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**FULL COUNCIL**  
Tuesday, 9 July 2024

**QUESTIONS TO LEADER OF THE COUNCIL AND LEAD MEMBERS UNDER  
PROCEDURE RULE 14**

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**10a) Question to the Leader of the Council, Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst, from  
Councillor Keith Martin**

Public criticisms of TRDC Officers have recently been made by district councillors. The most recent examples involved Cllr Fraser concerning the vape shop in Rickmansworth High Street, and Cllr Cooper during the 10 June Policy & Resources Committee meeting. Does the Leader of the Council agree with me that the:

1. the public criticism of Officers, whom Cllrs Fraser and Cooper know cannot defend themselves, demeans those making such statements?
2. in the "apologising for leaving an international celebrations early" spirit set by the recently deposed prime minister, Cllrs Fraser and Cooper should be invited to publicly apologise to Officers for the public criticism they both made? I am sure Officers would both welcome such public apologies and as Rishi Sunak asked the British people to do, magnanimously accept them.

On behalf of all on the Liberal Democrat benches, would the Leader of the Council congratulate Cllr Merali for his skill and tenacity in both securing and fighting a seat at last week's general election? Perhaps the Leader of the Council might ask Cllr Merali to give some much-needed advice to the leader of his group, who despite several attempts to be nominated for a parliamentary seat met with no success?

**Written response:**

I totally agree, I found as I said the leaflet naming Cllr Fraser and claiming that this Council Officers had failed to take legal action on the a VAPE shop in Rickmansworth when in fact not only had they taken action but had acted above and beyond what was required to get further signage changes and indeed had kept the said Cllr fully informed was totally disrespectful. Indeed, this could be considered a breach of the Code of Conduct in terms of respect for local authority employees.

The same goes for the last Policy and Resource's Committee when a Councillor called out a senior officer claiming they did not know the law and the responsibilities of this authority over rivers and challenged the said officer when they explained that the responsibility rested with the County Council as the lead flood authority.

The fact that the said Councillor then claimed that the Council had blocked doing anything on this when in fact they knew it was neither TRDC responsibility and indeed they had voted for the recommendation accepting what was not the Council responsibility but claimed otherwise in a publication, thus misleading thousands of residents is disgraceful but typical of that party locally and nationally.

**10b) Question to the Leader of the Council, Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst, from Councillor Harry Davies**

Given the recent government inspector's appeal decision in Sarratt that overruled the views of this Council and residents in allowing a Green Belt development that would cause harm what is his view of what should be done next?

**Written response:**

Like others I was very disappointed at the appeal decisions speciously as the inspector agreed with this Council and residents that harm would be caused to the Green Belt.

As you know we are progressing with our Local Plan with a much lower housing number than the outgoing government set us and are and will vigorously oppose unacceptable Green Belt developments where harm, as in this case, can be demonstrated, irrespective of whatever policies the new government brings in.

**10c) Question to the Leader of the Council, Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst, from Councillor Chris Mitchell**

Following the Annual Council meeting, where it is clear that a member of your cabinet has allegations against them for bullying, what are you doing to ensure that other members and staff are protected from a person who could well carry bullying behaviour.

**Written response:**

As per the public questions I have already answered this and made clear in face to face meetings to all senior staff and others I have spoken to that I expect all Councillors to adhere to the Code of Conduct and would expect any issues or concerns to be brought to my personal attention or indeed that of other party leaders if it's a member of their group.

**10d) Question to the Leader of the Council, Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst, from Councillor Chris Mitchell**

Please confirm your commitment for the administration to discuss with the group leaders on how to improve the Full council meetings. At the moment they are not serving the useful purpose in the time available, with them rarely covering the agendas and especially getting to the motions.

**Written response:**

As I made clear in emails to group leaders and personally following 21st May Council meeting, I want to have an informal meeting of Group leaders and Deputies to go through where there might be agreement on a way forward on improving Full Council meetings so the agenda and motion can be covered. Unfortunately, the calling of the General Election has put back that proposal as I would not have expected me to hold a meeting of that nature during the GE would have been welcomed. I hope we can now set a date to do so for mid-July.

