

## **BOROUGH OF BROXBOURNE**

At a meeting of the COUNCIL of the BOROUGH OF BROXBOURNE held at Borough Offices, Bishops' College, Churchgate, Cheshunt on Tuesday 22 July 2008 at 7.30 pm.

Present: Councillor Mrs C.A.Crump-Eynon (Mayor); Councillors M.D.Aitken, N.J.H Ames, K.A.Ayling, Mrs.J.E.E.Ball, Mrs.S.Ball-Greenwood, R.B.Bick, K.M.Brown, P.Caruso, Mrs J.A.C.Clemerson, R.A.Clemerson, M.Greensmyth, R.T.Greenhill, R.G.Hannam, Miss D.R.A.Hart, B.F.Hill, T.Infantino, Mrs.H.V.Jackson, D.Lewis, M.H.Lyth, P.V.Mason, J.R.Metcalf, M.B.J.Mills-Bishop, G.Nicholson, Mrs.M.H.O'Neill, J.Pearce, B.A.Perry, Mrs.B.L.Perryman, P.N.Seeby, A.F.Smith, C.E.Tranham, M.A.Watson, and Mrs.E.M.White.

Mr.M.Walker, Chief Executive Officer, Ms.G.Clelland, Director of Resources, Mr.I.Orton, Director of Community Services, Mr.J. Stack, Director of Environmental Services, Mr.G.Miles, Head of Legal Services, and Mr.S.Billington, Head of Support Services.

### **10. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Kennaugh, Mrs Leese, Moule, Rowland and Mrs Welch.

### **11. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Personal interests (except where indicated) were declared as follows:

Councillors Aitken and Seeby      Part II, Items 11,12 and 13 and Part III, Item 1 of the Community Services Committee of 3 June 2008 and Part III, Item 9 and Part III, Items 5 and 8 of the Policy and Resources Committee of 14 July 2008 due to membership of the board of Broxbourne Housing Association.

Councillor Greenhill              Part II, Item 1 of the Policy and Resources Committee of 14 July 2008 due to being an employee of Tesco Stores Limited.

### **12. MINUTES**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the annual meeting held on 13 May 2008 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

### **13. MAYORAL**

#### **(a) Mayoral Announcements**

The Mayor announced the following forthcoming events in support of her charity:

|                          |                        |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| August Bank Holiday 2008 | Charity Family Fun Day |
| 14 September 2008        | Charity Bike Ride      |
| 19 September 2008        | Race Night and Disco   |
| 25 October 2008          | Charity Ball           |
| 20 November 2008         | Charity Dinner         |

#### **(b) Service Certificate**

The Mayor presented former Councillor D Clayton with a certificate to mark his service on the Council.

## 14. APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODIES

It was moved by Councillor Ayling, seconded by Councillor Pearce and;

RESOLVED that:

(a) the following be appointed to the outside bodies specified:

|   |                      |
|---|----------------------|
| Dame Letitia Monson Charity                       | Councillor Metcalf   |
| Broxbourne Open Spaces Trust                      | Mrs P Bloomfield     |
| East Herts and Broxbourne Domestic Violence Forum | Councillor Mrs Crump |

(b) the appointments to the governing bodies of The Cranbourne School and Goffs Oak JMI School be deferred to the next meeting.

## 15. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The Council confirmed its agreement to a procedure that, with the exception of the appropriate chairman, permitted a member to speak only once on the receipt of the reports of each committee.

*Councillor Aitken wished it to be recorded that he voted against the foregoing decision.*

Following appropriate motions the reports of the undermentioned committees, together with any recommendations contained therein, were adopted.

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Planning and Licensing  | 20 May, 17 and 25 June and 15 July 2008 |
| Service Organisations Board   | 27 May 2008                             |
| Community Services  | 3 June 2008                             |
| Environmental Services  | 10 June 2008                            |
| Finance and Personnel   | 24 June 2008                            |
| Scrutiny  | 1 July 2008                             |
| Standards   | 8 July 2008                             |
| Councillor Smith's apologies for absence were noted.  |   |
| Policy and Resources  | 14 July 2008                            |
| On Part 1, Item 3 (A Corporate Plan for Broxbourne) it was moved by Councillor Ayling, seconded by Councillor Pearce and; |   |

RESOLVED that the Council approves the Corporate Plan 2008-2011 and its vision statement as amended subject to the Chief Executive Officer, in consultation with the Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee, being authorised to make such other minor adjustments necessary to enhance the value of the plan to the Council.

