

Questions from Councillors

08/07/2025

Questions to lead members and chairs,
including responses

The Questions received have been numbered and ordered as follows. The responses to the questions follows in order after the table of questions.

Number	From	Topic
Questions to the Leader		
1	Sarah Nelmes	Local Plan Funding
2	Stephen Cox	328 Bus Route
3	Joan King	Local Plan Green Belt
4	Chris Mitchell	Red Cross Site
5	Philip Hearn	Extra Evidence for Local Plan
6	Christopher Alley	Carpenders Farm Development Consultation
7	Christopher Alley	Sites on the Green Belt in Carpenders Park
8	Vicky Edwards	Regulation 18 Consultations Green Belt
9	Vicky Edwards	Data Centre Appeal Grey Belt
10	Vicky Edwards	Grey Belt Assessment
11	Vicky Edwards	Brief to Council Local Plan Sub Committee
12	Vicky Edwards	Advice Given to Abbots Langley Parish Regulation 15
13	Vicky Edwards	Abbots Langley Neighbourhood Plan
14	Vicky Edwards	Batchworth and Abbots Langley Neighbourhood Plan
15	Vicky Edwards	M25 Grey Belt
16	Vicky Edwards	M25 Grey Belt Consultant Fees
17	Vicky Edwards	M25 Grey Belt Planning Practice Guidance
18	Ian Campbell	Breakspeare School Move
19	Ian Campbell	Breakspeare School CIL Funds
20	Ian Campbell	Breakspeare School Special Needs School
21	Oliver Cooper	Intersex Progress Flag
22	Oliver Cooper	Intersex Progress Flag
23	Oliver Cooper	Union Flag
24	Vicky Edwards	Street Cleaning
25	Oliver Cooper	Planning Training
26	Mike Sims	Petitions
27	Oliver Cooper	Shannon House
59	Rue Grewal	Carpenders Park Green Belt Review
66	Oliver Cooper	Conservation
Lead Member for Community Engagement, Public Safety and Housing		
28	Rue Grewal	Anti-Social Behaviour
29	Rue Grewal	Environmental Issues Carpenders Park

30	Christopher Alley	CCTV Carpenders Park
31	Vicky Edwards	PSPO Aerodrome Way and Dowding Way
32	Andrea Fraser	PSPO Rickmansworth High street and Moneyhill Parade
33	Christopher Alley	Holi Bonfire
Lead Member for General Public Services		
34	Stephen Giles-Medhurst	Abbots Langley Parking
35	Joan King	Verge Hardening
36	Stephen Cox	CCTV
37	Rue Grewal	Bus Service
38	Chris Mitchell	EV points Croxley Green
39	Narinder Sian	Beryl Bike Scheme
40	Narinder Sian	School Parking
41	Narinder Sian	PSPO
42	Philip Hearn	Ferry Car Park
43	Andrea Fraser	EV Parking Spaces
44	Vicky Edwards	Parking Primrose Hill
45	Vicky Edwards	Parking Primrose Hill
46	Vicky Edwards	High Elms Lane Parking
47	Vicky Edwards	Parking St Michael's School
48	Vicky Edwards	Parking at High Elms Lane
49	Ian Campbell	Parking Enforcement Income
50	Ian Campbell	Parking Enforcement
51	Ian Campbell	Parking Enforcement
52	Ian Campbell	Bedmond Village Parking Management Programme
53	Reena Ranger	Road Sweeping
54	Andrea Fraser	Signage
Lead Member for Sustainability and Climate Change		
55	Rue Grewal	Carpenders Park Climate Change
56	Cheryl Stungo	River Chess Water Quality
57	Cheryl Stungo	Carbon Emissions
58	Cheryl Stungo	Biodiversity Net Gain
Lead Member for Resources, Regeneration and Economic Development		
60	Chris Mitchell	Heating system
61	Chris Mitchell	Special Expenses Croxley Green
62	Narinder Sian	Sustainable Transport options

63	Philip Hearn	Cycle Lane A404
64	Philip Hearn	Cycle Lane A404
65	Andrea Fraser	Conservation Area Appraisals
67	Oliver Cooper	CIL Scoring Sheet
68	Christopher Alley	Community Infrastructure Levy
69	Reena Ranger	Bench Grove Green
Chair of Planning Committee		
70	Philip Hearn	Listed Building Enforcement Notice
71	Oliver Cooper	Probity in Planning
72	Vicky Edwards	Section 106 St Albans
73	Andrea Fraser	Conservation Signage
74	Oliver Cooper	Intersex Progress Pride Flag
75	Andrea Fraser	Enforcement
Chair of Licensing Committee		
76	Ciaran Reed	Licensing Enforcement
Chair of Audit Committee		
77	Ciaran Reed	Risk Management Strategy

Questions to the Leader of the Council

From Sarah Nelmes	
1	<p>Can the Leader please re-confirm that the successful bid by Three Rivers Council for £70,000 towards our essential Green Belt review and £227,962 to enable additional work on finishing its revised Local Plan did NOT compel the Council to agreeing to any housing figures proposed under the NPPF?</p>
	<p>Correct. The funding received to assist timely completion of the Local Plan did not include any stipulation that the standard method housing need figures should be met in full. Only that the Council is considering an increase in housing numbers, which is the case when compared to the low housing growth option that was expected to be rejected by the Inspector at the Local Plan examination in public.</p> <p>It is misleading and fake news to suggest that council has agreed to the Labour Government housing target. The Council meeting of 7 January rejected that and all Councillors bar the Conservatives voted for the motion that rejected the former Conservative housing target.</p>
From Stephen Cox	
2	<p>Can the Lead Member confirm that this authority is paying a subsidy towards the 328 bus route serving South Oxhey and that this funding was sought and achieved by Labour councillors and that therefore no credit whatsoever is due to the Conservative Party or the Reform Party which has never done anything to help keep South Oxhey's bus service going?</p>
	<p>Correct. The Council provide funding for the 328 bus service to offer the diversion around Muirfield Green on Sundays, this is part of a wider contribution to bus services in the district as part of the Council's agreed Better Buses Programme contribution.</p> <p>Labour councillors in South Oxhey along with Liberal Democrat ones in Oxhey Hall and Hayling have always argued that this area must be supported with buses. The Council budget included this financial support. Conservative Councillors voted against the budget and the support.</p>
From Joan King	
3	<p>Can the Leader advise that throughout the Local Plan process that South Oxhey's Labour councillors have powerfully and successfully advocated retaining Green Belt space around South Oxhey and that persuasive arguments, not advanced by the Conservative Party or</p>

	the Reform Party, have achieved a far more favourable outcome than would otherwise have been the case?
	Correct. Cllr Cox made a strong case for protecting green spaces in the area. A site was promoted by the lease holders to develop part of it between South Oxhey (Hayling) and Oxhey Hall. As the site is actually owned by this Council it will not be released and is not available. My portal to confirm this was voted through at the Special Policy & Resources committee. Conservative Councillors voted against that.
From Chris Mitchell	
4	<p>Following on from the question asked in the February Full Council meeting, I am pleased that the District and Parish Councils are collaborating on the future of the former Red Cross site on Barton Way in Croxley Green.</p> <p>I ask again that we commit to ensuring that the funding package for the new development will ensure best value for the council tax payers in Croxley Green and Three Rivers. This may be achieved by the use of different funds including CIL funds. This would aim to ensure that the lease terms for the community space is as reasonable as possible and aim at peppercorn rents along the lines of the lease for Tanners Wood hall in Abbots Langley. What is the latest plan and timetable going forward?</p>
	<p>As Councillor Mitchell will be aware, the Council must balance various needs and pressure on our financial resources. Both Three Rivers District Council and Croxley Green Parish Council are bound by the same best value principles, which govern how assets are managed. The Council is currently exploring sources of funding to support the scheme, including funding for the 8no. affordable homes.</p> <p>The Council is in the final stage of agreeing the Heads of Terms of the lease with Croxley Green Parish Council. My understanding, including from the Chair of the Parish, is that they are very happy with the proposed arrangement which is beneficial to all parties.</p> <p>The situation at Tanners Wood Hall differs from the circumstances here, but both Councils are currently reviewing options for capital investment and rental levels to support the scheme.</p> <p>A public engagement event will be held at Croxley Green Library on Monday, 14 July, from 3pm to 6pm, which will showcase the first images of the proposed scheme. We plan to submit a full planning</p>

	application by late July/early August. Further updates will be available on the Council's website.
From Philip Hearn	
5	<p>The Leader of the Council claimed in December 2024 that his delay to the Local Plan - so that it abides by the new Labour Government's NPPF - was merely to "gather extra evidence". However, the recommendations presented tonight show thousands of extra homes being potentially built on sites that have not yet ever been consulted on, let alone appeared in any previous draft Local Plan. Will he withdraw and apologise for his claim that it was to "gather extra evidence", when the delay clearly means thousands of homes being built on the Green Belt?</p>
	<p>Cllr Hearn again seeks to mislead, misinform the public and Council of the actual position and quotes items out of context which now appears to be the typical approach of the local Conservatives.</p> <p>The decision of Council, which he and the Conservatives did not support, was clear on the 7 January. It is to gather all the required evidence and additional information, including undertaking the further Green Belt review that will assess the whole area and understand that releasing areas of it will fundamentally undermine its purpose.</p> <p>Cllr Hearn and the Conservatives voted against doing this meaning the Council, if it had supported Cllr Hearn's view would had to have accepted 13,313 homes, mainly in the Green Belt.</p> <p>No matter how the Conservatives spin this and mislead the public that is the case.</p> <p>The Regulation 18 consultation document includes newly submitted sites to be considered in the Local Plan process. It does not in any way commit the Council to including these sites in the Regulation 19 publication version of the plan. Decisions on which sites will come forwards in the Local Plan will be made once evidence work such as the Green Belt Review and Transport assessment have been completed.</p> <p>The alternative to delaying the plan to do further work would have been to press ahead with a plan without all the supporting data and no ability to save areas of the Green Belt as allowed for above under the new NPPF. It would have resulted in my view, and that of others in being rejected at examination leaving the Council having to find sites for the 13,000 homes mainly in the Green Belt. Given the previous Conservative government wanted 12,652 homes I am not</p>