**10e) Question to the Leader of the Council, Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst, from Councillor Stephen Cox**

Further to my motion seeking at the Annual Meeting of this council in May 2024 that this council declined the appointment of Councillor Sara Bedford as a Lead Member:

Will he confirm or deny the following:

- A. Councillor Sara Bedford lost a vote of no confidence at a group meeting in 2020, but failed to mention this salient fact at the meeting of the Full Council the following week and failed to mention the vote of no confidence in any subsequent article they penned or were quoted in in the Watford Observer, thereby misleading this council and members of the public
- B. This council has received a number of complaints about her in respect of the Councillors' Code of Conduct
- C. That last year at least one complaint was upheld requiring her to apologise for her behaviour in this chamber
- D. That at Full Council in February 2023, Councillor Sara Bedford rose from her seat on the backbench of the Liberal Democrat group while former Councillor Roger Seabourne was speaking, moved forward and stood between yourself and the then Council Leader and angrily berated you both, whilst swearing and that this action exhibited bullying behaviour
- E. That Councillor Sara Bedford has asked inimical questions of the administration after she was instructed not to do so and what view you took of every question asked of the administration in public by Councillor Sara Bedford in the last municipal year 2023-2024
- F. Whether Councillor Sara Bedford has your full, total, and unwavering confidence as a Lead Member of the present administration, or whether it would be better for her, this authority and the residents we serve that they should resign their position forthwith
- G. Whether it is correct that former Councillor Roger Seabourne is still owed apologies from Councillor Sara Bedford for slurs on his character
- H. Has there been any written or verbal indication ever brought to your attention that one or more officers are concerned about Councillor Sara Bedford's conduct towards them and if so, when was it brought to your attention and what if anything have you done about it

**Written response:**

This question is nothing but a personal attack on the said Councillor and relates to a number of matters that are not related to the business of this Council but a matter for the Liberal Democrat Party and I will not comment further on those.

Because of Data Protection (personal information) I cannot make comments on the other questions raised. I have already explained the democratic process that the Liberal Democrat Party goes through in choosing its office holders and lead members and they are not my personal appointments but those of my group.

**10f) Question to the Leader of the Council, Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst, from Councillor Jonathon Solomons**

Could you confirm how ward councillors are invited to their relevant Local Area Forums?

**Written response:**

All ward Councillors for each Area Forums invited to each Area Forum and the Committee Team are responsible for and send out invites to all Councillors for all Area Forums.

**10g) Questions to the Leader of the Council, Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst, from Councillor Cheryl Stungo**

What is the latest status concerning the Red Cross building in Barton Way and how does that affect the Welcome Club?

**Written response:**

The agreement to the surrender of the British Red Cross' lease has been exchanged. The British Red Cross has served notice on the Welcome Club, requesting that they vacate the premises on or before 13<sup>th</sup> September 2024. The British Red Cross is required as under the terms of the original lease to provide for accommodation for the Welcome Club. This Council has offered support, although it has no responsibility for it, to the Watford & Three Rivers Trust which manages the Welcome Club (on behalf of the BRC) and to will assist with any plan or proposal for the future relocation of the Welcome Club.

As already informed members, the Council recently received an offer to purchase the property from Croxley Green Parish Council. The Council has commissioned an independent valuation and will consider the officer against the valuation advice it receives.

In the meantime, the Council will continue to review its proposals for new residential units and new community facility/ sauce on this site.

**10h) Question to the Leader of the Council, Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst, from Councillor Ciaran Reed**

Given the amount of negative publicity over Cllr Bedford's involvement in this authority, will she be added to a risk register as a reputational risk to this authority?

**Written response:**

No

**10i) Question to the Leader of the Council, Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst, from Councillor Philip Hearn**

A lot of residents in Chorleywood seem to have been told that a proposal in the draft Local Plan for 190 homes on Chorleywood Station Car Park will 'never go ahead' even if it is in the final Local Plan. Can the Lead Member clarify if they agree with such statements?

**Written response:**

Only sites that are suitable, available, and achievable will be included in the local plan. In determining a site's suitability, the council assesses the site's physical and environmental constraints. To be available, the site's landowner must agree to its inclusion in the plan. Achievability is based on the site's viability. The final decisions on which sites will be included in the local plan have not yet been made, with the sites being considered through the committee process over the summer/autumn. Any sites considered undeliverable would not be included in the Regulation 19 consultation.

Following submission of the Local Plan to the Inspectorate, the plan will be rigorously tested and any sites considered undeliverable by the Inspector would be removed.

