

Motions

24/02/2026

Full Council – 24 February 2026
Motions

1. A zero tolerance approach to graffiti

Proposed by Councillor Fraser and seconded by Councillor Cooper

Graffiti is a rising scourge across our district, and particularly in Rickmansworth. The presence of graffiti leads to more anti-social behaviour and crime of all sorts, so stemming this rising tide before it is normalised is essential to protect our community.

Under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime, and Policing Act 2014, the council can issue Community Protection Warnings and Notices to require land owners – whether of premises, telecoms boxes, bridges, street signs, or stand-alone walls – to remove graffiti.

Where they haven't removed graffiti within a specific number of days, the council can issue fines and/or remove graffiti and charge the landowner the cost of removing the graffiti.

This council therefore commits to:

- Develop a statement of graffiti policy that commits to imposing Community Protection Warnings on premises that have graffiti, to be followed up by Community Protection Notices where the warnings are not complied with.
- Begin the process of issuing Community Protection Warnings to all premises within our town and village centres, one centre at a time, so that towns and villages progressively become graffiti-free zones.
- Ask the Policy & Resources Committee to increase all Fixed Penalty Notice fines for environmental offences to the maximum permitted by law, to demonstrate a zero-tolerance approach to graffiti.

2. Raising our flag in Three Rivers

Proposed by Councillor Reed and seconded by Councillor Alley.

This Council recognises that a shared sense of British identity unites the villages and towns of Three Rivers and the wider country. It is only through emphasising what unites us, not what divides us, that we can bring people together into a shared sense of community.

The Union Flag, as the main symbol of our shared cultural identity and shared values that we hold as a country, is a common way of uniting everyone who lives and works in our district.

However, this council believes that it is disappointing that the Union Flag is not currently seen as commonly as it could be on buildings in public spaces, particularly high streets across our district.

Residents want to see more flags that represent all of our common identity flying in public spaces, as demonstrated by the direct action of residents who have put flags on lampposts across Three Rivers.

But more must be done in an official way to increase the presence of the Union Flag in the public spaces in Three Rivers.

Furthermore, with difficult economic conditions at the moment, this council recognises that many shops on our high streets are struggling and that many high streets across Three Rivers have been poorly managed, seeing a decline in their attractiveness to new businesses, customers and residents.

Therefore, to increase the number of Union Flags, this council resolves to create a Flags Fund to increase the number of Union Flags or St George's Flags on high streets, parades of shops, and public spaces in Three Rivers District.

- The cost of that fund not to exceed an initial £9,999, due to the limit in the council's procedure rules.
- The Flags Fund to be available to parish councils (or in areas that are unparished, the internal departments of Three Rivers District Council) or other entities representing the community
- The Flags Fund to be able to make grants for projects including but not limited to purchasing and installing flagpoles, brackets, or the flags themselves
- Materials purchased with the Flags Fund to only be used for the purpose of flying Union Flags or St George's Flags.

3. Aquadrome Sub-Committee

Proposed by Councillor Fraser and seconded by Councillor Hudson

This council notes the importance of the Aquadrome to Three Rivers.

This council therefore resolves to create an Aquadrome Sub-committee of the Policy & Resources Committee to oversee recovery and improvement work in and related to the Aquadrome, with terms of reference to be agreed at the next meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee.

4. To meet Thames Water at a high level to get clarity on the works required to meet the sewage capacity need of Three Rivers

Proposed by Councillor Mitchell and seconded by Councillor Stungo

Thames Water has made it clear in their recent response to planning applications that they do not have any spare capacity for Sewage treatment. This impacts on any planning applications for new homes and the ability for the local plan, when its is agreed, to be implemented.

Council therefore resolves to:

1. The Chief executive to write to the Chief Executive of the Thames Water to set up a meet with the relevant officers to establish.

- What works are required to meet the future needs for the district and to ensure pollution into our watercourses does not occur
- What is the timescale for the work to be implemented

5. To ensure our PR is creating a positive story for the Council, not just the administration.

Proposed by Councillor Sian and seconded by Councillor Mitchell

At the Full council meeting in October, the Green Group submitted a motion for the council to review tightening up on the HMO regulations. The wording mainly put together by the Green Group was then used in agreement at the beginning for the meeting in response to the public question. A press release was realised on the 24th October with no mention of the fact that the Green Group fundamentally created the wording. We consider that this is typical of the PR we send out and it does not reflect where there has been very effective cross party working. We consider that the present approach is biased.

Council therefore resolves to;

The official Council press releases should promote the work of the "Council" reflecting any work that has been cross party in a positive way. Also, it should include any work carried out by any councillor, as all councillors are representing the residents. If there are changes required to the constitution then the monitoring officer will review these and bring back to the relevant committee.