## 16. QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 10

The following questions submitted under Standing Order 10 were put by the councillors indicated to the Leader of the Council and the chairmen of the committees specified:

### Q1 Councillor Aitken to ask the Chairman of the Community Services Committee

"In view of the £75,000 cut in the Council's budget for concessionary bus passes this year, will the Chairman agree to reinstate free travel on buses within the county for borough residents in receipt of Incapacity Benefit or disabled person's working tax credits?"

**A1 Reply by the Chairman of the Community Services Committee**

“The Council still has to find £344k to fund the scheme in 2008/09 from its own resources. There has been no reduction in the provision of concessionary bus fares. Any reduction in grant by Hertfordshire County Council has been made up by efficiency exercises so there has been no loss of service.

The Council has not removed free travel for residents on Incapacity Benefit or Disabled Persons Tax Credit and there is no need to reinstate these benefits.”

**Q2 Councillor Watson to ask the Chairman of the Environmental Services Committee**

“What action has the Council taken to support town centre retailers in the borough over the past 12 months?”

**A2 Reply by the Chairman of the Environmental Services Committee**

“The Council has looked to develop various aspects of the town centre environment with a range of environmental improvements such as the Waltham Cross ‘piazza’, the development of a Sunday market in Waltham Cross and is actively considering additional taxi rank provision in Hoddesdon. There is also an increased level of planters/hanging baskets in each of the town centres and some retailers have also been approached about developing street cafés to add to the street scene, although very little interest has been shown.

In addition, the Council continues to run its annual town centre events programme in the town centres of Hoddesdon and Waltham Cross to increase their vibrancy, with the recent Hoddesdon Vintage car Display attracting several thousand people to the town centre.

With regard to direct support of retailers the Council contributed a sum of £4,500 to the Hoddesdon Town Centre Initiative in 2006/07 to help fund a town centre manager, although this post has now been vacated and no replacement has been appointed by the Initiative. With regard to Cheshunt and Waltham Cross the Council officers have regular contact with key retailers to update them on town centre issues.”

**Q3 Councillor Watson to ask the Chairman of the Environmental Services Committee**

“What action has the Council taken to improve the Old Pond in the past 12 months?”

**A3 Reply by the Chairman of the Environmental Services Committee**

“From a community safety perspective the Council installed a monitored CCTV system covering the Old Pond area in 2006/07 and the area was declared an alcohol control zone in July 2007.

The public car parks at Windmill Lane, Newnham Parade and Community Hospital have achieved “secure car park” status and have been awarded APCOA “Park Mark” accreditation. Additional car parking has also been provided adjacent to the Community Hospital to the rear of 180 Crossbrook Street.

Local Transport Plan (LTP) Funding has also been confirmed for a review of Cheshunt and Waltham Cross Urban Transport Plan which will involve consultation and consideration to the Council’s Community Plan and guide LTP funding for the next 5 years.”

**Q4 Councillor Watson to ask the Chairman of the Environmental Services Committee**

“What is the Council doing to assess the impact of the proposed Greater Brookfield development on the borough’s town centres?”

**A4 Reply by the Chairman of the Environmental Services Committee**

“The first stage of the retail study is being completed later this month. It identifies the share of retail expenditure between the Borough’s shopping centres, the floorspace needed to meet future local demand and the extensive loss of trade to towns outside the Borough.

The scale of retail development at Brookfield has not yet been fixed. Brookfield should offer sufficient choice and quality to attract local residents to shop in the Borough and avoid competing directly with Enfield, Welwyn and Harlow. The consultants will now be testing the scale of development to achieve this balanced against the potential impacts on the Borough’s town centres.

The consultants will also recommend how the town centres can best maintain their vitality and viability. This second stage of work will be completed by September to inform the site allocations Development Plan Document.