**10j) Question to the Leader of the Council, Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst, from Councillor Oliver Cooper**

Cllr Giles-Medhurst posted on social media on 12<sup>th</sup> June that the Government had "relaxed the rules on advertising". This is not true of the Control of Advertisement Regulations, which have not been substantively amended since 2007 except regarding flags, so what was he referring to?

**Written response:**

I was referring to the Change to Class E in 2020 that meant that no planning required permission for any change of use from one type of business to another – in this case a VAPE shop.

The fascia containing 'Yellow Express' and other text and images (including flags) is 'deemed consent' via Schedule 3 Part 1, Class 5 (flags are consented by Schedule 1) and no consent was thus required from this Council due to the relaxations.

**10k) Question to the Leader of the Council, Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst, from Councillor Oliver Cooper**

Three Rivers District Council adopted the Moderngov website a year ago. Yet it is still the only district council in Hertfordshire to both not allow the use of a Search Document function and not upload council decisions to the website. As a result, people are unreasonably required to know precisely which meeting and item any given issue was raised and to guess what decisions have been taken. When will these functions be updated and used?

**Written response:**

The Committee Team recognise that Issue Manager is not currently being used to its full potential and work is underway to identify those areas which can be developed further and implemented to improve the openness and transparency of the Council's decision-making processes. This work had initially been planned to start early in 2024, with a review of what was required going forward, however the need to focus on the delivery of the elections, both

local and the unplanned Parliamentary General Election has resulted in delay to this piece of work.

**10l) Question to the Leader of the Council, Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst, from Councillor Oliver Cooper**

The Batchworth Neighbourhood Plan was submitted Three Rivers on 19<sup>th</sup> January. It was due to be considered at the Policy & Resources Committee meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> March. However, the Leader told Cllr Cooper at that meeting that it had not been submitted to Three Rivers. That was not true. Does the Lead Member accept that the then-Leader misled the committee and that this has delayed the adoption of the Batchworth Neighbourhood Plan?

**Written response:**

No, the Batchworth Neighbourhood Plan was not due to be considered at the March Policy and Resources Committee. Batchworth Community Council had expressed a wish that the plan was considered in March but were informed by Three Rivers officers that they would not have time to review the plan and meet the lead in times for the March Policy & Resources Committee. It was therefore proposed by officers that it would go to the following Policy & Resources Committee in June.

**10m) Question to the Leader of the Council, Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst, from Councillor Ian Morris**

Can the Leader, in his capacity of the local plan lead confirm if there are not any plans for a high-rise development at Delta Gain? Additionally, considering that the Council's new local plan prohibits housing on Oxhey Lane and Little Oxhey Lane, what is their opinion on the County Council's insistence on allocating a site for a new secondary school on Oxhey Lane, opposite Carpenders Avenue?

**Written response:**

Kebbell House and land to rear of Delta Gain was a site included in the Council's latest Local Plan Regulation 18 consultation, as such it is still under consideration for inclusion in the Local Plan. No decisions have yet been made on which sites will be included in the draft Local Plan the Council plans to submit to the Planning Inspectorate for examination. Details such as building heights will be considered at the planning application stage rather than the Local Plan site allocation stage.

However, the draft policies of the Local Plan made it clear that new developments must respect and match in with the environment of the existing area. The neighboring flats here are low rise whereas high-rise is considered as being 12 or more stories. I also understand that the promoters of the site have issued inductive drawings showing a low-rise scheme. It was misleading in the extreme for a local political party to out a leaflet before May's election saying there were plans for a high-rise development at Delta Gain (when fact the site is at Kebbell House), and I understand they were asked to withdraw that statement by the Kebbell.

Hertfordshire County Council has said that there is an identified need for a secondary school in the Carpenders Park area and have purchased, some years back, the said site in Oxhey Lane for such a school. TRDC will need to consider this and if it outweighs the potential harm to the Green Belt and if it includes it in its Local Plan. It is however clear that the HCC are insisting on it from the comments received so far from them. It may be, this was based on this Council, or indeed the government inspector allocating the other sites in Carpenders Park for housing which of course as the members know this Council has opposed.

As above, the final decisions have not yet been made regarding this matter and it will be considered at the Local Plan Sub-Committee over the summer.

**10n) Questions to the Lead Member for Resources, Councillor Matthew Bedford, from Councillor Kevin Raeburn**

Would the lead member for Resources tell us how successful or not the Council has been in leveraging in external funding in the last year to support the hard work the Council does for our residents?