	<p>surprised that Cllr Hearn would not support our attempt to save the Green Belt.</p> <p>It should be noted that only the Conservatives opposed this approach and that the Councils approach has been supported by independent groups such as the Can't Replace our Green Space and the 22 residents' groups of the Three Rivers Joint Residents Association.</p>
From Christopher Alley	
6	<p>The administration has proposed consulting on development at several sites that were previously not proposed or had been rejected, such as Carpenders Farm, east of Oxhey Lane (previously called CFS69, now called NCFS12). Will he explain why this has therefore been included, if it has already supposedly been rejected?</p>
	<p>Alternative versions of sites with new red line boundaries have been re-consulted on throughout the Regulation 18 stage in the plan-making process.</p>
7	<p>The administration has proposed consulting on development at several sites that were previously not proposed or had been rejected, such as Carpenders Farm, east of Oxhey Lane (previously called CFS69, now called NCFS12). Given the Leader of the Council said that the delay to the Local Plan was just to "gather extra evidence" will he confirm that no other sites on the Green Belt in Carpenders Park will be included in the Local Plan that the council submits?</p>
	<p>As per the answer to question 5, decisions on which sites will be included in the Local Plan have not yet been made. These will be informed by robust evidence that will support a Local Plan that realistically can be successful at examination.</p>
From Vicky Edwards	
8	<p>At the data centre appeal, the Planning Inspector said that Three Rivers "undermine[d] its case in relation to landscape and visual impact" (paragraph 239) by previously proposing in a Regulation 18 consultation that housing be built there. The site was then withdrawn only because the promoter wanted to build a data centre, without Three Rivers giving another reason.</p> <p>As such, does the Leader agree with the Planning Inspector that Three Rivers undermined the Green Belt by proposing sites for housing in Regulation 18 consultations and subsequently withdrawing its support for those allocations without giving reasons?</p>

	<p>The site was withdrawn by the promoter, so it was therefore no longer available. That was the reason the site was withdrawn. The site had been previously submitted for housing and assessed by them as a potentially suitable site for housing. This is specific to this individual site and circumstances would differ from site to site, so it is not possible to generalise in this manner.</p>
9	<p>Considering the outcome of the data centre appeal and in particular the findings of the Planning Inspector at that “the land constitutes Grey Belt” (paragraph 179), does the Leader of the Council now accept that he was wrong not to have proceeded with the Low Growth Local Plan, as proposed by Conservative councillors on 17th October 2024, 11th November 2024, 10th December 2024, and 7th January 2025?</p>
	<p>No. As clearly explained on multiple occasions and detailed in the answer to question 5, the low growth version of the local plan would be unsuccessful at examination following the changes in the NPPF. As such, the Council would be in a far worse position having pursued this option. Hundreds of thousands of pounds would have been spent on taking a plan to examination only to be rejected by the Inspector. This would have delayed the plan by a further year to 18 months resulting in more speculative applications potentially winning at appeal. It would have increased the risk of government intervention and almost certainly would have resulted in a government ruling to find sites for 13,313 homes and no opportunity to undertake the allowed for Green Belt review, and including funding for it, that could now show we can protect more of Green Belt. I remain shocked that Cllr Edwards despite being told this on multiple occasions not only does understand the issues but continues to repeat false information on this.</p>
10	<p>At the Local Plan Sub-Committee meeting of 12th May 2025, it was stated that both sites proposed in previous Regulation 18 consultations and those rejected before the Regulation 18 consultation would be subject to Grey Belt assessment. This means that sites that residents had never been asked to properly consider may be included in the Local Plan that the administration submits to the Planning Inspector without having been specifically proposed to be built on in a Regulation 18 consultation even once.</p> <p>Is this fair for residents, and is it accurate to describe this as "gathering extra evidence"?</p>
	<p>This has been answered in earlier questions. Assessing grey belt is a policy requirement set out in the NPPF and PPG. The Council must take a sequential approach to considering sites within the Green Belt, as such we are required to demonstrate that we have</p>

	considered brownfield and grey belt land before any other Green Belt sites.
11	Will Three Rivers please disclose the Counsel's Opinion and the brief to Counsel as referred to in the report to the Local Plan Sub-Committee on 12 May 2025 to the members of the committee?
	Counsel advice is legally privileged and so not disclosable. Relevant excerpts were included in the report to Local Plan Sub-Committee.
12	Under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, Section 3, Three Rivers has a duty to give advice or assistance to qualifying bodies for the purposes, or in connection with, facilitating the making of proposals for neighbourhood development orders, Did Three Rivers advise Abbots Langley Parish Council of the disadvantages of submitting the Abbots Langley Neighbourhood Plan to Three Rivers under Regulation 15 after the 12th March 2025, and as such having to comply with the December 2024 version of the NPPF?
	Yes, the Parish Council were advised that the Neighbourhood Plan would be considered under the new NPPF if submitted after the 12 March. It is unclear which disadvantages are being referred to.
13	When did Abbots Langley Parish Council make Three Rivers aware that it was looking to submit the Abbots Langley Neighbourhood Plan under the December 2024 version of the NPPF?
	11 February 2025
14	Three Rivers' responsibilities with respect to the making of Neighbourhood Plans are underpinned by Town and Country Planning Act 1990, Schedule 4B and include duties to provide advice and assistance (Reg 3) and to submit the draft Neighbourhood Development Order for independent examination (Reg 7). As such, why were councillors prevented from asking questions about Three Rivers' role and responsibilities in respect of the proposal and implementation of the Batchworth and Abbots Langley Neighbourhood Plans at the Policy & Resource committee meetings on 10th March and 9th June 2025?
	The committee was only deciding on whether to agree the Regulation 16 consultation. The questions that were being asked were not within the remit of the Committee and as such could not be asked or answered.

15	<p>I noted in February that land up to the M25 was at risk of being classed as “Grey Belt” by the Planning Inspector under the new National Planning Policy Framework and Planning Practice Guidance.</p> <p>In response, the Leader of the Council claimed that was “incorrect and not borne out either by government policy or expert planning professionals.”</p> <p>His statement was sadly incorrect, as that is exactly what the Planning Inspector decided in the case of the Abbots Langley data centre.</p> <p>Does the realisation that he was incorrect about how Green Belt law works change his view that it is a good idea to choose to abide by the new Government’s NPPF instead of the old one?</p>
	<p>The M25 may be considered a contributing factor to grey belt in site specific circumstances, however this is not the case in all M25 locations.</p>
16	<p>I noted in February that land up to the M25 was at risk of being classed as “Grey Belt” by the Planning Inspector under the new National Planning Policy Framework and Planning Practice Guidance.</p> <p>In response, the Leader of the Council claimed that was “incorrect and not borne out either by government policy or expert planning professionals.”</p> <p>However, Three Rivers’ own planning consultant – paid for by taxpayers’ money to fight the data centre appeal – disagreed with him, admitting in a response to the Planning Inspector on 25th March 2025: “The presence of the M25 to the north and the small areas of previously development land on the appeal site reduce the contribution of the site to Green Belt purpose (a) to ‘moderate’ rather than ‘strong’.”</p> <p>This was accepted by the Planning Inspector at paragraph 176 and the Secretary of State at paragraph 38 as a key reason why the appeal was allowed.</p> <p>Does the Leader regret paying a planning consultant to agree with a developer that our Green Belt is Grey Belt, given that he himself claimed it was “incorrect and not borne out by either government policy or expert planning professionals”?</p>
	<p>That is not correct, Cllr Edwards own question clearly shows with the statement “the small areas of previously development land on the</p>

	appeal site reduce the contribution of the site to Green Belt purpose” i.e. not the whole site. I now note that Cllr Edwards questions why this council employed and funded expert planning consultants to defend this Councils refusal of the planning permission. I am more than happy this council fought to defend its decision and the rejection of this site supported by residents. I am surprised Cllr Edwards no longer supports that view.
17	<p>I noted in February that land up to the M25 was at risk of being classed as “Grey Belt” by the Planning Inspector under the new National Planning Policy Framework and Planning Practice Guidance.</p> <p>In response, the Leader of the Council claimed that was “incorrect and not borne out either by government policy or expert planning professionals.” Now that he realises, he was wrong, what representations if any has Three Rivers made to the Government about changing this Planning Practice Guidance?</p>
	As Cllr Edwards is aware this Council made considerable representations on the NPPF.
From Ian Campbell	
18	On 23rd May 2025, Cllr Edwards and I were honoured to visit Breakspeare School in Abbots Langley to meet the wonderful staff and children and to understand more about the challenges faced by the school. During our visit, we were struck by the extraordinary provision of education and care provided by the staff but also appreciated that the move to the new site in Croxley is now desperately needed to provide 21st century facilities and to expand the number of spaces available. Will the Leader confirm Three Rivers’ support for the move of Breakspeare School to the new purpose-built site at the former Durrants School Playing Field?
	Three Rivers District Council were consulted on the Hertfordshire County Council planning application for the relocation of the school. No objection was raised in April 2024 to the principle of the relocation although HCC were asked to carefully consider the benefits of the scheme in the Green Belt and the highway implications.
19	On 22nd February 2022, Three Rivers District Council approved a funding request from Hertfordshire County Council for the sum of £901,574 towards the cost of permanently enlarging Breakspeare School. The project proposal was for the permanent enlargement of Breakspere School from 97 to 210 places by relocating the school to a new purpose-built site at the former Durrants School Playing Field. The Approved Infrastructure Projects Report provided at the

