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**FULL COUNCIL**  
Tuesday, 20 February 2024

**MOTIONS UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 11**

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**Motion 1**

**Councillor Chris Lloyd, seconded by Councillor Anne Winter, to move under Notice duly given as follows:**

Council notes with concern;

1. The increased use of vaping products by children in the UK. Recent data from the ASH Smokefree GB Youth Survey 2022 found that the prevalence of vaping amongst 11-18 year olds is increasing – from 4% in 2021 to 8.6% in 2022 – and a significant number of children buy these vaping products directly from newsagents or supermarkets.
2. The increased number of local authorities who have recently had to take enforcement activity against shops illegally selling vaping products to youngsters.
3. The marketing of certain vaping products – with bright coloured packaging and flavours such as bubble gum – that might appeal to children.
4. The significant increase in availability of disposable and single-use vaping products which are cheaper and easier for children to access.
5. The high volume of single use vapes being disposed of in general waste.
6. An increase in fires at UK waste plants due to damaged and highly flammable batteries and the increased costs this causes.
7. The delay in the Government bringing forward legislation to act on the outcomes of last year's consultation on smoking and vaping.

Council acknowledges the role vaping products may play in aiding adults to stop smoking, and that vaping products carry a small fraction of the risk, and exposure to toxins, that are associated with cigarettes. However, vaping is not risk free; particularly for those who have never smoked. Vaping products contain nicotine and research shows that most children who use them have never smoked.

Council recognises the Local Government Association has raised concerns about the sale of vaping products to children. Council calls for vaping products to be regulated in a similar way as tobacco products, with plain packaging and a requirement for products to be kept out of sight behind shop counters.

Council calls for legislation to be brought forward in the current parliamentary session to::

1. Ensure vaping products are in plain packaging and kept out of sight behind the counter.
2. Make age-of-sale signage on vaping products mandatory.
3. Ban free samples of vaping products being given out to people of any age.

#### 4. Ban the sale of single-use vaping products in the UK.

Council commits to not allowing sale of vaping products in any Three Rivers District Council run premises.

Council therefore instructs the Chief Executive to write to both the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care and Secretary of State for Environment, to express the Council's demand for the greater regulation of vaping products detailed in this motion and ban on the sale of single-use vapes.

#### **Motion 2**

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

Council notes the issues faced by residents on new housing developments, where unadopted roads leave residents at the mercy of residual landowners, especially as regards street lighting, signage and general maintenance, as well as additional service fees on top of Council Tax payments.

Council therefore calls upon Hertfordshire County Council alleviate this burden on local residents and ensure more roads built to adoptable standards are adopted across the District and instructs the Chief Executive to write to both the Chief Executive and Leader of Hert County Council.

#### **Motion 3**

**Councillor Jon Tankard, seconded by Councillor Chris Lloyd, to move under Notice duly given as follows:**

Council notes the twin threats to our rivers from the Conservative government's failure to act on sewage discharges by privatised water companies, together with the recent pronouncement by the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities of the government's intention to remove regulations regarding nutrient neutrality.

Council believes that both Conservative policies will add to the pollution of our precious waterways, seas and oceans and the habitats that depend on them.

Council further believes that extensive building in our Green Belt is also a threat to local habitats, and that whilst the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities has brought forward this plan to amend the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill, he has not sought to introduce an amendment to change the Standard Methodology or enable Local Planning Authorities to safeguard Green Belt land.

Council therefore calls for:

1. The immediate end to the threats to our waterways by a commitment to keep rules on nutrient neutrality and the retention of the entire Habitats' Directive.
2. A speeding up of the Environment Agency's largest ever criminal investigation into potential widespread breaches of environmental permit conditions at wastewater treatment works by all water and sewerage companies.
3. A reduction in the amount of sewage which can legally be discharged into waterways and the sea.
4. Changes to the National Planning Policy Framework, backed by primary legislation to enable the safeguarding of valuable Green Belt land.

Council therefore calls for the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, and the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs stating the council's views on these matters.

#### **Motion 4**

**Councillor Jon Tankard, seconded by Councillor Chris Lloyd, to move under Notice duly given as follows:**

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Council therefore calls for the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, and the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs stating the council's views on these matters.

#### **Motion 5**

**Councillor Ciaran Reed, seconded by Councillor Oliver Cooper, to move under Notice duly given as follows:**

This council recognises the importance of providing better public transport to the residents of Three Rivers as a part of providing job opportunities, access to vital services and decarbonising travel.

This council therefore understands the need to ensure that when transport infrastructure projects are planned, they need to provide the quickest travel to the most residents possible.