**Written response:**

Key grants for 2023/24 were:

Homelessness	£633k
UK Shared Prosperity Fund	£189k
Decarbonisation Grant	£1,497k
Total grants, excluding Revenues and Benefits	£3,077k

**10o) Questions to the Lead Member for Resources, Councillor Matthew Bedford, from Councillor Stephen King**

Given that the appeal against listing the Pavilion in Green Lane as an Asset Of Community Value (ACV) has been lost, does the Lead Member agree with me that the pressure this Labour Group brought to bear, alongside the parish council and efforts of local residents' in persuading this authority to list it as an ACV has been rightly rewarded?

**Written response:**

As Councillor Cox has indicated, the Council has, for a second time, recently defended its decision to list the Pavilion as an Asset of Community Value at the Lands Tribunal. The judgement found that the Council had acted in correctly and accordance with the guidance regarding its consideration of the nomination submitted by Watford Rural Parish Council in October 2021.

The Council is pleased that the judge dismissed the appeal and endorsed the decision to list the Pavilion as an Asset of Community Value.

**10p) Questions to the Lead Member for General Public Services, Councillor Sarah Nelmes, from Councillor Chris Lloyd**

Could the Lead member explain why it's taking Herts County Council so long to sign off the agreed locations of the much wanted and welcomed Berly Bike locations in Croxley?

**Written response:**

Following HCC highways concerns a review of site layouts and of a specific location had to be undertaken. The sites are now agreed and the sites are subject to a licence agreement with HCC. This is currently with the HCC legal team.

**10q) Questions to the Lead Member for General Public Services, Councillor Sarah Nelmes, from Councillor Chris Lloyd**

As you know Three Rivers Council is getting the blame for Herts County Council rerouting the 322 due to safety concerns in the High Street. What is the latest position?

**Written response:**

The 322 bus service was formally diverted away from the High Street from 14th April. This means buses towards Watford will stop only at the Station (no change to the other direction). This was a decision taken by the bus operator given the number of incidents that have occurred on the junction of High Street/Station Road and the risk to the public and staff as well as the damage to vehicles. There are ongoing discussions between the operator, HCC and TRDC.

**10r) Questions to the Lead Member for General Public Services, Councillor Sarah Nelmes, from Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst**

Can you let me know if a as promised in the May by the Conservative candidate in Rickmansworth Town that a " has a plan for more parking in Money Hill Parade and a car park" has

- 1) been submitted to the Council,
- 2) Has any costings been done or provided and
- 3) where such a car park might be?

**Written response:**

Officers have not received any suggestions for additional parking locations from Councillors or any other interested party.

**10s) Questions to the Lead Member for General Public Services, Councillor Sarah Nelmes, from Councillor Narinder Sian**

Question Beryl Bikes update. Please update us on the progress for implementing the Beryl Bike scheme into Croxley Green.



**Written response:**

Following HCC highways concerns a review of site layouts and of a specific location had to be undertaken. The sites are now agreed and the sites are subject to a licence agreement with HCC. This is currently with their legal team. The final contract is nearing completion and circulation. It is expected the scheme will be launched later this summer but this is subject to HCC legal team timescales.

**10t) Questions to the Lead Member for General Public Services, Councillor Sarah Nelmes, from Councillor Chris Mitchell**

Please confirm that we research what other councils do to enforce parking restrictions on dropped kerbs, so we can follow best practice.

**Written response:**

The current guidance on enforcement of dropped kerbs was introduced around 2018 and is utilised on our behalf by Hertsmere BC, our parking enforcement provider. The guidance has been devised in response to understanding the circumstances when any dropped kerb challenges are successful and in line with the available good practice at the time of issue. Officers are currently reviewing other LA practices and guidance, as well as its own data on dropped kerb enforcement and PCNs, to identify if any changes are required.

**10u) Questions to the Lead Member for General Public Services, Councillor Sarah Nelmes, from Councillor Joan King**

What progress has been made regarding the complaints made to this council via South Oxhey's councillors regarding the on-going problems of litter and dumping afflicting flats in Otley Way and also at Forfar House, Filton House and Erskine House and what discussions has this authority had with Thrive Homes regarding making the communal bin storage areas more secure at these locations?