	Policy & Resources Committee meeting on 9th June 2025 confirmed that these funds have not yet been released. Although planning permission was granted in October 2024, construction of the school has not yet commenced with groundwater surveys having recently been undertaken at the site. Accordingly, could the Lead Member please confirm that these CIL funds will remain available until such time they are required by the county council to build the new purpose-built site in Croxley?
	A CIL grant agreement is still being finalised for the CIL funding for HCC. In the agreed CIL governance arrangements it advises that if an applicant does not spend CIL money within five years of receipt or does not spend it as agreed, then the Council may require the applicant to repay some or all of those funds. However, this is discretionary and would be determined on the individual merits of each application. This Council remains committed to the CIL allocation for this site and school.
20	On 24th October 2024, Hertfordshire County Council granted planning permission for an expansion of Breakspeare School at a modern, purpose-built site in Croxley Green. Will Three Rivers allocate the site as an education allocation for a special needs school in its draft Local Plan, to ensure it is used for that purpose?
	Decisions on what will be included in the Regulation 19 publication version of the plan have not yet been made. In preparing the local plan a range of uses are considered, however it cannot be confirmed at this stage whether a particular site will be included in the local plan.
From Oliver Cooper	
21	<p>The council decided to fly the “Intersex Progress Flag” – a controversial American flag invented in 2021 that includes reference to Black Lives Matter and transgenderism and intersexuality.</p> <p>The Intersex Progress Flag does not benefit from deemed consent under Schedule 3 of the Town and Country Planning (Control of Advertisement) (England) Regulations 2007. No advertisement consent has been sought by the council, as was required due to the flag clearly being visible from the public realm.</p> <p>Will the council apologise for breaching advertisement consent by unlawfully flying a flag that is not permitted, and commit to not flying the controversial flag again?</p>
	The Progress Pride Flag does not benefit from deemed consent, advertisement consent is required but not planning permission. The

	<p>Pride Flag is deemed consent and does not require advertisement consent.</p> <p>However, it is the Officers view that the Progress Pride Flag is not considered to impact amenity or public safety and thus in accordance with paragraph 141 of the NPPF 2024 it would not be expedient to remove.</p> <p>The Pride flag was created in 1978 as a symbol for the LGBT community at the time. The original design had 8 stripes (it included pink and purple), however a version with 6 stripes is most commonly seen.</p> <p>Over the years, amendments have been made by different people to be more reflective of the wider LGBTQIA+ community. In 2017, Philadelphia's Office of LGBT Affairs added black and brown stripes to recognise people of colour. In 2018, Daniel Quasar released a version that included black, brown, pink, blue and white stripes in the shape of an arrow, to recognise people of colour and trans people. The arrow represents moving forwards, and it's placement on the left of the flag shows progress still needs to be made. In 2021, Valentino Vecchietti of Intersex Equality Rights UK shared a version that included a yellow triangle with a purple circle, to recognise the intersex community.</p> <p>The progress flag doesn't replace the original flag, but new designs have recognised marginalised communities. The aim of the different versions is to promote inclusion and recognition of intersectionality.</p>
22	<p>Why did the Council choose to fly the "Intersex Progress Flag" – a controversial American flag invented in 2021 that includes reference to Black Lives Matter and</p> <p>transgenderism and intersexuality – from Three Rivers House, and not the Union Flag, on D-Day?</p>
	<p>The Union Flag was flying at Three Rivers House on 6 June 2025.</p>
23	<p>Will the Council commit to routinely flying the Union Flag at Three Rivers House?</p>
	<p>The Council flies the Union Flag at Three Rivers House daily, it is flown at the front of the building. I am surprised that Cllr Copper has not seen this.</p> <p>The Council also recognises a range of commemorative days throughout the year and flies a number of different flags, which are flown at the side of the building.</p>

From Vicky Edwards	
24	<p>The Leader of the Council claimed on 24th April 2025 that the Abbotswood Park estate in Leavesden ward had not had its streets cleaned because Three Rivers had never been informed that the roads had been adopted.</p> <p>However, Three Rivers was told on 3rd January at the latest. Furthermore, the map of roads is available online, which officers have confirmed is considered the definitive map, per <i>Fortune v Wiltshire</i> [2012] EWCA Civ 334.</p> <p>Can the Lead Member please confirm whether he still maintains that Three Rivers did not have knowledge on 24th April 2025 that the roads had been adopted, or does he withdraw his statement?</p>
	<p>Environmental Protection were made aware of the adoption of Abbotswood Park in April 2025 following confirmation from colleagues in Land Registry and my intervention with the County Council who only then confirmed the position. At this point it was added to the cleansing schedule.</p>
From Oliver Cooper	
25	<p>The planning training on 6th and 13th May highlighted Probity in Planning, the Local Government Association guide to how to make good planning decisions.</p> <p>At page 8, that document says, "Serving councillors must not act as agents for people pursuing planning matters within their authority, even if they are not involved in the decision making on them."</p> <p>Despite this, Cllr Jon Tankard – not just a councillor, but a Lead Member who is involved in the making of planning policy – continues to act as agent for applications in the district.</p> <p>Will the councillor be advised to cease acting as agent for applications within the district, which is in defiance of guidance issued by the Local Government Association and part of mandatory planning training for councillors and on which he has a clear conflict of interests?</p>
	<p>Page 2 of the stated document also confirms that councillors and officers should be familiar with, and adhere to, their own local authority codes of conduct and guidance. The advice set out in the LGA document is not intended to be prescriptive and local circumstances may necessitate local variations of policy and practice. Every council should regularly review the way in which it conducts its planning business.</p>

	<p>Cllr Tankard does not sit on any of the planning committees.</p> <p>The Council had allowed Cllr Tankard to submit planning applications where he acts as an agent while serving as a Councillor. While this has been allowed for a number of years now, we have always implemented strict controls and procedures in place to ensure that an application received by an agent who also serves as a councillor is automatically flagged up to the relevant team and for it to be automatically referred to a committee hearing for further scrutiny.</p>
From Mike Sims	
26	<p>Rule 18(8) of Three Rivers' constitution says that a decision is to be made on how to respond to petitions. This has been interpreted by the council's administration as decided by the administration, without any input or response from any other councillors.</p> <p>Will the Leader commit to amend Three Rivers' constitution to allow responses to petitions by councillors from political groups other than the administration?</p>
	A revision to Rule 18 is on the Council agenda.
From Oliver Cooper	
27	<p>Given Three Rivers spent £2,500 getting Counsel's Opinion to try – and fail – to justify refusing my request for a Regulation 18 consultation on any additional sites it proposed building on the Green Belt, will it get Counsel's Opinion on whether that Shannon House can be subject to an Enforcement Notice ceasing its unlawful use as residential accommodation for reasons provided to Three Rivers in October 2024?</p>
	Officers have previously sought legal advice from the Council's Legal team. Officers are satisfied with this advice. The Council is clear a valid planning permission has been implemented and there is no further action that it can take.
From Rue Grewal	
59	<p>As the Leader will know, I work closely with the Carpenders Park Residents' Association and serve as co-chair of the Can't Replace Green Space group, which has been actively lobbying to protect local green spaces from development for nearly four years.</p> <p>The current Green Belt Review, conducted as part of the emerging Local Plan, is widely expected to identify a number of sites across the district that may fall under the category of 'grey belt'—land within the Green Belt considered to be underperforming or potentially suitable for future release. In Carpenders Park, this has become a prominent topic of resident concern, particularly with regard to local</p>

	<p>sites, like on Oxhey Lane and the surrounding landscape buffer zones.</p> <p>While the technical process is understood, it is essential that public engagement on this issue is proactive, clear, and ward-specific—especially given the scale of interest and the implications for local character, amenity space, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>Could the Portfolio Holder please:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Confirm whether the Green Belt Review will identify and classify land that may be considered ‘grey belt’, and if so, whether this classification is likely to inform future site allocations for development? 2. Set out when and how the full Green Belt Review findings will be published in a format that is accessible to residents, including ward-level implications? 3. Detail what communication and engagement strategy is in place to ensure that Carpenders Park residents are properly informed of any proposals affecting their area prior to Regulation 19 consultation? 4. Confirm the current timeline for the next stages of the Local Plan, including anticipated dates for the publication of the Regulation 19 version, submission to the Planning Inspectorate, and likely timeframes for public hearings? <p>This information is of significant public interest and will be key to maintaining trust in the process and clarity for residents as we move towards finalising the Local Plan.</p>
	<p>The new Green Belt Review will identify grey belt land at the settlement edge. This will inform potential site allocations are expected to take a sequential approach to releasing Green Belt land. Firstly, consider brownfield land, then grey belt then other Green Belt land. Not all brownfield or grey belt sites will be appropriate for development however as they will need to be in sustainable locations and there may be other planning reasons why they are not suitable.</p> <p>The Green Belt Review will be published as a report supported by mapping. It is prepared as supporting evidence for the local plan and considers needs across the District. It will not be broken down to ward-level. The role of the Green Belt review will be to consider what land constitutes grey belt and whether potential development in the local plan would undermine the function of the Green Belt as a whole. It does not consider where sites should go but is part of the evidence that informs decisions on sites.</p> <p>A Regulation 18 consultation on newly submitted sites and policies that have not previously consulted on will be taking place over the summer. Members have requested that officers endeavour to prepare the Regulation 19 Local Plan for November, however it is</p>

	<p>recognised this is an ambitious timetable and the Regulation 18 consultation increases the pressure on achieving this. Submission is currently planned for the spring, then the Council is at the mercy of the inspectorate and their availability for public hearings.</p>
<p>From Oliver Cooper</p>	
66	<p>The Leader of the Council told the Local Plan Sub-Committee on 12th May that he doesn't think it's possible to define which buildings make a negative contribution to a Conservation Area.</p> <p>However, the national Planning Practice Guidance says, "A good appraisal will consider what features make a positive or negative contribution to the significance of the conservation area, thereby identifying opportunities for beneficial change or the need for planning protection."</p> <p>Will the newly-written Conservation Area appraisals not state which features make a negative contribution? If not, why is the council ignoring statutory guidance on what constitutes a good appraisal and missing the opportunity to raise the standard of our Conservation Area appraisals to the best-in-class seen elsewhere?</p>
	<p>This is again misquoting and out of context. New Conservation Area Appraisals do note which buildings make a negative contribution, and this will be included in the new conservation area appraisals.</p>