I would also draw your attention to the motion in the name of Councillor Lewis later on in the meeting agenda. ”

**Q5 Councillor Greenhill to ask the Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee**

“Of the £110,000 budgeted last year for making the borough safer under the Waltham Cross Community Safety Plan, how much has the Council paid out?”

**Q6 Councillor Greenhill to ask the Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee**

“Of the £40,000 of capital spending budgeted for community safety improvements in Waltham Cross last year, how much did the Council actually invest?”

**A5 Reply by the Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee****&**

**A6** “For the benefit of the Council I will respond to Questions 5 and 6 in the same answer. The £110,000 in 2007/08 for community safety/environmental improvements in Waltham Cross comprised the following:

|  |              |
|--|--------------|
| Contribution from Park Plaza S.106 agreement for community safety measures | £50k         |
| Community Safety Capital Programme   | £20k         |
| Environmental Services Capital Programme                                   | £40k         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>   | <b>£110k</b> |

However, because of detailed consultations of where best to expend these funds these monies were carried over into 2008/09.

The Policy and Resources Committee in February 2008 determined the first tranche of these monies should be put towards the following projects:

|   |                                    |
|---|------------------------------------|
| Dedicated additional PCSO for Waltham Cross (3 years @ £14,250 per annum – match funded by Police.  | £42,750                            |
| Extensions of town centre CCTV system to cover Monarchs way subway complex and approaches to Waltham Cross railway station and new car park | £18,000 + £2,000 pa revenue costs. |
| Development of a Locality Police Patrol base at Waltham Cross One Stop Shop   | £7,500                             |

All of these projects are currently being progressed and are expected to be in place by September 2008.

This equates to capital costs of £25,500 and revenue costs of £48,750 spread over 3 years. This is a total investment of £74,250. The remaining funds are largely for environmental improvements around the Monarchs Way subway area and await the outcomes of the Waltham Cross environmental audit.”

**Q7 Councillor Greenhill to ask the Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee**

“How will the Council fund each of the four additional police community support officers?”

**A7 Reply by the Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee**

“The Council has yet to determine whether it can afford its contribution of £57k per annum to fund a further four PCSOs under the match funding arrangements. But in the interim the Police are recruiting to two of these posts (one for Waltham Cross and one for Hoddesdon Town/Broxbourne), with the Council’s contribution being met from S.106 resources and other sources within the Council’s estimates.”

**Q8 Councillor Aitken to ask the Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee**

“Does the Chairman recognise that Waltham Cross Neighbourhood Forum is at least as well attended as other neighbourhood forums across the borough and will he heed the concerns of those attending the forum that the proposal to double the area and population within its remit will have an adverse effect on its ability to tackle community safety fears in Waltham Cross?”

**A8 Reply by the Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee**

“The proposal to extend the Waltham Cross neighbourhood forum area to include Theobalds ward was firstly in response to a request from residents arising from the survey of neighbourhood forums carried out in late 2007; and secondly to achieve a more equitable spread of the Borough’s population across the 6 neighbourhood forums. However, no change is being made to the areas the Police’s Safer Neighbourhood Teams cover, so there will be the same level of policing resources in the Waltham Cross team as now, pending the appointment of an additional dedicated PCSO for Waltham Cross referred to in my earlier responses.

Issues of accommodating higher attendance levels can easily be addressed by using a larger venue and I understand it is hoped that the next meeting will be held at Christ Church, Trinity Lane which has a far greater capacity than the existing venue.

I cannot therefore see how this will have an adverse effect on the forum’s ability to tackle community safety in Waltham Cross, although, there would be a negative financial impact in keeping Waltham Cross ward as an exclusive forum area because this would require a reconfiguration of the calculations for neighbourhood budgets recently agreed by the Policy and Resources Committee. These were based on proportion of population x proportion of crime and disorder incidents. With the relatively small population of the Waltham Cross ward this would lead to the existing allocation of £18,500 being reduced to some £11,000.”

**Q9 Councillor Aitken to ask the Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee**

“What pressure is the Chairman going to put on Hertfordshire County Council to ensure that the A10 footbridge is in place before children’s lives are put at risk?”

## **Reply by the Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee**

“As Councillors will be aware, this Council pursued a bid, as part of the Sustrans Connect 2 project, with the Peoples £50 million Big Lottery in order to secure funding for this scheme. This was successful and £500,000 is to be made available.