**Written response:**

Following an on-site visit by the Waste and Environment Manager to Forfar, Filton and Eskine House at the end of May and joint visit between the manager concerned and a representative from Thrive was arranged for May 29th. At this meeting Thrive were instructed to undertake the following short term actions;

- Remove all waste and bulky items from inside and around bin enclosures
- Litter pick surrounding area
- Consider a further leaflet drop to residents
- Consider signage re fly tipping or responsible disposal of waste
- Commence regular inspections

Since this visit TRDC officers have had no further reports of excess waste on site.

Thrive were also asked to consider the following longer term measures;

- Consideration given to installing new bins stores with fobbed access
- Re purposing of the green to a car park to assist with access (Forfar and Filton).
- Relocation of the bin store to the newly created car park.
- Relocation of bin store to the drying area (Erskine)

Despite TRDC officers following up twice, Thrive have yet to respond.

TRDC Officers have designed refreshed signage and have asked Thrive to place them at these locations and in addition TRDC officers have ordered new and clear signage to be placed on the recycling bins.

With regards Otley way whilst historically there have had issues around contamination and excess/bulk waste (mainly Excess bulky waste) officers have only had one issue raised recently, which was a large fly tip in the car park for Denton House. This was reported by the collection crew and cleared quickly by Thrive.

**10v) Questions to the Lead Member for General Public Services, Councillor Sarah Nelmes, from Councillor Philip Hearn**

Can the Lead Member advise as to why the proposed parking scheme for Greenbury Close Chorleywood has been shelved when other schemes further from Chorleywood Station are moving forward?

**Written response:**

As you are aware, as you attended discussions with officers and other local councillors, following the initial consultation on draft design plans in December 2022 the decision was taken not to progress proposals in certain streets due to a lack of public support, this included Greenbury Close.

**10w) Questions to the Lead Member for General Public Services, Councillor Sarah Nelmes, from Councillor Lisa Hudson**

Has the Council analysed the benefits of changing parking on Moneyhill Parade to angled parking?

**Written response:**

Yes. This was an initial piece of work but was considered unviable and cost prohibitive.

**10x) Questions to the Lead Member for Housing and Public Health, Councillor Sara Bedford, from Councillor Chris Mitchell**

Please confirm the latest position on the social housing obtained under the housing fund from Central Government and how many refugee families we plan to house.

**Written response:**

The Local Authority Housing Fund (LAHF) is a capital fund provided by Central Government that is designed to support local authorities in England to obtain housing for those who are unable to find settled accommodation on resettlement schemes. The Council were successful in obtaining funding under Round One and Round Two of the LAHF and this funding will provide 28 properties in total. 24 of these properties will be used for resettlement purposes, with the remaining four, as per conditions of the LAHF, to be used for temporary accommodation. It is important to note that once these properties are used for their initial resettlement use, the properties will be available to be used by the Council as general needs accommodation and will contribute to the overall affordable housing provision available within the district. Whilst the Council progress development of a portion of these properties within the district in partnership with Watford Community Housing (WCH), the Council have now completed the purchase of 11 three-bedroom properties within South Oxhey for use as resettlement properties and a two-bedroom property in Sarratt, for use as temporary accommodation.

**10y) Questions to the Lead Member for General Public Services, Councillor Sara Bedford, from Councillor Ian Morris**

While it's currently summer, I believe in early planning. To best support our elderly residents this coming winter, I'd like to request information on available programmes. This includes details on heating cost assistance schemes, health hub activities, and any other resources that could benefit them. Therefore, would it be possible for officers to provide a comprehensive report on these support services by the October Full Council meeting? This will allow us to proactively share this information with residents ahead of winter.

**Written response:**

We would be happy to provide a report in the members information bulletin on Winter Support including the Household Fund, Healthy Hub Activities, Warm Spaces, Watford and Three Rivers Trust support and other initiatives that may be developed in the coming months to ensure that they can be promoted by members with residents ahead of the winter.

**10z) Questions to the Lead Member for Community Safety and Partnerships, Councillor Andrew Scarth, from Councillor Narinder Sian**

Please ask the seniors champion if it would be possible to distribute literature from the Croxley Parish council and other community groups at the Seniors forum. Specifically, about events the parish council do for seniors – the bus service etc.

**Written response:**

The Committee Team will liaise with the Seniors Champion regarding distribution of literature of future events at Croxley Parish Council and other community groups at the Seniors Forums throughout the year.

**10aa) Questions to the Lead Member for Community Safety and Partnerships, Councillor Andrew Scarth, from Councillor Cheryl Stungo**

Do we do anything to support the support the 10 to 15 age group in Three Rivers.