Questions to the Lead Member for Community Engagement, Public Safety and Housing

From Rue Grewal	
28	<p>Antisocial behaviour—particularly related to drug use and street-based disruption—is a growing concern for many residents in Carpenders Park. While I understand policing is Hertfordshire Police’s responsibility, the District Council plays a key role through partnership working, shared intelligence, and enforcement support.</p> <p>1. Could the Portfolio Holder outline what joint operations or initiatives TRDC has conducted with Hertfordshire Police in the past 12 months specifically within Carpenders Park—such as ASB sweeps, drug-related enforcement, or joint patrols?</p> <p>2. How many incidents were targeted as part of these operations (for example, drug-related ASB hotspots or persistent nuisance sites), and what measurable results were achieved—such as community protection notices issued, arrests assisted, or intelligence-led interventions?</p> <p>3. Crucially, how have residents—particularly vulnerable groups like families with children, older people, and those with mental health needs—been engaged before, during, and after these operations to report whether they genuinely feel safer, supported, or more confident in returning to public spaces?</p>
	<p>Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) in Carpenders Park remains low, this includes drug related ASB and crime. The Community Safety Partnership (CSP), which is made up of Hertfordshire Constabulary, Three Rivers District Council, Housing Associations, Hertfordshire County Council, Probation, Voluntary Sector and Fire Service, work together to address issues in the area.</p> <p>Over the past 12 months a range of initiatives in Carpenders Park and surrounding areas have been delivered, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In May 2024 the ‘Ad Van’ was on Prestwick Road near Carpenders Park to undertake a Cuckooing Campaign to raise awareness around cuckooing and where to get support. • Three Rivers Council worked in partnership with the Police Crime Prevention Officer in October 2024 following reports of increased burglaries. This included door knocks and offering crime prevention advice. • Members of the Community Safety Team at TRDC formed part of a community engagement meeting in Carpenders Park with the Police and Crime Commissioner in February 2025. • The Community Safety Partnership have also carried out foot patrols with officers from the Neighbourhood Police Team at Delta Gain in September 2024 and February 2025 to address shoplifting as well as working with local shopkeepers to provide

	<p>advice.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two new CCTV cameras are due to be installed soon in Delta Gain and at Prestwick Road/Station Approach. <p>Our Anti-Social Behaviour Action Group meet monthly to address cases and work in partnership to tackle ASB and we work with partners such as Hertfordshire Mind Network and Change, Grow, Live who support people with mental health and drug or alcohol problems. Through regular police patrols, the Community Safety Partnership is reassured that ASB is on a downward trend in that area. We want to ensure that residents continue to feel safe and therefore any ASB should be reported to the council or via 101.</p>
29	<p>Since May 2023, Carpenders Park has recorded 78 environmental issues via FixMyStreet. These include fly-tipping on Delta Gain, Harrow Way, and Prestwick Road to name a few, uncollected bins, blocked drains near the railway bridge and Oxhey Lane, and overgrown vegetation along key walking routes.</p> <p>While the Council continues to promote its environmental responsibilities, too many of our residents feel that their area is being neglected. Long-standing issues are left unresolved, and the visible deterioration is affecting community pride and public confidence. Despite this, the strength of local feeling remains clear. I recently helped organise a community litter pick with the Carpenders Park Residents Association and the Can't Replace Green Space group. Dozens of residents — including children — turned out. It was a reminder of how much people care and how hard they're willing to work to keep their streets clean.</p> <p>Could the Portfolio Holder please set out:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> How many of the 78 reported environmental issues in Carpenders Park since May 2023 remain unresolved as of today, and what is the average response time? Does the Council have a formal 7-day resolution target, and how does performance in Carpenders Park compare? For fly-tipping specifically in and around Delta Gain, Harrow Way, and Prestwick Road, can the Council provide a monthly breakdown of incidents and the total clean-up cost for the 2024–25 financial year? What targeted interventions — including CCTV, signage, or patrols — have been deployed in these hotspot locations, and what impact have they had on repeat offences? Will the Council commit to producing a Carpenders Park Environmental Action Plan, with ward-level performance tracking and a clear process for resident engagement and feedback?
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Fix my Street reports come in to CSC where they are triaged. Any jobs that are relevant to TRDC (across a range of departments) are then raised on the Granicus system to be

	<p>passed to the correct officer/team. TRDC Environmental Protection officers have no jobs outstanding in this area. TRDC Environmental Protection cannot comment as to issues that sit with other agencies e.g. CSC may triage some jobs that may be HCC functions (and they advise residents accordingly if this is the case). The council has no formal resolution target.</p> <p>2. The last major issue we had in Carpenders Park was August 2024 (bins at Delta Gain). Regular inspections were undertaken for two months, after which it was felt this issue was resolved.</p> <p>Fly tip numbers;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There were no reported fly tips in Harrow Way in 2024-25. • Prestwick Road – 8 November 2024, 4 February 2025, 26 February 2025 • Delta Gain – 26 February 2025 <p>Individual cost details are not available as these were cleared by the council's street cleansing team.</p> <p>3. As per sub-question 2, Environmental Enforcement Officers carried out regular inspections at Delta Gain for two months and reported issues to the managing agent who dealt with them. No further reports received.</p> <p>4. The Council has just two Environmental Enforcement Officers to cover the whole of the district. They have a wide remit of investigational work, preparing legal cases, dealing with managing agents in relation to collections from flats etc. Within the current resource the Service cannot commit to this request.</p> <p>5.</p>
From Christopher Alley	
30	<p>In November 2024, the council agreed to install CCTV in South Oxhey, Carpenders Park, Rickmansworth, and Abbots Langley, with the Leader promising that the cameras would be 'with Three Rivers by early February'. Several months later, which of those cameras have now been installed, and why have those that haven't been installed not been?</p>
	<p>After the locations were agreed by the Community Safety Coordinating Group a tender process took place and the contract was awarded to Hertfordshire CCTV Partnership. The Community Safety Partnership then undertook statutory public consultations regarding the camera locations and HCCTV undertook electrical testing all of which is now complete. All equipment has been purchased, including twin-camera models featuring two 360-degree cameras and a third downward-facing camera for enhanced coverage.</p> <p>The contractor is awaiting confirmation of installation dates from Hertfordshire County Council, as road closures and temporary traffic lights are required to ensure safe completion. Given the complexity of this task, careful coordination is essential to maintain safety standards</p>

	for both the installation team and the public. We are in the final stages now of the process and hope that this will be as soon as possible.
From Vicky Edwards	
31	Will Three Rivers look to introduce a Public Space Protection Order prohibiting congregation of private hire vehicle drivers and antisocial behaviour by them at the junction of Aerodrome Way and Dowding Way?
	<p>The Council have not received any recent reports directly concerning anti-social behaviour, noise nuisance or licensing issues in this area.</p> <p>We will continue to work closely and explore any issues arising in the area with Hertfordshire Constabulary. Residential Environmental Health will continue to monitor any reports from these areas and investigate these, should any be received.</p>
From Andrea Fraser	
32	Will the council look to introduce a Public Space Protection Order to tackle excessive loitering and antisocial behaviour by delivery drivers in and around Rickmansworth High Street and Moneyhill Parade, due to the high prevalence of venues served by take-away delivery drivers and significant harm to residents caused by them?
	<p>The Council have not received any recent reports directly concerning anti-social behaviour or licensing issues in this area. We have received a low number of noise complaints on Rickmansworth High Street due to deliveries but none on Moneyhill Parade.</p> <p>We will continue to work closely and explore any issues arising in the area with Hertfordshire Constabulary. Residential Environmental Health will continue to monitor any reports from these areas and investigate these, should any be received.</p>
From Christopher Alley	
33	This year, the council prohibited Holi commemorations in South Oxhey Playing Fields that several hundred members of the local Hindu community had been expected to participate in. Will the council reverse this decision and work with the local Hindu community to allow a safe and celebratory Holi bonfire in time for March 2026?
	<p>The plans for the Holi commemorations were supported by the Council and a request was made for the applicant to submit a Hire of Grounds form to discuss this further. However, when the bonfire aspect of the proposal was considered the applicant was advised that fires would not be permitted.</p> <p>This information was shared with and explained to the applicants and assistance was offered in finding suitable alternative locations. The</p>

	<p>Applicant was referred to Watford and Three Rivers Trust for additional support.</p> <p>Planning for a bonfire as part of the Holi commemorations for 2026 will incur the same difficulties if looking at council owned land.</p>
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Questions to the Lead Member for General Public Services

From Stephen Giles-Medhurst	
34	<p>It has been claimed that Abbots Langley and three named roads has the worst parking problem in Three Rivers. Is this true? Where did you think the so-called information came from?</p>
	<p>Officers are not aware of the data collection method used in this claim as its not from Official figures</p> <p>Official PCN data for 2025 (May 2025) only identifies one road in Abbots Langley in the top ten roads for PCNs issued.</p> <p>I do wish that the Conservatives would stop “inventing” figures that are not from official figures.</p>
From Joan King	
35	<p>Can the Lead member confirm that this authority’s intention to install more verge hardening in South Oxhey within the next 12 months and that funding for this was sought and achieved by Labour councillors and that no credit whatsoever is due to the Conservative Party which voted against it, or the Reform Party which also did nothing.</p>
	<p>Officers have been asked to review the Council’s verge hardening programme and the prioritisation programme with a committee report due later this year. Any requests including those in South Oxhey will be considered as part of this process.</p> <p>Additional funding was agreed in the 2025/26 budget for the South Oxhey parking study which may identify new verge hardening proposals.</p> <p>It is the case that Cllr Cox and others have argued for additional measures, and this is reason additional monies were included in the Council budget. It should be noted that Conservative councillors voted against the budget.</p>
From Stephen Cox	
36	<p>Can the Lead Member advise when the next CCTV camera is due to be installed in South Oxhey and that is an extra one that that was sought and will be achieved by Labour councillors and that no credit whatsoever is due to the Conservative Party which failed to advocate for it, or the Reform Party which also did nothing.</p>
	<p>I hope to have more information and date, if not installed by the time of the Council meeting. I can confirm that Cllr Cox raised this matter with the Leader and at Policy and Resources and as result an additional camera was included and its location discussed with Cllr Cox. The Conservatives played no part in that and indeed voted against the budget that included this.</p> <p>After the locations were agreed by the Community Safety Coordinating Group which included 3 cameras in South Oxhey, a tender process took place and the contract was awarded to Hertfordshire CCTV Partnership. The Community</p>