However, this council also acknowledges that the opportunity that the old Watford to Croxley line disused railway presents, if used incorrectly, will remove the asset from being able to be deployed more effectively by future generations.

Furthermore, it is believed by this council that the disused Watford to Croxley railway is not the only underutilised piece of rail infrastructure in Three Rivers District.

This council strongly believes that if the proposed Croxley – Watford link extended to the Metropolitan Line station at Croxley, even with an easy interchange internal to the station, it would not on its own provide sufficient travel opportunities from other parts of the district as could, and should, be achieved.

Only through connecting this infrastructure project to Rickmansworth and Chorleywood would it provide the needed travel to Watford from these two locations, that are currently only served to Watford via the 336 and 724 buses.

This council believes that if the North Curve track between Croxley and Rickmansworth could be used by a service created as a part of the Croxley – Watford Link, it would significantly increase the value of the project and provide many more Three Rivers residents (and potentially residents in Buckinghamshire), access to this quicker travel to key sites in Watford, including Watford General Hospital, Watford Junction, Vicarage Road Stadium and Watford High Street.

To these ends, this council sets as aspirations for the project to:

- Connect a wider part of Three Rivers, not just Croxley Green, to this service, including Chorleywood, Rickmansworth and Moor Park.
- Look at opening new rail links between parts of Three Rivers that are currently not connected by regular services, including using the North Curve or other existing infrastructure to connect the two parts of the Metropolitan Line in Three Rivers (the Croxley part and Chorleywood / Rickmansworth part) without the need for passengers to change trains.
- Increase the speed of travel between the whole of the south west of Three Rivers and vital services in Watford, such as Watford Junction and Watford General Hospital.
- Decrease congestion on roads throughout Three Rivers to speed up journey times on other modes of transport than those directly connected to this project and increase capacity on our roads to build resilience for when there are issues on major roads, such as the M25.
- Provide decarbonised travel options between Chorleywood, Rickmansworth, Croxley and Watford.
- Ensure that any project that builds on this stretch of land either does so in a way that adequately connects across the south western belt of Three Rivers, from Croxley to Chorleywood through Rickmansworth, or does not build on the former Croxley to Watford railway line in a manner than cannot be easily changed in the future to achieve those aims of connecting Rickmansworth and Chorleywood to the scheme.

To these ends, this council will take the following steps:

- Instruct the CEO, in conjunction with other partners in this project, to write to TFL and the Mayor of London to request that they reconsider allowing the integration of a

Croxley – Watford Link to the North Curve track so that trains could run from Chorleywood, through Rickmansworth and Croxley, to Watford, significantly decreasing journey times, providing decarbonised travel to Watford and better access to vital services.

- Ensure that the business case developed for this project includes analysis of the difference between connecting the service just to Croxley and integrating it with potential new services from Chorleywood and Rickmansworth as a part of its economic viability, projected usage, overall expected carbon emissions reduction and projected number of users.
- Request, in the eventuality of TFL and the Mayor of London refusing this project or connecting projects to use the North Curve, a full written explanation of why this underutilised track, which only sees three passenger trains a day, cannot be used.
- Instruct officers to open a dialogue with train operators, including but not limited to the Chiltern Line and Abbey Flyer, about the viability a train service that connects Chorleywood, Rickmansworth and Croxley, when integrated into a new Croxley – Watford Link.
- Instruct officers to open a dialogue with Buckinghamshire Council about whether a rail service running through the North Curve and integrated to proposed Croxley – Watford Link beyond Chorleywood into Buckinghamshire would be of interest to them and whether, if this was viable, they would want to join the partnership to help apply for funding as it could benefit Buckinghamshire residents if a service ran from stations in that county.
- Ensure the partnership creating the Croxley – Watford Link plans produces a range options at different costs given that we do not know what money may be available for the project, to make sure that we are not restricted from accessing the best scheme for residents due to under ambition or be locked out of applying for funding due to only having planned options that have costs beyond the funding available.
- Constructively engage with Hertfordshire County Council and other partners to ensure the link is optimised for connectivity and sustainability in Three Rivers.

## **Motion 6**

**Councillor Oliver Cooper, seconded by Councillor Reena Ranger, to move under Notice duly given as follows:**

This Council notes that many councils, including Hertfordshire County Council, allocate funding to councillors to support projects in their local wards or divisions.

This Council notes that while such a governance arrangement exists only for CIL, even that does not place control of the process in the hands of local councillors, despite them knowing their wards best.

This Council therefore commits to implement a scheme to allocate funding to ward councillors to be spent on small-scale projects and grants within their wards, as other councils have.