**Written response:**

Hertfordshire County Council predominantly lead the work supporting this age group and is catered through their programme - <https://www.servicesforyoungpeople.org/support-for-young-people/youth-projects-in-your-area/three-rivers-projects/>

Three Rivers District Council offers the following to support the 10-15 age group in Three Rivers:

Freely Accessible outdoor leisure facility provision, including:

- Skate Parks
- Parkour
- Tennis Courts
- Table Tennis tables
- Multi-Use Games Areas (MUGAs)
- Outdoor Fitness Zones
- Play Areas – equipment included to cater for the older age range.

Activity Sessions including:

- Regular Play Ranger outdoor activity sessions for 5 – 11 year olds
- Holiday Playschemes up to the age of 11 years
- Junior Netball for 10 – 16 year olds
- Tai Chi – all ages welcome
- Free Swim and Free Gym at leisure venues during the Easter and summer holidays
- One-off activity sessions, including:
  - Storyboard art workshops for 9-12 years
- Photography walks
- Nature in Clay workshops

Through the Three Rivers ACE (Accessible Childcare for All) Scheme, Three Rivers District Council provide support to families with the cost of holiday provision through the year by partnering with other organisations, including:

- Let Me Play (William Penn Leisure Centre) - for 5 - 12 years
- JAG (South Oxhey Leisure Centre) - for 5 – 11 years
- Dynamic Ducks (Mill End/Rickmansworth) – for 5 - 11 years
- Junior Playmakers (South Oxhey) - 4 – 12 years

Three Rivers District Council established “Youthy” for 8-11 years olds, based at William Penn Leisure Centre. This is now managed and run by Everyone Active.

Three Rivers District Council is also the Vice Chair for the “Three Rivers Youth Strategy Partnership”, and member of the Three Rivers, Watford and Hertsmere Families First Partnership meeting. The Youth Strategy Partnership has an action plan based on feedback

from young people on issues they would like addressed by the partnership and feeds into the Local Strategic Partnership.

The No More Service is partially funded by Three Rivers District Council – this project provides support for young people aged 11 to 21 with one to one support if they are involved or vulnerable to becoming involved in crime.

The council also employs a Family Intervention Worker who is attached to the Watford and Three Rivers Intensive Family Support Team. They provide support to the whole family and bring together multidisciplinary teams to ensure all needs are supported.

The Youth Council also provides an opportunity for young people to get involved in democracy and work together on current issues, which is facilitated by the council.

**10bb) Questions to the Lead Member for Community Safety and Partnerships, Councillor Andrew Scarth, from Councillor Philip Hearn**

I understand from the Policy and Resources meeting on June 10th that new CCTV equipment is being purchased by this council. Can the Lead Member advise as to when residents of Chestnut Avenue, Chorleywood will find out if they will be getting the CCTV they petitioned for?

**Written response:**

As previously stated at Full Council on 12 December 2023. Residents have been sent details following the petition for CCTV as to how to submit a request for temporary CCTV. There is a specific redeployment form that needs to be completed asking for the redeployment and it must have a Community Safety Board Sponsor. This should be sent to the Community Safety Team. Requests are assessed by the board against the need/priority of locations. We then need to establish if a camera can be moved and contact Herts CCTV to establish if there is a viable lamppost for the camera to be moved to in the requested area. If there is a camera that can be moved and a viable place for it to be moved to a consultation letter will be sent to all the properties in the area asking for any opposition to the camera being placed there. This lasts for 14 days. If there is no opposition, a HCCTV Deployment form will be completed and send to HCCTV. If there is no viable lamppost, there is a further cost to the redeployment to enable to the move.

**10cc) Questions to the Lead Member for Resources, Councillor Chris Lloyd, from Councillor Jonathon Solomons**

I was genuinely surprised to read Councillor Sian's recent public comment that:

“Far too many of our community spaces have been handed over to developers, converted to flats or privatised”

Could you please clarify how many community spaces have been handed over to developers, converted to flats or privatised?

**Written response:**

To my knowledge, the only site which was formerly owned by TRDC and was a community facility meeting the criteria of the question is the former Crescent Club at Hallows Crescent in South Oxhey, which was developed as part of the South Oxhey Central development.

**10dd) Questions to the Lead Member for Resources, Councillor Chris Lloyd, from Councillor Jonathon Solomons**

TRDC has recently installed the first ever council owned dog exercise area in South Oxhey. Can the Lead member please let me know how successful this facility has been, especially for dog owners wishing to train their dogs?