	<p>Safety Partnership then undertook statutory public consultations regarding the camera locations and HCCTV undertook electrical testing all of which is now complete. All equipment has been purchased, including twin-camera models featuring two 360-degree cameras and a third downward-facing camera for enhanced coverage.</p> <p>The contractor is awaiting confirmation of installation dates from Hertfordshire County Council, as road closures and temporary traffic lights are required to ensure safe completion. Given the complexity of this task, careful coordination is essential to maintain safety standards for both the installation team and the public. We are in the final stages now of the process and hope that this will be as soon as possible.</p>
From Rue Grewal	
37	<p>Carpenders Park suffers from limited and unreliable bus services, particularly for residents without access to a car who need to reach essential destinations such as Watford General Hospital, Hatch End, Harrow, or Northwood. As a ward with pockets of transport deprivation, this lack of connectivity has a direct and disproportionate impact on residents' ability to access healthcare, education, employment, and retail services. The consequences are especially severe for disabled residents, older people, young people, and carers, many of whom rely entirely on public transport for independence and quality of life. Could the Portfolio Holder please set out:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What formal actions the District Council has taken in the past 12 months to lobby Hertfordshire County Council and local bus operators to improve public transport connectivity for Carpenders Park residents. 2. Whether there is any intention to publish a ward-by-ward bus accessibility map or transport equity audit, as part of the District's Local Plan, Climate Strategy, or Health & Wellbeing responsibilities. 3. Whether Carpenders Park residents were consulted or included in the development of any recent transport-related strategies, and what specific criteria the Council uses to identify and address transport inequality in our most underserved communities.
	<p>Hertfordshire County Council (HCC), as the Transport Authority, are responsible for bus services provision across the County. The Council make a small contribution to bus services under the Better Buses Programme but overall responsibility for coordinating services lies with HCC. The Council also support a shopper bus service, currently provided by Communities First, which serves the District.</p> <p>Through the site allocations process of the Local Plan proximity to local services is a consideration used to inform site selection. Future consultation on the Local Plan including a site access summary will occur later in 2025/26. HCC would consult on their transport related strategies including the Local Transport Plan.</p>
From Chris Mitchell	
38	<p>Hertfordshire County Council are carrying out the installation of street EV points across Hertfordshire. Please can you notify us of where these will be</p>

	installed in Croxley Green.
	No details are currently available on specific locations although two target areas have been identified by HCC as a result of previous investigation; these are Croxley Green North (specifically Grove Crescent area) and the area around Community Way car park. These are based on indicative demand. Councillors will be notified of specific sites once they are known.
From Narinder Sian	
39	Following the trial of the Beryl Bike scheme in Croxley Green, how will lessons from the Croxley trial shape the roll-out and what engagement will take place with local communities during the expansion?
	Officers have commenced initial investigations into expanding the Beryl Bike scheme. Data from the Croxley Green pilot scheme will be utilised to inform these future proposals including lessons learnt around base locations and allocated space. Public consultation will occur but the details are still to be determined.
From Narinder Sian	
40	In line with efforts to encourage safe and active travel to school, what action is the Council taking to tackle dangerous parking near schools and improve air quality around school zones?
	<p>All schools in the District with parking restrictions are visited as part of the Civil Enforcement deployment plan and Civil Enforcement Officers will take appropriate action. A School Restriction review is also taking place to ensure correct enforcement occurs.</p> <p>Dangerous parking would be within the remit of Hertfordshire County Council if it is causing a road safety issue and the Police if it is an emergency.</p> <p>The Council is pursuing the adoption of a Local Cycling and Walking Strategy and will seek to develop future schemes to encourage active travel opportunities for school journeys.</p> <p>Air quality around schools falls within the remit of HCC public health teams.</p>
From Narinder Sian	
41	<p>Effectiveness of Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) in Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour and Nuisance from Dogs</p> <p>Given the ongoing concerns from residents about irresponsible dog ownership, including dog fouling on pavements and wildlife being attacked in our nature reserves, can the Council explain what steps are being taken to ensure the Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) is effectively enforced?</p> <p>Data obtained via FOI reveals that only six Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) have been issued for breaches of the PSPO since 2017, with no further enforcement actions or prosecutions recorded. Does the Council believe this</p>

	level of enforcement is adequate, and what measures will be introduced to strengthen the protection of our public spaces, particularly in light of new grazing initiatives in our nature reserves?
	The Council has recently consulted on an extension of and variations to the current PSPO relating to dog control in public. The PSPO was extended, as an urgent decision, and the variations are due to be discussed and considered at the forthcoming General Public Services and Community Engagement Committee. For the majority of dog owners the existence of the PSPO, supplemented by education is sufficient to achieve compliance and education over enforcement is our focus where possible. At present enforcement action is largely reactive rather than proactive as the council has limited resources in this area with just one Animal Welfare and Licensing Inspector, whose role covers a wide range of tasks, including statutory functions. The proposed amendments to the PSPO would introduce new controls to protect grazing stock.
From Philip Hearn	
42	The Lead Member had promised on 2nd December 2024 that commuters would be allowed to park in the council's Ferry Car Park from "early in the New Year" 2025 We're now in the second half of the year, car park prices at Chorleywood station have been increased yet again, and the scheme has not been introduced. The consultation on the Ferry Car Park closed on 25th April: two months ago. Every weekday's delay is hundreds of pounds lost to residents and the council. Why has there been a delay and when will the changes finally be made?
	The proposals for the Ferry Car Park were identified as a priority addition to the current work programme and Officers have worked hard to prioritise this scheme and take it through the relevant statutory processes as quickly as possible. Officers are considering the consultation responses and it is anticipated a Traffic Regulation Order will be advertised within the next 2 months. Implementation will be dependent on factors such as the lead times for the required physical infrastructure to deliver the project.
From Andrea Fraser	
43	What percentage of the time are the parking spaces for electric vehicles at the Rickmansworth High Street West car park – next to Marks & Spencer – occupied, and how does this compare to the spaces at the car park not reserved for electric vehicles?
	The EV bays in this car park are not currently in use/live and as such there is no data. We do not currently monitor the utilisation of individual parking bays.
From Vicky Edwards	
44	At the Policy & Resources Committee meeting on 9th June 2025, £25,000 of expenditure for parking management was rephased into 2025/26, including for Primrose Hill. Does this signify a further delay to Three Rivers' Parking Management Programme?

	<p>£50,080 was requested as a revenue carry forward into the 25/26 financial year. Some of these monies are to allow additional parking enforcement in the District, whilst some is to be used for the Parking Management Programme. The Parking Management Programme is a rolling programme. TRO projects can take different lengths of time depending on several factors including complexity and public consultation responses. Officers continue to implement schemes from the previous and current Programmes. It is acknowledged that recent staffing challenges and competing priorities has affected the delivery of the previous programme.</p>
45	<p>The amended Primrose Hill parking scheme and draft Traffic Regulation Order that were consulted on in January-February 2025 were vastly different to the proposals consulted on two years ago. The previous proposals included residents' parking and several types of restrictions on different parts of the road. By contrast, the new proposals scrap the proposal for residents' parking and include a no waiting restriction on the western side of Primrose Hill and Railway Terrace.</p> <p>In light of the proposed reduction in available parking space, how can residents be confident that the scheme once adopted will alleviate the parking problems in the Primrose Hill area?</p>
	<p>The previous proposals were not supported locally as identified in the public consultations. Officers are working with Traffic Engineers to deliver a proposal that manages parking concerns and demands in the area.</p> <p>I am surprised that Cllr Edwards, who is not a ward councillor, now is questioning this scheme and suggesting it seems that the Council should ignore the wishes of residents who did not support the residents parking scheme. The Council still has a duty to address the road safety concerns here and there have been accidents here and is indeed doing that.</p>
46	<p>Three Rivers has been working on proposals for new parking restrictions in the Primrose Hill area for the last four to five years. Given the delay in introducing a scheme, is the Lead Member able to confirm the timeline for implementation of that scheme?</p>
	<p>Subject to the scheme being agreed for implementation, it is anticipated that it will be delivered by the end of the calendar year.</p>
47	<p>On 13th June 2025, Three Rivers published its formal consultation and draft Traffic Regulation Order for High Elms Lane. The proposals around the Crematorium and St Michael's School include the installation of time-limited parking bays and no waiting restrictions and appear to be very similar, or near on identical, to the proposals informally consulted on last summer. Considering that St Michael's School and many residents around Bucknalls Lane and Lemonfield Drive objected to the last set of proposals, how confident can they be that the Council will take their views into account this time round?</p>

