken with regard to not having substitutes on the Licensing committee.

Councillor Steve Drury moved, seconded by Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst that substitutes be allowed on the Licensing Committee

The meeting was adjourned to allow the Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer to consider the motion.

The Monitoring Officer advised they would check the legality of the motion under the Licensing Act 2003 to allow substitute Members on the Licensing Committee and would report following the meeting.

On being put Council the amended motion was declared CARRIED by the Vice-Chair in the Chair the voting being by general assent.

RESOLVED:

Agreed that all Members could be appointed as substitute Members on the Licensing Committee.

CL16/23a TO APPOINT SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

RESOLVED:

Agreed the appointment of the following named substitutes for the Planning Committee:

Liberal Democrats:

Councillors Stephen Giles-Medhurst, Raj Khuroya, Sarah Nelmes, Phil Williams, Louise Price, Chris Whately-Smith

Conservative Group: Councillors Andrea Fraser, Rue Grewal, Abbas Merali, Reena Ranger OBE

Labour Group: Councillor Stephen Cox

Agreed that Licensing sub-committee hearings can be held either virtually/remotely, as a face-to-face hearing or as a hybrid hearing but that the hearing be livestreamed.

Agreed that Local Area Forum meetings be held either virtually/remotely, as face to face meetings or as hybrid meeting and that the Chair of the Forum makes the decision on how each meeting is held.

Agreed that Sub-Committee meetings be held either virtually/remotely, as face to face meetings or as a hybrid meeting but that they be livestreamed.

CL17/23 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRS AND VICE CHAIRS

Committee	Chair	Vice Chair
Planning	Councillor Sara Bedford	Councillor Steve Drury
Licensing	Roger Seabourne	Tony Humphreys
Regulatory Services	Roger Seabourne	Tony Humphreys
Audit	Tony Humphreys	Ruth Clark
Council Tax Setting Committee	Sarah Nelmes	Stephen Giles-Medhurst

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

RESOLVED:

That the appointment of the Chair's and Vice Chair's of the Planning, Regulatory Services, Licensing, Audit and Council Tax Setting Committees be agreed.

CL18/23 STANDARDS REGIME

A) Members' Panel to deal with Code of Conduct Complaints

To reconstitute this Panel to deal with Code of Conduct Complaints against District and Parish Councillors under the stages agreed at the Executive Committee on 2 April 2012 (Minute EX104/11).

This Panel will also consider any necessary report by Investigatory and Disciplinary Committee. See item CL24/22 below.

The Panel will consist of Group Leaders (or their nominees).

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

RESOLVED:-

That the membership of the Panel be agreed and noted.

CL19/23 APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE

To establish the Appointments Committee with terms of reference as set out in Part 3 of the Constitution and appoint 7 Members to serve thereon. The Committee is subject to the Rules governing proportionality.

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

RESOLVED:

That the Appointments Committee be reconstituted for the Local Government Year 2023/24 with Member appointments to be governed by the proportionality rules with the names of the Councillors to be notified to the Chief Executive before each meeting.

Liberal Democrats – 4 Members
Conservative Group – 2 Members
Labour Group – 1 Member

CL20/23 APPEALS COMMITTEE

To establish an Appeals Committee to hear any necessary Appeals in relation to Senior Staff Members should a dispute arise under the Terms of a JNC contract. To appoint 5 Members to serve thereon. The Committee is subject to the Rules governing proportionality.

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

RESOLVED:

Established the Appeals Committee to hear any necessary Appeals in relation to Senior Staff Members should a dispute arise under the Terms of a JNC contract. Appointed 5 members to serve thereon as follows:

Liberal Democrats – 3 Members (names to be notified to the Chief Executive prior to the meeting)
Conservative Group – 1 Member (name to be notified to the Chief Executive prior to the meeting)
Labour Group – 1 Member (name to be notified to the Chief Executive prior to the meeting)

CL21/23 INVESTIGATORY AND DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

To establish an Investigatory and Disciplinary Committee to consider any report or complaint in relation to Senior Staff Members appointed under the terms of a JNC contract. To appoint 5 Members to serve thereon. The Committee is subject to the Rules governing proportionality.