In addition, the Council has commissioned consultancy services to design the bridge and planning permission has been granted. Work is progressing to ensure the scheme meets the safety audit requirements of the County Council.

The Policy and Resources Committee has provisionally agreed to make £1,070,000 available to enable the scheme to proceed. Negotiations with the land owners have reached an advanced stage and the release of funds to enable a joint purchase with the County Council, subject to conditions, was agreed last week by the Policy and Resources Committee.

The governing body has been asked to vary its planning permission for the school to enable the bridge to proceed and an answer is expected soon.

The joint member highway panel comprising County and Borough Council members which met yesterday considered the scheme and there is unanimous support for it in preference to a Toucan crossing.

Monthly meetings are being held with HCC to enable delivery of the bridge to coincide with the opening of the School. The Leader has met with the Leader of HCC and there is high level support for the proposal.

There is therefore considerable progress towards delivering the project in time for the opening of the school.”

## **17. NOTICES OF MOTION**

It was moved by Councillor Ayling seconded by Councillor Pearce and;

RESOLVED that the motions be taken in the following order – (4), (2), (1) and (3).

### **(a) Concessions**

Pursuant to notice given in accordance with Standing Order 11, the following motion was moved by Councillor Watson and seconded by Councillor Greenhill;

“That this Council notes:

- (a) that the Service Organisations Board resolved on 27 May to make more than £8,000 of cuts to the overall funding of concessions for pest control and special waste collections with effect from 1 July 2008;
- (b) that the Board’s proposals to raise the qualifying concessionary age to 75 would deprive two thirds of pensioners from automatic entitlement;
- (c) that the proposals would halve the rate of special waste concessions for the remaining pensioners and benefit recipients;
- (d) that the Board promised to seek the approval of the Environmental Services Committee and the Finance and Personnel Committee;
- (e) that neither committee has given any such approval; and
- (f) that no provision has been made for concessions by virtue of age or low income for residents paying for purple refuse sacks;

we therefore condemn the proposed cuts and purple sack tax; and we demand that the Environmental Services Committee intervene to end the unfair charging regimes.”

*In accordance with Standing Order 11(4) the Mayor indicated that she considered it convenient and conducive for the despatch of business to allow the motion to be dealt with at the meeting.*

An amendment moved the Councillor Perry and seconded by Councillor Mrs Jackson to delete all the words of the motion after the word “That” and substitute therefor “the Council approves the amendments to the concession scheme proposed by the Service Organisations Board as a trial and requests the Environmental Services Committee to consider a report on the subject when there is sufficient information to allow it to consider the matter” was put to the vote and declared carried.

*Councillor Aitken wished it to be recorded that he voted against the amendment.*

The original motion, as amended, was put to the vote and declared carried.

**RESOLVED accordingly.**

**(b) Remaining Motions**

It was moved by Councillor Ayling and seconded by Councillor Pearce that the remaining motions, of which notice had been given under Standing Order 11, be collectively put to the vote.

*In accordance with Standing Order 11 (4) the Mayor indicated that she considered it convenient and conducive for the despatch of business to allow the motions to be dealt with at the meeting.*

The motions were collectively put to the vote and declared carried as follows:

“This Council reaffirms its welcome for the comprehensive development of proposals for shopping and community facilities at Brookfield Farm which otherwise will not be available in this Borough and, at the same time, the Council pledges to develop policies to support the viability and prosperity of the Borough’s existing town centres.”

“This Council expresses its thanks to the Lee Valley Regional Park Authority for the additional financial support it has provided for the Olympic White Water Site project, and it looks forward to the determination of the submitted planning application for this facility as quickly as practicable.”

“This Council congratulates Mr Charles Walker MP and the East and North Herts PCT for the recent public meeting on the implementation of an urgent treatment centre at the Cheshunt Community Hospital. This Council resolves to do all in its powers to increase public awareness of the new facility, and pledges to help the PCT in any ways in which it can with strengthening local primary care services at this site.”

**RESOLVED accordingly.**

The meeting terminated at 10.12 pm.

MRS C A CRUMP-EYNON  
Mayor