	<p>All responses to a TRO public consultation are carefully considered before progressing to the next stage of the process. However, not every suggestion or objection will result in a change to the proposals. Not all the proposals were objected to as is claimed, by St Michaels School. They did have a concern about the removal of very short section of unrestricted parking between the A405 clearway the entrance to their coach pick up drop off and the zig zag markings. This was looked at from a safety aspect the clear advice was that is a safety issue, especially in therewith visibility and also where there have been accidents.</p> <p>I am surprised that Cllr Edwards who is not a ward councillor, has not spoken to ward members about this, is unaware of the long-standing safety concerns here and appears to want to ignore that and not make the area safer for pupils. It should be noted that other schools in the road support these proposals and other aspects are spurted by St Michaels School.</p>
48	<p>The proposal to time-limit the bays near St Michael's School may benefit visitors to the Garston Crematorium, but would negatively impact of both residents and people seeking to park close to the school.</p> <p>As such, do the current proposals show that the Council is unable to be even-handed when weighing up the interests of West Herts Crematorium – in respect of which it is the lead council – with the interests of residents and St Michael's School?</p>
	<p>That is not case, and additional grasscrete bays in places are being created. The bays are not reserved for the crematorium and can be used by anyone. The short stay proposals encourage churn and prevent all day parking in an area of high parking and loading demand. All consultation responses are considered.</p>
From Ian Campbell	
49	<p>At the Policy & Resources Committee meeting on 9th June 2025, it was confirmed that parking enforcement income, including penalty charge notices, exceeded the budget. Will any positive variance against the budget be used to fund additional parking enforcement and/or other measures to act as a deterrent to stop illegal parking on those roads that have the most enforcement issues?</p>
	<p>Whilst the income on the Parking Account exceeded the identified budgets in 2024/25 there remains a deficit on the Parking Account.</p>
50	<p>Given Three Rivers has data on how many parking enforcement patrols, vehicle inspections, and parking tickets are issued on each road each month, will Three Rivers proactively ensure that parking resources automatically get redirected to those places with the most parking breaches, rather than asking for anecdotal requests from councillors?</p>
	<p>Hertsmere BC are responsible for the enforcement of Traffic Regulation</p>

	Orders in the District. They regularly review their deployment plan to ensure all areas of control are visited within their agreed working hours. This deployment plan is informed by monitoring including identified areas of concern. Officer and member requests are just part of the considerations to inform this plan.
51	Recent parking enforcement data shows that the area around Abbots Langley High Street has some of the worst parking problems in the district. As such, will the Lead Member commit to spending some of the surplus to fund projects around Abbots Langley High Street to discourage illegal parking including much better signage to Causeway car park and to explore increasing the number of short-term parking bays available?
	PCN data identifies a number of areas of high PCN issue which includes just one Abbots Langley road (within the top ten roads Jan to May 2025). However, additional out of hours parking enforcement is currently being trialled for two months in areas of identified concern including Abbots Langley High Street. The Council is currently reviewing signage to the Causeway House car park as part of the wider EV charging implementation in the car park at the request of the Leader and new larger signage are expected to be installed.
52	Please can the Lead Member confirm whether Bedmond village centre has been added to the parking scheme request list for consideration into the Parking Management Programme, and if not, why not?
	Roads in Bedmond, specifically High Street, Toms Lane, Bluebell Drive and Chapel Way and Bell Close, are on the Parking Management Programme request list following request from the Bedmond Parish Councillor.
From Reena Ranger	
53	In 2024, the Lead Member agreed to look into sweeping leaves where there was risk of flooding more often and removing the debris. Could the Lead Member please list the areas that have prioritised for this reason, as well as those which experience more footfall from vulnerable residents so not to pose a risk for residents safe passage?
	Currently the streets team do not have any areas specifically prioritised due to flood risk. In the past there have been issues in Batchworth Lane and Westbury Ave Moor Park where officers were having to clear every two weeks, however following Highway gully work this problem was resolved. Locations across the district are dynamically reviewed by the street teams and undertake additional clearing as and when necessary. Railway Terrace in Kings Langley experiences issues which are caused by the lanes being on a gradient and the development of land that previously provided natural drainage. At this location the streets team also experience issues with parked vehicles which can cause obstruction to the sweepers. Such locations are dealt with advance notices and leaflets outlining parking restrictions which are used to ensure the sweeping can take place.

	<p>The streets crews have a rolling schedule regarding leaf fall, as with regular street cleansing this is dynamically reviewed and if a particular area needs an extra attention this is accommodated as soon as possible with the available resource, with individual streets reprioritised as needed. It should be noted that leaf fall is not a TRDC responsibility until the leaves have broken down and become detritus – prior to this it is technically a county Highways' responsibility, however, to assist our residents officers of this council do undertake leaf clearance.</p>
From Andrea Fraser	
54	<p>Will the Lead Member please explain why, in spite of meetings being held with various local groups, parish councils and ward councillors over the past two years asking for various signage improvements, nothing has been done to improve the Three Rivers-owned signage on and around Rickmansworth High Street?</p>
	<p>Officers continue to work to provide new signage around the station and near Three Rivers House. An Officer vacancy and other work priorities has resulted in some delays to the signage. Wayfinding signage and car parking signage is also to be considered as part of the work programme later this year. It should be noted that the Conservatives voted against the budget that included additional monies for items such as this.</p>

Questions to the Lead Member for Sustainability and Climate Change

	From Rue Grewal
55	<p>Carpenders Park, like many wards, is facing increasing pressure on its green spaces while also feeling the effects of rising living costs and environmental decline. As part of the Council's climate strategy and community investment commitments, residents are increasingly asking whether our ward is receiving a fair share of support and sustainable development.</p> <p>This issue is frequently raised at my councillor surgeries, particularly by residents who feel their area is overlooked when it comes to environmental funding, green space maintenance, and access to sustainability grants.</p> <p>Could the Portfolio Holder please:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Confirm what direct investment has been made into Carpenders Park parks and open spaces in the 2024–25 financial year, and how much was allocated to our ward through the capital budget for environmental or green infrastructure projects? 2. Provide data on how many Carpenders Park households have received support from TRDC's energy efficiency grant schemes, insulation programmes, or other climate-related home improvements since April 2024? 3. Publish a ward-by-ward breakdown of new trees planted, biodiversity schemes funded, or other measurable outcomes delivered as part of the Council's Climate Action Plan? <p>Ensuring transparency around environmental investment is essential to build trust, promote equitable outcomes across the district, and demonstrate that the Council's green ambitions are benefitting every community — including those like Carpenders Park, where green space is limited and resident needs are high.</p>
	<p>.</p> <p>1. No capital budget has been used. However, UK Shared Prosperity Fund grant funding was used to restore approximately 100m of hedgerow at Romily Drive open space, completing an action of the Biodiversity Opportunities Audit. The hedgerow was restored to boost biodiversity value. The former hedgerow was overgrown, and had gaps, reducing its effectiveness of acting as a habitat and windbreaker.</p> <p>The restoration project included traditional hedge-laying, dead hedging, tree works and scrub control. Traditional hedgelaying creates a dense form and stable structure. This now restored hedgerow will provide nesting sites, food sources and shelter for birds, hedgehogs and many other species. Healthy hedges provide wildlife corridors for a variety of fauna, allowing them to pass through and forage along the way (generally in the form of berries or flowers). It will also help with storing carbon, combatting soil erosion and therefore</p>

	<p>improving water retention, all which helps with mitigating the effects of climate change. Now that the restoration is complete, the hedgerow will begin to bounce back, with increased resilience, providing a thicker boundary for years to come.</p> <p>2. Under the pilot SuperHomes Three Rivers technical retrofit advice service, a total of 15 homes in Carpenders Park benefitted from a free Home Energy Retrofit Options (HERO) plan conducted by a qualified Retrofit Coordinator which helps residents identify the measures they could take to improve their home's energy efficiency, with estimated energy, bill, and carbon savings associated with each intervention. This was funded by Innovate UK under our Fast Followers project which ends 30th June 2025.</p> <p>1 home in Carpenders Park was supported by the Three Rivers District Council Fuel Poverty Grant, administered by the National Energy Foundation, and another property in Carpenders Park is due to be supported via this grant soon. (2 homes total for TRDC grant).</p> <p>We anticipate additional owner-occupied and privately rented homes in Carpenders Park benefitting from the newly launched <u>Warm Homes Local Grant scheme</u> which will run from now until 2028.</p> <p>The grant funding and energy efficiency support available to residents of Carpenders Park is scheduled to be publicised in the next (Autumn) edition of the Carpenders Park Residents Association newsletter.</p> <p><u>Before April 2024:</u> 5 homes in Carpenders Park under LAD3 scheme and 29 homes in Carpenders Park under LAD1B schemes (34 homes total for Green Homes Grants pre-2024).</p> <p>I would urge residents in Carpenders Park to sign up to our Greener Living e-newsletter to ensure they are aware of all the initiatives we have, e.g. Solar Together, Your Tree Our Future, Warmer Homes Local Grant.</p> <p>3 Progress against the Climate Change and Sustainability action plan is reported to Committee biannually with the most recent report on 12 March 2025. Many of the actions are councils and/or district wide and as such ward level reporting is often not possible or not within the capacity of officer resource. The following data outlines the tree planting that has taken place on Three Rivers District Council managed and maintained land:(See table provided at the end of this section)</p> <p>Regarding the ward of Carpenders Park there is very little suitable land for tree planting. There will be tree planting taking place within Romilly Drive open space during the 2025/26 tree planting season.</p>
	From Cheryl Stungo
56	I have an ongoing real concern about the quality of the River chess due to the Thames water discharges of raw sewage. I am aware that we are

	members of the Colne Can. What progress is being made to help clear up the dreadful state of the water quality in the River Chess?
	<p>The Council as a local authority is limited in its ability to influence Thames Water. The Environment Agency is the principal water quality and ecological protection body (https://engageenvironmentagency.uk.engagementhq.com/data-publications-water); however, Ofwat also contributes by driving the water sector to protect and enhance the environment (https://www.ofwat.gov.uk/about-us/). As an active member of Colne CAN (Catchment Action Network), the council is frequently involved in discussions around the local sewage treatment plants, most notably Chesham and Maple Lodge.</p> <p>As a local authority the council has received funding from water companies (Affinity Water & Thames Water) for ecological improvement projects; this often contributes to the water company meeting their WINEP (water industry national environment programme) targets as set by the Environment Agency, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), and Water Services Regulation Authority (Ofwat). These projects aim to mitigate the effects of the water company's activities (including abstraction and discharge).</p>
57	How are you ensuring that carbon emissions from outsourced services (e.g. waste collection, leisure services) are properly tracked and reduced?
	<p>The council monitors the emissions of its waste collection service, which is delivered in-house and is not outsourced, and our leisure provider SLM's emissions in our annual carbon accounting. Records dating back to 2018 can be found on the council's website. Climate Strategy and Actions Three Rivers District Council. The council is actively working with SLM to reduce carbon emissions from our leisure centres, having introduced solar panels on the roof of William Penn, and advanced in plans for a solar array at South Oxhey Leisure Centre. Emissions efficiency is considered when each vehicle within the fleet is replaced.</p>
58	How is the Council monitoring and enforcing Biodiversity Net Gain from developments, particularly around sensitive areas like the River Gade and Grand Union Canal?
	<p>As per the Environment Act 2021, and with the commencement of Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) all applicable planning applications must now meet the requirements of BNG in order to be granted planning permission. When this impacts a watercourse, the River & Streams Metric is used to measure the baseline and set/record the required uplift for the scheme to be compliant with BNG within these specific habitat sites.</p> <p>Where permission is granted, the habitat creation and enhancement will be secured by condition and will be monitored in accordance with the</p>