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

RESOLVED:

Established the Investigatory and Disciplinary Committee to consider any report or complaint in relation to Senior Staff Members appointed under the terms of a JNC contract. Appointed 5 members to serve thereon as follows:

Liberal Democrats – 3 Members (the names to be notified to the Chief Executive prior to the meeting)

Conservative Group – 1 Member (the name to be notified to the Chief Executive prior to the meeting)

Labour Group – 1 Member (the name to be notified to the Chief Executive prior to the meeting)

CL22/23 APPOINTMENT OF OTHER COUNCIL BODIES

The following appointments were agreed by general assent by Council

Three Rivers Community Safety Partnership Board

Councillor Steve Drury be appointed.

Local Strategic Partnership Board

Councillors Sarah Nelmes and Steve Drury be appointed.

Community Safety Board (Police and Crime Commissioner) (*)

Councillor Steve Drury be appointed.

Environmental Forum Chair

Councillor Jon Tankard be appointed

Environmental Forum Vice-Chair

Councillor Chris Lloyd be appointed.

Environmental Forum

Liberal Democrat 5 – Councillors Jon Tankard, Chris Lloyd, Raj Khiroya, Kevin Raeburn, Phil Williams

Conservative Group 3 – Reena Ranger OBE, Ian Morris, Abbas Merali

Labour Group – 1 - Councillor Stephen King

Green Party – 1 – Narinder Sian

Seniors Forum

Open to all Members to attend

Youth Council – 3 (one Member from each Group)

Liberal Democrat: Councillor Jon Tankard
Conservative Group: Councillor Ciaran Reed
Labour Group: Councillor Stephen Cox
Green Group: Councillor Narinder Sian

Internal Complaints Panel – 5

Liberal Democrats 4: Reserve Position
Conservative Group 1: Reserve Position
Labour Group 1: Reserve Position
Green Group: 1: Reserve Position

Staff Employer Forum - 5

Liberal Democrats 4: Councillors (names to be notified to the Chief Executive prior to the meeting)
Conservative Group 1: (name to be notified to the Chief Executive prior to the meeting)
Labour Group 1: (name to be notified to the Chief Executive prior to the meeting)
Green Group 1: (name to be notified to the Chief Executive prior to the meeting)

South Oxhey Community Board (run/organised by Countryside/Home Group) –

Liberal Democrats 1: Councillor Andrew Scarth
Conservative 1: Councillor Rue Grewal
Labour 1: Councillor Joan King

Shareholder and Commercial Ventures Board

Liberal Democrats 3: Councillors Stephen Giles-Medhurst, Keith Martin and Sarah Nelmes
Conservative 1: Councillor Abbas Merali
Labour 1: Councillor Stephen Cox

RESOLVED:

That the appointments to the Other Council bodies be agreed.

CL23/23 APPOINTMENT OF THE CHAIRS AND VICE-CHAIRS FOR EACH OF THE LOCAL AREA FORUMS

Divisions took place where the number of nominations exceeded the number of vacancies, these cases being indicated by an asterisk as set out below:

RESOLVED:

Area Forum	Chair	Vice-Chair
Chorleywood and Sarratt	Raj Khiroya	Phil Williams(*)
Rickmansworth	Sarah Nelmes(*)	Tony Humphreys

Croxley Green
Watford Rural (*)

Steve Drury(*)
Andrew Scarth(*)

Paul Rainbow
Anne Winter(*)

The voting for the nominations being 19 For the Liberal Democrat Nominations, 16 Against and 1 Abstention.

The following nominations for Chair and Vice Chair did not exceed the number of vacancies and were agreed by general assent by Council

Abbots Langley

Jon Tankard

Stephen Giles-
Medhurst

RESOLVED:

That the appointments to the Chair and Vice Chair of the Local Forums for 2023/24 be agreed.

