

Motions

14/07/2026

Full Council – 14 July 2026
Motions

Removal of the Weir

Proposed by Councillor Mike Sims and seconded by Councillor Ian Morris

“The Mill Stream that runs adjacent to the River Colne from the weir behind the Dial house on the Uxbridge Road to the pumping station on Springwell Lane is an important part of our industrial heritage as well as our natural heritage. The Aquadrome project calls for the removal of the weir which could impact hundreds of residents from the Ebury Play area to Springwell Avenue as the water levels of the Colne and Mill Stream could be severely reduced.

We call on TRDC to issue an immediate consultation on the removal of the weir with the residents that live alongside the Colne and Mill Stream, as well as the organisations that use the waters mentioned such as fishing clubs and Kayak clubs.”

Get legal advice on HMO policy

Proposed by Cllr Vicky Edwards, seconded by Cllr Oliver Cooper

In accordance with Rule 22 of the Constitution, to readdress a policy decision made within the past 6 months, 10 signatures are required.

Councillors, Cooper, Alley, Campbell, Chopra, Edwards, Fraser, Hudson, Hunt, Milliken, Morris, Patel, Ranger, Reed and Trivedi have requested this motion be considered.

This council recognises the harmful impact that HMOs may have on a community due to the intensification of use, the correlation with increases in anti-social behaviour and lack of parking provision.

This council supports the withdrawal of Permitted Development rights for HMOs through issuing an Article 4 Direction, to stop the proliferation of unsuitable HMOs in our communities.

It is noted that the Policy & Resources Committee meeting on 30th May resolved not to issue an immediate Article 4 Direction, despite the Leader of the Council pledging before the election that an immediate Article 4 Direction would be issued.

However, it was admitted at the meeting that no legal advice had been taken to support the council's claim that it would face significant numbers of compensation claims if it issued an immediate Article 4 Direction.

Instead, a 'Doomsday' scenario was presented that was not based on the statutory requirements and that assumed that developers would succeed in establishing liability for compensation in respect of all claims made.

However, that has not been the experience of any other council that has implemented such immediate Directions, with most having faced zero claims.

This was not the right approach, as legal advice is essential to properly understand the legal and financial implications arising from issuing an immediate Article 4 Direction.

This council instructs and delegates authority to the Head of Planning Policy to commission this advice to be presented to an urgent extraordinary meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee, so that it can reconsider its decision not to issue an immediate Article 4 Direction.

Make Three Rivers graffiti-free

Proposed by Cllr Andrea Fraser, seconded by Cllr Oliver 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 Community Protection Notices to require landowners – 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 is done routinely by several other councils, and would ensure that property owners – including other local authorities, Transport for London, and telecoms companies – remove graffiti and end its normalisation.

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 settlement 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.

Take care of our green spaces

Proposed by Cllr Kerry Milliken, seconded by Cllr Oliver Cooper

This Council notes that it has adopted a 'no mow' policy in many of its public open spaces for the last few years.

In some specific places, where the local biodiversity benefits outweigh the loss of recreational area, this will have been beneficial. However, in other areas, it has proven to be negative, and is in urgent need of review.

Very tall grass can hide glass, dog waste, and worse. For example, the Coombe Hill Open Space gives a vista over the town, yet only a small part of it is mown, meaning it detracts from the view, is filled with dozens of bottles and other rubbish, and cannot be used as a local park.

Long grasses can block visibility for drivers and reduce the visual amenity of local areas. For example, the long grass on an already elevated pavement on Tanners Wood Lane makes the road more dangerous by obscuring visibility on a single-track road.

This Council therefore resolves to review and – where necessary – revise the policy in light of the experience, including but not limited to restoring regular mowing to Coombe Hill Open Space and said patch on Tanners Wood Lane.

This Council asks the Climate Change & Leisure Committee to determine the scope of the changes and asks the Policy & Resources Committee to allocate the necessary funding.

Fly the Union Flag

Proposed by Cllr Oliver Cooper, seconded by Cllr Andrea Fraser

This Council notes its discontent and disgust at the council leadership removing the Union Flag from Three Rivers House on D-Day and replacing it with the Intersex-Inclusive Progress Pride Flag. That flag includes divisive symbolism for the trans movement and for the Black Lives Matter movement.

Last year, the council unlawfully flew the Intersex-Inclusive Progress Pride Flag over Three Rivers House, when Conservative councillors objected that it was unlawful to fly a political flag without advertisement consent.

However, despite the council admitting it had acted unlawfully, the flag was still not taken down until the end of June and the council then gave itself the consent to fly it.

In July 2025, Conservative councillors asked the Leader to commit to fly the Union Flag over Three Rivers House every day, noting the sensitivity of days like D-Day, which the Leader mocked the Conservatives for, claiming that happened anyway.

Despite that claim, the Union Flag was not flown for much of June this year, and Three Rivers instead flew only the Intersex-Inclusive Progress Pride Flag. That was the only flag flown on D-Day, 6th June.

This Council deplores the council's leadership placing its own political causes ahead of flying the Union Flag, especially on days like D-Day. Three Rivers is proud to be the home of the British Armed Forces' principal HQ at Northwood, yet this clear decision to remove the Union Flag to fly the Intersex Inclusive Progress Pride Flag shows that Three Rivers pays lip service to our Forces.

This Council therefore resolves to fly the Union Flag over Three Rivers House on all days when any flag is flying, and furthermore resolves not to fly the Progress Pride Flag, the Intersex Inclusive Progress Pride Flag, or any other derivations.