	<p>Environment Act with any relevant fees outlined within the “Mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain in Planning – Fee schedule for monitoring habitat creation and enhancement” committee report which was discussed at Policy & Resources Committee on Monday 9th June 2025</p> <p><u>(https://moderngov.threerivers.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=1140&MId=1785)</u></p>
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Questions to the Lead Member for Resources, Regeneration and Economic Development

Question from Chris Mitchell	
60	<p>Three Rivers property team changed the heating system from gas to air source heat pump system in 2023. The initial energy costs appeared to show almost a doubling. I did request this was looked into at the last Full council meeting and was told that “To ensure we fully respond to your question, I have asked that Officers make contact with you in order to provide you with necessary information and data that you seek. The Head of Property Services & Major Projects will contact you within the next 5 working days, so that you can discuss this matter in more detail.” I have not had any contact since the last meeting. Can you now give us a full update.</p>
	<p>The Head of Property Services & Major Projects apologises for the oversight in responding to your initial enquiry. Following your original request, I can confirm that this information has been published, reported to and discussed by the Climate Change Leisure and Housing Committee on 12 March 2025. The details of energy costs and explanations for them can be found at paragraphs 2.4- 2.7 of the report which can be found on the council website at <u>Climate Change, Leisure and Housing Committee Report Climate Emergency and Sustainability Action Bi-Annual Update</u></p> <p>The Head of Property Services & Major Projects and the Climate Change and Sustainability Manager are happy to answer any additional questions you may have in connection with the link to the data provided.</p>
Question from Chris Mitchell	
61	<p>Please can you provide where the Special Expenses for Croxley Green has been spent in 2024/25. I know what the general categories which for Croxley Green seem to be the Woodlands (apportioned on the basis of acreage) and Playing fields and open spaces (excluding water-based activities and maintenance met from commuted sums); based on the Grounds Maintenance contract. The figure in the budget of that year was £145,558. It would be very helpful to know exactly how that was spent.</p>
	<p>The Special Expenses for Croxley Green in 2024/25 totalling £145,558 were allocated £138,987 towards the costs of playing fields and open spaces excluding water-based activities and £6,571 towards Woodlands.</p>
Question from Narinder Sian	

62	How is the Council ensuring that new housing developments are properly integrated with sustainable transport options such as cycling infrastructure, public transport, and active travel routes?
	The emerging Local Plan policy "Sustainable Transport and Travel" aims to ensure that new housing developments are properly integrated with sustainable transport options such as cycling infrastructure, public transport, and active travel routes. Interconnection with wider infrastructure will also be considered as part of site allocation policies for strategic sites.
Question from Philip Hearn	
63	The Lead Member has expressed support for building a cycle lane on the A404, despite the public overwhelmingly opposing it by 15:1. Given her desire to dedicate road space on the A404 to cycle lanes, which does she want to do: narrow the lanes or remove the pavement?
	That is untrue, I have not said such a thing as the Councillor knows. The proposals detailed in the draft Local Cycling and Walking Plan are high level and further technical assessment of each part of the routes will be carried out if funding is identified. All cycle interventions will be designed having regard to national guidance. However, the intention is for a cycle path at pavement level and it is anticipated there will be shared provision at some points.
64	The Lead Member has expressed support for building a cycle lane on the A404, despite the public overwhelmingly opposing it by 15:1. This would require cycle lanes over Junction 18 of the M25. This can only be achieved by holding up traffic on the A404 – and thereby the M25 – or by requiring cyclists to intermingle with road traffic. What assessment would the Lead Member make of the impact on usage of the cycle lanes of requiring cyclists to intermingle with road traffic at the road's most dangerous point?
	As above. The indicative cycling interventions propose upgrading of an existing pedestrian crossing point and a cycle path at pavement level. However, the proposals detailed in the draft Local Cycling and Walking Plan are high level and further technical assessment of each part of the routes will be carried out if funding is identified. All cycle interventions will be designed having regard to national guidance.
From Andrea Fraser	
65	In March 2024, it was agreed that the update to the Rickmansworth and the Church End, Sarratt conservation area appraisals and character assessments would be completed in 2024/25. However, that

	<p>year is now over, and drafts have still not been shared, let alone consulted on or adopted.</p> <p>The council last appraised the Rickmansworth Conservation Area in 1993 and the Church End, Sarratt Church End Conservation Area in 1994: making them the most out-of-date in Hertfordshire. When will they finally be completed?</p>
	<p>The Rickmansworth Conservation Area Appraisal will be brought to the July Policy and Resources Committee. The Sarratt Conservation Area Appraisal will be completed following the Rickmansworth Conservation Area Appraisal.</p>
From Oliver Cooper	
67	<p>On 10th March 2025, the Leader agreed to disclose the CIL Scoring Sheet to members of the Policy & Resources Committee. However, at the 9th June 2025 meeting, this was not disclosed, with only the CIL Working Party's assessed overall score stated: making it impossible for members of the Committee to know what the points were awarded for and impossible to scrutinise the Working Party's recommendations and impossible to make an informed decision.</p> <p>Because of this, the Working Party erroneously advised the committee that the Batchworth Bridge Crossing (in November 2024) and the Rickmansworth Sports Club & Cricket Club (in June 2025) had failed to reach the 73 points required to be advanced, when they had actually both scored over 73.</p> <p>Will the Lead Member agree to belatedly abide by the commitment made by the Leader at the 10th March Policy & Resources Committee meeting, and provide the scoring sheet to the Policy & Resources Committee for all future applications?</p>
	<p>The above is untrue. Both the applications mentioned did not reach the threshold score (73) for the reasons cited in the Committee reports.</p> <p>The Leader confirmed further information on scoring for each CIL application was to be provided and this was summarised in the CIL scoring sheet provided at the P&R Committee. The governance arrangements for CIL have been agreed and this delegated authority to the Officers and working party to assess each application, against the agreed criteria. There is a significant amount of supporting information with each application which forms part of the scoring process which could not be reviewed at each P&R Committee, as such it is reviewed by Officers and the Working Group and an overall score applied and justified.</p>

	<p>It seems that Cllr Copper wants to make a political decision of the scoring and assessment rather than leaving it to independent officers to assess the position based on all the evidence and submissions made against the legal framework and the policy agreed by council. This was self-evident at the last Policy & Resources where yet again Cllr Coper questioned the professionalism of officers and claimed he knew better than them and had evidence, not submitted to the Council. I can only see that Cllr Copper is doing this for political motives.</p>
From Christopher Alley	
68	<p>No Community Infrastructure Levy is imposed in Watford Rural, including Carpenders Park, South Oxhey, and Oxhey Hall. Given the council's emerging new Local Plan proposes shifting development in Watford Rural from the South Oxhey Central to the Green Belt, the exemption of from Community Infrastructure Levy is increasingly misplaced and will account for many millions of pounds of tax breaks for developers if not changed. Will the council commit to urgently propose for Examination a new Community Infrastructure Levy charging schedule that charges CIL in Watford Rural, so that infrastructure is funded in Carpenders Park and South Oxhey, rather than developers being subsidised?</p>
	<p>Either alongside the local plan examination or following immediately after. Sites in the new local plan will be subject to the new charging schedule. It should be noted that no sites are proposed in the local plan at this stage, and it would be misleading to claim otherwise. Decisions on sites are yet to be made prior to publication of the Regulation 19 local plan.</p> <p>Although there is no CIL charge in the area, infrastructure projects in Carpenders Park and South Oxhey can apply for CIL funds, as has already been the case with Oxhey Jets.</p>
From Reena Ranger	
69	<p>Will the council install a bench on Grove Green, on Batchworth Lane, so residents have somewhere to sit that is nearer than Northwood town centre?</p>
	<p>Officers are currently reviewing this request and available budgets.</p>

Questions to the Chair of the Planning Committee

From Philip Hearn

70	<p>At the 25th February 2025 Council meeting, the Chairman of the Planning Committee said he could not comment on issuance of a Listed Building Enforcement Notice due to an ongoing police investigation into the destruction of The Court. However, Government's Best Practice Guide on Listed Buildings Prosecutions says that an Enforcement Notice can be issued on the landowner even where works were done by somebody else or somebody unknown. Given this, an ongoing investigation does not prevent issuing a Listed Building Enforcement Notice – so will Three Rivers issue an Listed Building Enforcement Notice requiring a brick-by-brick rebuilding of the Court?</p>
	<p>Until the police investigation has concluded and the full details are understood the council cannot commit to serving an Enforcement Notice.</p> <p>The current focus of officers is to work closely with the land owner to ensure the building is made safe to enable further inspections to ascertain the true damage of the building, and, importantly, to conserve as much of the building fabric as possible. Once this has taken place, officers will work closely with the landowner and Historic England about next steps.</p>

From Oliver Cooper

71	<p>The planning training on 6th and 13th May highlighted Probity in Planning, the Local Government Association guide to how to make good planning decisions. A copy was subsequently circulated to all councillors on 16th May.</p> <p>Does Three Rivers District Council profess to follow this guide?</p>
	<p>The Probity in Planning document, published by the Local Government Association, clarifies how councillors can get involved in planning discussions on plan making and on applications, on behalf of their communities in a fair, impartial and transparent way.</p> <p>However, the document also confirms that councillors and officers should be familiar with, and adhere to, their own local authority codes of conduct and guidance.</p> <p>The advice set out in the document is not intended to be prescriptive and local circumstances may necessitate local variations of policy and practice. Every council should regularly review the way in which it conducts its planning business.</p>

From Vicky Edwards

72 In 2018, planning permission was granted by St Albans City & District Council to the British Research Establishment (BRE) for the construction of 100 homes on BRE land (5/2017/1550).