CL24/23 APPOINTMENT OF OUTSIDE BODIES

RESOLVED:

That the Council representatives to the Outside Bodies be as set out below for 2023/24:

Chilterns Conservation Board	Councillor Jon Tankard
Denham Aerodrome Consultative Committee	Councillor Raj Khiroya
Hertfordshire Building Preservation Trust Ltd	Councillor Jon Tankard
HCC Health Scrutiny Committee	Councillor Tony Humphreys
Three Rivers Museum Trust	Councillor Keith Martin
New Agreement Traffic Management Act 2004 Adjudication Joint Committee (PATROLAJC)	Councillor Paul Rainbow with Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst as substitute Member
Hertfordshire Police and Crime Scrutiny Panel	Councillor Andrew Scarth with substitute Member Councillor Sarah Nelmes
Hertfordshire Armed Forces Covenant	Councillor Jon Tankard
Herts Climate Change and Sustainability Partnership	Councillor Jon Tankard with substitute member Councillor Phil Williams
Herts Growth Board	Councillor Sarah Nelmes with substitute Member Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst
South West Herts Strategic Planning Members Group (SPMG)	Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst with substitute Councillor Matthew Bedford
Watford and Three Rivers Trust (observer rep)	Councillor Sara Bedford
East of England LGA	Councillor Sarah Nelmes
Herts Waste Partnership	Councillor Paul Rainbow with substitute Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst
LGA General Assembly	Councillor Sarah Nelmes with substitute Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst
Moor Park Mansion Heritage Foundation Trust	Councillors Andrew Scarth, Abbas Merali, Stephen King
Abbots Langley Community Centre-Management Committee	Councillor David Major

RESOLVED:

That the appointments to the Outside Bodies for 2023/24 be agreed.

CL25/23 SENIORS' CHAMPION

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Keith Martin be appointed the Member Champion for 2023/24.

CL26/23 YOUNG PERSONS' CHAMPION

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Jon Tankard be appointed the Young Persons' Champion for 2023/24

CL27/23 MEMBER TRAINING CHAMPION

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Sarah Nelmes be appointed the Member Training Champion for 2023/24.

CL28/23 INDEPENDENT PANEL ON MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES

RESOLVED:

Agreed by general assent to reconstitute the above Panel to review Members' allowances. By statute, all appointments must be external to the Council and agreed that the Chief Executive makes the appointments.

CHAIR

COUNCIL – 11 JULY 2023

SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY ALLOWANCE FOR GROUP LEADER OF GREEN GROUP 2023/24 AND ANY AMENDMENT REQUIRED TO THE SCHEME FOR MEMBER ALLOWANCES 2023/2024

1. Summary

- 1.1 The report is being presented to Council following a meeting of the Independent Remuneration Panel on 20 June 2023 where the Panel were asked to consider whether to amend the Councils Scheme of Members Allowances for 2023/2024 by including a Special Responsibility Allowance (SRA) for the Group Leader of the Green Group for 2023/24 since they became a Group in May 2023.

2. Detail

2.1 *Special Responsibility Allowances 2023/24*

- 2.1.1 In November 2022 the Panel established the following principles for the Group Leader Allowance:

- Leader Allowance - 2 x basic (£10,920)
- Main opposition Leader Allowance - 0.75 x basic (£4,095)
- Other opposition Leader Allowance – 0.3 x basic (£1,640)

- 2.1.2 It is for the Panel to recommend to Council any SRA to be awarded and the amount. If an allowance is agreed by Council to be awarded, then the scheme of Member Allowances for 2023/24 would need to be amended accordingly.

- 2.1.3 When considering whether to provide the Green Group Leader with a Special Responsibility Allowance the Panel agreed that the number of members in the Group was not relevant as for a smaller group there were less people to share the burden. The Group Leader of the Green Group has only 2 people to consult.

- 2.2 The Panel will in the autumn review all the Members Allowances and present a report to Full Council in December 2023 for the Councils Scheme of Members Allowances for 2024/2025.

- 2.3 It should be noted that the Council are not able to withhold payment of the allowance. It is for the Member to decide how they wish to use that allowance.

