
FULL COUNCIL
Tuesday, 9 July 2024

MOTIONS UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 11

Motion 1

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

Council recognises the importance and significance of Oxhey Jets Football Club (OJFC) not only for South Oxhey but the wider Three Rivers community.

Council reaffirms its commitment to retain OJEC on its current site and the continued support from Three Rivers Council in that endeavour and thanks TRDC officers for their hard work in supporting OJFC.

Council agrees that TRDC will continue to press HCC for clarity on their future intentions for the now closed 3g pitch, grassed areas and woodland area which falls outside of the lease negotiations with Oxhey Jets.

Council is of the view strategic planning of this site should be for the benefit of South Oxhey residents by enhancing its leisure provision and notes that the emerging local plan protects that area for such use.

Motion 2

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 3

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.

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 extra "tax" burden on local residents and roads built to adoptable standards across the District and instructs the Chief Executive to write to both the Chief Executive and Leader of Hert County Council requesting that Herts County Council reviews its current policy that leaves some residents at a disadvantage and subject to the whims of residual landowners.

Motion 4

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 5

Councillor Stephen Cox, seconded by Councillors Oliver Cooper and Councillor Chris Mitchell, to move under notice duly given as follows:

Further to the Annual General Meeting where all non-administration councillors voted not to support the appointment of Councillor Sara Bedford as Lead Member for Housing and Public Health, these councillors remain convinced that many colleagues were forced to vote against their conscience and accordingly this matter must be revisited as a matter of great urgency.

1. This Council requires the immediate resignation of Councillor Sara Bedford as a Lead Member.

If Cllr Sara Bedford will not resign:

2. This Council adheres to the democratic will of this chamber and immediately removes Councillor Sara Bedford from office as a Lead Member.
3. That a replacement Lead Member is nominated by the Liberal Democrat Group from that group.