As part of that permission, BRE entered into a Section 106 agreement with St Albans Council to prevent vehicular access via Bucknalls Drive, on the St Albans side, except in an emergency.

Upon closure of the Bucknalls Drive gate, all BRE traffic would enter and exit the BRE site via Bucknalls Lane, which mostly falls within Three Rivers.

Over five years have passed since the Section 106 agreement and the 100 homes have now been completed. The gate closure disrupts traffic flow and increases unnecessary mileage, as employees and visitors to BRE from the St Albans side are required to make a several mile round trip to access the BRE site.

This also increases traffic on Bucknalls Lane, even though there is no good reason as to why the proportion of the traffic that originates from the St Albans side cannot access the BRE site via the St Albans side.

Therefore, will this Council commit to writing to St Albans Council urging them to agree with BRE pursuant to Section 106A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to amend or remove the Section 106 obligation that prevents vehicular access from the St Albans side?

Any application to vary a planning permission and legal agreement for the access point to the BRE site has to be submitted by the applicant/site owner. This is a decision for the applicant to make and progress. Officers have not been made aware of any application currently with St Albans District Council.

If any such application is submitted to St Albans City and District Council to determine, it is likely Three Rivers DC would be consulted for their views, but St Albans Council are the decision making authority.

The original decision would have been made following a planning inquiry and inspectors' decision with having regard to local and national policies, and the views of statutory consultees, including Hertfordshire Highways, and this has to be a material consideration in any variation to the consent.

On the 27 June the Leader as a ward councillor along with the Member of Parliament and the local residents met with senior BRE officials. The BRE made it clear, unlike Cllr Edwards question, that they have no

	<p>intention of requesting any change to the legal agreement. They also pointed out that also bound the housing development which has access from Bucknalls Drive (Crest Nicholson). The BRE was of the view, I understand that the traffic survey undertaken by HCC last year showed no additional traffic over Bucknalls Lane and thus could not support a change in the arrangements. They did however agree to investigate the unsocial hours of some traffic entering their site for its occupants and see if anything can be done to cease and control that. I understand a further meeting is planned. I suggest if Cllr Edwards wants more information she discusses the matter with the ward councillor.</p>
From Andrea Fraser	
73	<p>Given the dominance of Rickmansworth High Street by ugly, heritage-inappropriate signage and Three Rivers' failure to issue a single discontinuance notice for advertisement consent in the last 18 years, will Three Rivers restrict deemed consent for advertisements in the Rickmansworth Conservation Area or make Rickmansworth Conservation Area an area of special control?</p>
	<p>The test to apply a discontinuance notice is a high bar and any advertisement must cause "substantial injury" to the amenity of the locality or danger to members of the public for one to be served.</p> <p>I am not aware of any advertisements previously or currently in the Rickmansworth Conservation Area which would cause such injury.</p> <p>An area of special control is not currently being considered as evidence would be required for this to be progressed, with approval by the Secretary of State. The priority for the team must be to focus on the delivery of the local plan, therefore, it is not considered an effective use of resources at this time.</p>
From Oliver Cooper	
74	<p>Can the Chair of the Planning Committee confirm that the Intersex Progress Pride Flag does not benefit from deemed consent under Schedule 3 of the Town and Country Planning (Control of Advertisement) (England) Regulations 2007, and therefore that it requires planning permission to be flown in public?</p>
	<p>The Progress Pride Flag does not benefit from deemed consent, advertisement consent is required, but not planning permission. The Pride Flag is deemed consent and does not require advertisement consent.</p>

	<p>However, it is the Officers view that the Progress Pride Flag is not considered to impact amenity or public safety and thus in accordance with paragraph 141 of the NPPF 2024 it would not be expedient to remove.</p>
From Andrea Fraser	
75	<p>Rickmansworth's former police station site on Rectory Road was granted only temporary permission for use as open-air storage for a year, until 6th October 2023 (22/1146/RSP). It has now been used for that purpose for several years, including the last almost two years unlawfully.</p> <p>I have requested enforcement action to end this harmful, unlawful use and to encourage the site owner to bring it into better use – proposed for housing by the council, but planned to be a supermarket by the owner – sooner, but Three Rivers refused to take enforcement action.</p> <p>Despite this breach, a new retrospective application has been submitted to extend this. If it is refused, will the council commit to taking enforcement action to end this unlawful use of the land?</p>
	<p>Officers have been in discussion with the site owner regarding the site's future redevelopment and a new pre-application is likely to be submitted in the next few months with a view of submitting a planning application in the second half of 2025.</p> <p>The current use of the site is subject to pending planning application 25/0928/RSP and this follows a previous expired temporary planning permission. The site owner has stated in the supporting planning documents that the future permanent use of the site will be addressed.</p> <p>If the current application is refused the council would consider issuing an enforcement notice; however, the planning assessment is on-going so determining any enforcement action is premature. Any enforcement proceedings could require cessation of the existing unauthorised use but would not prescribe or require a new use.</p> <p>Officers are also liaising with the site owner to improve the condition of the site hoardings.</p>

Questions to the Chair of the Licensing Committee

From Ciaran Reed	
76	<p>Ahead of the Women's Euros football tournament this year, the national Regulations extend licensed hours only for the semi-finals and the final, and only if premises are licensed up to 11pm or later.</p> <p>As a result, Three Rivers would have to act to ensure the quarter-finals can be watched in pubs in case they go to penalties, while most pubs locally have licensed hours that end too early to benefit from the national Regulations at all. Will the council commit to waive enforcement of licensing related to watching the quarter-final, semi-finals, and final in the event England are playing on those dates?</p>
	<p>Premises will be able to submit a Temporary Event Notice (TEN) to cover the quarter final and later stages if their licensable hours do not currently extend to 11pm.</p> <p>Officers will be providing some advice via the TRDC website and via social media platforms in the lead up to the tournament to encourage the TEN submissions in sufficient time to comply with the regulations.</p> <p>If complaints are received concerning a breach of a premises licence, officers would be required to investigate and consider any necessary proportionate action.</p>

Questions to the Chair of the Audit Committee

From Ciaran Reed

77	<p>On 25th March 2025, the Audit Committee voted to amend officers' recommendations to add a Risk Category of harm to the Green Belt, and to refer this amended policy to the Policy & Resources Committee. This was based on the view that the current risk arrangement had not worked. However, the Policy & Resources Committee was not presented with that referral, and instead received the administration's recommendations, solely because the administration disagreed with the Audit Committee. The meeting had been told (to quote the minutes): "Officers reassured [the Committee] that the recommendation will be sent to the policy-making committee for approval", but this did not happen. The Leader of the Council instead insisted that opposition members again table it as an amendment, as he did not agree with the referral that had been passed. No members of the Audit Committee were asked their view on this, despite me being present and asking to talk on it. Can the Chair of the Audit Committee confirm he will formally object to his committee's recommendations being ignored?</p>
	<p>The report presented to Policy and Resources Committee on 9 June 2025 included the outcome of the Audit Committee that "‘risk to green belt’ is to be added to the risk register as a category as per the agreed amendment".</p> <p>As discussed during the meeting, it was Officers that disagreed with the outcome reached by Audit Committee. Therefore, full explanation was provided as to reasoning for this.</p> <p>A Member of Policy and Resources Committee raised a motion to alter the officer recommendation, however, when put to the vote this did not pass.</p> <p>It was then for the Policy and Resources Committee to reach their decision on the officer recommendation as listed in the report. This was agreed with the additional recommendation that Officers include risk to the green belt as an item on the risk register.</p>

Additional information relating to question 55						
Ward	2019 / 2020	2020 / 2021	2021 / 2022	2022 / 2023	2023 / 2024	2024 / 2025
Abbots Langley & Bedmond	No data	2	0	15 (372)*	0 (686)*	0 (218)*
Carpenders Park	No data	2	3	3 (103)*	0 (168)*	0 (202)*
Chorleywood North & Sarratt	No data	10	6	451 (365)*	2 (853)	17 (206)*
Chorleywood South & Maple Cross	No data	16	0	3 (256)*	6 (441)*	0 (574)*
Dickinsons	No data	2	33	5 (171)*	0 (471)*	8 (403)*
Durrants	No data	0	0	8 (77)*	103 (377)*	5 (213)*
Gade Valley	No data	0	0	0 (313)*	0 (365)*	0 (123)*
Leavesden	No data	9	3	450 (207)*	112 (190)*	17 (131)*
Moor Park & Eastbury	No data	12	14	2 (28)*	0 (339)*	201 (180)*
Oxhey Hall & Hayling	No data	4	25	14 (172)*	8 (327)*	0 (278)*
Penn & Mill End	No data	2	8	335 (239)*	9 (316)*	14 (155)*
Rickmansworth Town	No data	12	3	25 (475)*	1 (566)*	1265 (337)*
South Oxhey	No data	0	13	8 (162)*	2 (181)*	8 (104)
Southwest Herts Cemetery**				600**		
Total		71	108	1915 (2,940)*	243 (5,280)*	1,535 (3124)*
*Estimated no. planted in gardens, school grounds and other private land as part of the HCC Free tree giveaway						
**Outside the district, on the boundary with Abbots Langley & Bedmond ward						

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