3. Options and Reasons for Recommendation

- 3.1 To accord with the Local Authority (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 details on the recommendations from the Panel on the Members' Allowances the Council decision on the amendment to the Councils Scheme of Members Allowance 2023/24 must be published after the Council meeting.

- 3.2 Having considered all the information provided the Panel agreed to recommend to Council that the Green Group Leader receive an allowance of £1,640 in line with the other Opposition Group Leader allowance.

4. Policy/Budget Implications

4.1 As there is no budget provision, if Council agree the Panel recommendation the increase in SRA would need to be reported as a variance within Budget Monitoring.

5. Legal Implications

5.1 Regulation 5 of the Local Authority (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 provides for a SRA to be paid to a Group Leader

5.2 The Council must consider the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel in deciding on the proposed amendment to the Councils Scheme of Members Allowances 2023/24 and must give reasons if it departs from the recommendations.

5.3 The Councils Scheme of Members Allowances 2023/24 can be amended at any time (Regulation 10(3)).

5.4 If the scheme is amended the Council is required to publicise details of the new scheme in the local newspaper and on its website.

6. Equal Opportunities Implications

6.1 Relevance Test

Has a relevance test been completed for Equality Impact?	No – there is a requirement for the Council to consider the level of allowance when a new Political Group is established.
Did the relevance test conclude a full impact assessment was required?	Not applicable

6.2 Impact Assessment

No Impact Assessment required.

7. Staffing Implications

7.1 The Committee Team organise all the allowance payments.

8. Environmental, Community Safety, Public Health, Customer Services Centre and Communications and Website Implications.

8.1 None specific.

9. Risk and Health & Safety Implications

9.1 The Council has agreed its risk management strategy which can be found on the website at <http://www.threerivers.gov.uk>. In addition, the risks of the proposals in the report have also been assessed against the Council's duties under Health and Safety legislation relating to employees, visitors and persons affected by our operations. The risk management implications of this report are detailed below.

9.2 The subject of this report is covered by the Council’s corporate plan. Any risks resulting from this report will be included in the risk register and, if necessary, managed within this plan.

Nature of Risk	Consequence	Suggested Control Measures	Response <i>(tolerate, treat terminate, transfer)</i>	Risk Rating <i>(combination of likelihood and impact)</i>
Not undertaking our democratic obligations to review and provide a Group Leader Allowance	Three Rivers DC does not fulfil its obligations	Panel review and make a recommendation to Council on the level of allowance	Treat	2

9.3 The above risks are scored using the matrix below. The Council has determined its aversion to risk and is prepared to tolerate risks where the combination of impact and likelihood scores 6 or less.

Very Likely ----- Likelihood ----- ▼ Remote	Low 4	High 8	Very High 12	Very High 16
	Low 3	Medium 6	High 9	Very High 12
	Low 2	Low 4	Medium 6	High 8
	Low 1	Low 2	Low 3	Low 4
	Impact			
	Low -----▶ Unacceptable			

Impact Score

Likelihood Score

4 (Catastrophic)

4 (Very Likely (≥80%))

3 (Critical)	3 (Likely (21-79%))
2 (Significant)	2 (Unlikely (6-20%))
1 (Marginal)	1 (Remote (≤5%))

9.4 In the officers' opinion none of the new risks above, were they to come about, would seriously prejudice the achievement of the Strategic Plan and are therefore operational risks. The effectiveness of the management of operational risks is reviewed by the Audit Committee annually.

Recommendations

10.1 To recommend to Council that the Green Group Leader receive an allowance of £1,640 in line with the other Opposition Group Leader allowance.

Report prepared by: Sarah Haythorpe, Principal Committee Manager

Report checked by: Stephen Rix, Associate Director Legal and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer)

Background Papers: none

Appendix 1 – 2023/24 Member Allowances Scheme

Appendix 1 – 2023/24 Member Allowances Scheme

Leader of the Council - £10,920

Lead Members (x7) - £5,460

Chair of Planning - £5,460

Chair of Audit - £2,730

Chair of Regulatory Services and Licensing Committee - £2,730

Main Opposition Group Leader - £4,095

Other Opposition Group Leader (x1) £1,638