**Written response:**

Officers have received positive anecdotal feedback from the dog trainer that supported the site open day that it was a great provision for dog training in particular recall off the lead. Further the provision of the Dog Enrichment Area has ensured that officers are no longer seeing anti-social dog related behaviour on the multi-use games area which is considered a huge success. There has been anecdotal feedback that users of the facility are very happy with it made both in person to grounds maintenance operatives and other officers when on site and posted on various local Facebooks posts. All dog bins are being used correctly and there has not been a need to litter pick the site for any waste.

Officers will be carrying out a post-installation survey with the local community in the Autumn and will have more feedback on the dog enrichment area once this has been completed.

**10ee) Questions to the Lead Member for Resources, Councillor Chris Lloyd, from Councillor Philip Hearn**

Can the Lead Member advise as to whether the grass by the Tennis Courts at Chorleywood House Estate can be used for parking for the Chorleywood Common Youth Football Club annual tournament?

**Written response:**

The area in question is managed as a wildflower meadow as per the Chorleywood House Estate Management Plan (2023) following the adoption of the Alternative Grassland Management initiative (2022) to support the Council motion to increase the amount of grassland managed for biodiversity in this case through a cut and lift regime in the District:

([http://ricvmgapp1/documents/s4447/Chorleywood%20House%20Estate%205%20Year%20Management%20Plans.pdf?LO\\$=1](http://ricvmgapp1/documents/s4447/Chorleywood%20House%20Estate%205%20Year%20Management%20Plans.pdf?LO$=1) page 67)

and within the District's alternative grassland management map:

(<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/bcfc3b65cfe44d14814e9b1b8656a649/>).

A large number of cars driving over this meadow in Spring could be catastrophic to the health of the meadow for the rest of the season. The Council aim to create a healthy and resilient wildflower meadow supporting a diverse plant and invertebrate community;

however, the impact of cars driving over grassland vegetation has been proven to reduce the vegetation cover and species present due to compaction and disturbance.

The Council worked with the Football Club to identify alternative provision, which included the Grounds Maintenance team offering their services to clear an area within North Hill Farm to make the field accessible for parking.

Three Rivers District Council worked tirelessly during the week to help support the Football Club, this was despite only being made aware of the event 4 days prior.

Chorleywood Common Football Club expressed their extreme gratitude to all Officers involved for their support post the event.

**10ff) Questions to the Lead Member for Resources, Councillor Chris Lloyd, from Councillor Christopher Alley**

Has Three Rivers District Council assessed whether it will face charges for dilapidations due to the state that it will return the Sir James Altham 3G pitch to Hertfordshire County Council? And if so, how much are they estimated at?

**Written response:**

The current status of the 3G pitch and the dilapidations arising as part of Council's exit from the Sir James Altham site are yet to be agreed. As Members may be aware, Hertfordshire County Council have previously asked the Council to consider the early surrender of its lease, in order to allow the County Council to progress its redevelopment plans for the site. As such the settlement of any obligations will form part of those discussions.

**10gg) Questions to the Lead Member for Resources, Councillor Chris Lloyd, from Councillor Lisa Hudson**

What did Three Rivers District Council pull out of a meeting with Rickmansworth Park School where Hertfordshire County Council were offering to cover the cost of mowing the ground for sports day and other lessons they have been holding on the ground for free since 1977?

**Written response:**

A meeting was arranged to be held, at TRDCs request on 4th June and this meeting was cancelled by Hertfordshire County Council. The reason provided was that county council officers were meeting with OFSTED. No costs have ever been proposed for the cutting of grass for the school sports day, nor for the lane markings that are provided by this council annually for that event, nor for any other school activities where they are held on areas of the park which are amenity cut as standard. No offer has been made by HCC to cover the costs associated with the additional grass cutting that was specifically requested by the school for a specific non amenity cut area of the park.

**10hh) Questions to the Lead Member for Resources, Councillor Chris Lloyd, from Councillor Ian Morris**

Will Three Rivers be providing the fantastic Play Rangers scheme this summer? If so, can the Lead Member provide all Councillors details of where they will be and how can we help promote this to our local families?

**Written response:**

Yes. The Play Rangers will be working throughout the district for 5 weeks during the summer holidays. We have two new fantastic locations to add to the programme (Chorleywood House Estate and Baldwins Lane Playing Fields). You can view the timetable here: Play Rangers | Three Rivers District Council. Officers will also email the Lead member with a pdf version of the timetable to send to all Councillors so they can share with local families.

**10ii) Questions to the Lead Member for Resources, Councillor Chris Lloyd, from Councillor Ian Morris**

Could the relevant person dealing with the pitch at Oxhey Jets update on where we are at? They say the amount quoted for repairs is a quarter of the amount that is claimed to be required.

**Written response:**

It is unclear as to which pitch your question refers. If we assume you are referring to the 3G (MUGA) pitch, this is not an Oxhey Jets pitch, but a general use 3G football pitch. The Council, in consultation with Everyone Active took the reluctant decision to close this pitch on health & safety grounds, following extensive and sustained vandalism. The Council obtained a quote which indicated that the repair (effectively the replacement) of the 3G pitch would cost £70,000.

A link to the Joint Statement released by TRDC & Oxhey Jets Football Club can be found here: <https://www.threerivers.gov.uk/services/leisure-parks-culture/leisure-venues/sir-james-altham-3g>

**10jj) Questions to the Lead Member for Sustainability and Climate Change, from Councillor Ian Morris**

Our district boast three beautiful rivers, a testament to its natural beauty. Many of us hold fond memories of paddling in these very waters as children. While the Council doesn't directly control river quality, it's concerning if they are not safe for our children to enjoy. Can the lead confirm that the state of the rivers in our district do not pose any risk to those wishing to play in them? If the answer is anything other than yes, I propose we collectively express our dissatisfaction with the rivers' condition to the responsible parties. I'm happy to work jointly with any parties to draft a motion to formally request action on this issue.

**Written response:**

The river system is by nature incredibly dynamic thus making it difficult to ever deem it "safe" to enter. When accessing any inland water in the UK care should be taken as the Rivers Trust declare very few inland bathing waters in the UK. Bathing waters are categorised as



'excellent', 'good', 'sufficient' or 'poor' based on bacteria levels. The impact of sewage discharge and other forms of pollution would make it very difficult for the rivers locally to achieve a good status. The Council has very little to no control over water quality as this is impacted by many private operations. The main contributor to poor water quality is often understood to be the water companies. The council are working on multiple river restoration projects which aim to improve the overall health of the river focusing on water flow, habitat health and educating local people on the health and value of our rivers.

### **10kk) Questions to the Lead Member for Sustainability and Climate Change, from Councillor Ian Morris**

I am sure our residents who use the Aquadrome will welcome the news that Three Rivers has secured 500k grant to enhance biodiversity and accessibility at Rickmansworth Aquadrome. Could the Lead Member please explain what changes our residents can expect to see at the Aquadrome and how were they able to secure the grant?

#### **Written response:**

In October 2022, the Leisure, Environment and Community Committee approved a new Management Plan for the Aquadrome – this is an aspirational management plan, subject to securing additional funding. Details on the management plan can be viewed here:

<https://cdn.threerivers.gov.uk/files/2023/03/d3f6b1d0-b9e6-11ed-82c5-4fb253619d22-Aquadrome%20Management%20Plan%202022-27%20FINAL.pdf>

Three Rivers District Council has therefore applied for funding to support the implementation of the management plan and as highlighted, were successful in securing £510,463 from the HS2 Colne Valley Regional Park Panel. The Panel is an independent panel that secured funding during the HS2 bill process, through petitioning. More information on the Panel can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/hs2-colne-valley-regional-park-panel>

The Council was required to submit a detailed application and present to the Panel, demonstrating how the proposal aligned to the Panel's AMP (Additional Mitigation Plan) Projects. The proposal for this funding focused primarily on the north-west corner of the Aquadrome.

The Panel then voted on the project, which was unanimously supported by all members of the Panel.

A significant part of this project includes the commissioning of a Hydrological Study of the site. This will inform all future work to ensure that the site can continue to operate effectively as a flood plain. This is currently in progress.

Once the report and associated recommendations have been completed, the following will be delivered as part of the project over a period of time on a phased approach:

- Habitat enhancements to the Wet Woodland, north-west corner of Bury Lake and southern bank of the River Colne.
- Accessibility enhancements to include a new boardwalk, pathway works, access gates and seating.

- Visitor Experience enhancements through new and improved interpretation, waymarking and signage