

COUNCIL
26 NOVEMBER 2014
7.30 - 8.45 PM



Present:

Councillors Blatchford (Deputy Mayor), Mrs Angell, Allen, Angell, Baily, Dr Barnard, Bettison, Birch, Mrs Birch, Brossard, Ms Brown, Brunel-Walker, Davison, Dudley, Gbadebo, Mrs Hamilton, Harrison, Mrs Hayes, Ms Hayes, Heydon, Leake, McCracken, Mrs McCracken, McLean, Ms Miller, Mrs Phillips, Mrs Pile, Porter, Sargeant, Mrs Temperton, Thompson, Turrell, Virgo, Wade, Ward, Ms Wilson and Worrall

Apologies for absence were received from:

Councillors Mrs Barnard, Finch, Finnie and Kensall

The Council observed a minute's silence to mark the sad death of the Mayor Alan Kendall. The Deputy Mayor invited Councillor Bettison, Leader of the Council to speak on behalf of the Council for Councillor Kendall.

Councillor Bettison stated that Alan had a varied career before moving into politics, this had included publishing 20 books, being a freelance musician and studying Theology at Cambridge University. Alan had been elected to Winkfield Parish Council in 1995 and then to the borough Council in 2000. Alan had served the Council in many ways including as Executive Member for Education, Chairman of the Licensing & Safety Committee and later as Mayor. Alan had been a gentleman, a quiet man with unassuming ways and would be hugely missed by all. The Leader stated that his thoughts would be with Alan's family at this difficult time.

27. Minutes of Previous Meeting

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 17 September 2014 be approved and signed by the Deputy Mayor as a correct record.

28. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

29. Mayor's Announcements

Pancreatic Cancer Research Fund

The Deputy Mayor announced that for the remainder of the municipal year he would be pleased to continue to support and raise funds for the Pancreatic Cancer Research Fund that Councillor Alan Kendall had so tirelessly supported during his time as Mayor.

Executive Member for Culture, Corporate Services & Public Protection

Councillor McCracken was pleased to announce that the Council's customer portal had been set up as part of the Customer Contact Strategy and had been live since October 2014. The portal enabled residents to log enquiries and to chart the progress of their queries by logging into the portal. 1250 people had used the portal over the last two months, indicating the success of this work.

Councillor McCracken was pleased to announce that 28 primary and junior schools had participated in tag rugby which had taken place at the Great Hollands Recreation Ground. This included 300 children participating in 80 games. The Executive Member congratulated Whitegrove Primary School for winning the final of the games.

Councillor McCracken was pleased to announce that in a recent publication Bracknell Forest was listed in the top ten for sporting and fitness activity. This was clear to see with the many opportunities available across the borough including the success of Bracknell hockey clubs, Bracknell Forest runners membership which had almost doubled to 300 adult members and the excellent mountain bike trails available.

Executive Member for Adult Social Care, Health & Housing

Councillor Birch was pleased to announce that the Council had achieved national recognition for the extra care work carried out for vulnerable groups. The Prime Minister's Office had carried out a parliamentary review of care and had chosen Bracknell Forest to celebrate the work undertaken in this service area. The borough had featured among the top ten nationally for its performance in this area. Councillor Birch reported that this was recognition of the excellent work of staff and officers and he extended his thanks to all staff involved in this service area.

Executive Member for Children, Young People & Learning

Councillor Dr Barnard was pleased to announce that there had been a royal visit to the borough in the preceding week by the Duke of Gloucester, Prince Richard to formally open the newly built part of Crown Wood School. The royal visit had been a huge success and Prince Richard had congratulated the Council on the quality of the environment at Crown Wood School.

Councillor Dr Barnard was pleased to announce that this year's School's Carol Concert on 7 December 2014 would be dedicated to Councillor Alan Kendall as recognition of his dedication and contribution to music and all proceeds would go to the Pancreatic Cancer Research Fund.

Executive Member for Planning & Transport

Councillor Turrell was pleased to announce that Berkshire Youth who managed the Wayz Youth Centre had made a special award to Liz Hassock, Youth Support Manager for her outstanding work for the community in working with them on youth provision.

Councillor Turrell was pleased to announce that Safer Roads Berkshire, in partnership with Bracknell Forest Council and four other Berkshire authorities, had received the Prince Michael International Road Safety Award. The award was for their outstanding contribution to improving road safety. In particular, Councillor Turrell thanked Tina Housego, Road Safety Officer for her contribution to this success.

Executive Member for the Environment

Councillor Mrs Hayes was pleased to announce that since the installation of solar panels on the Bracknell Forest Leisure Centre, over 100,000 kW of energy had been generated by the solar panels. This had led to reduced costs, a saving of energy and a reduced carbon footprint.

Executive Member for Economic Development & Regeneration

Councillor Brunel-Walker was pleased to announce that the demolition of Winchester House would be started on Friday 28 November. ITV Meridian would be covering the demolition.

Councillor Brunel-Walker was pleased to announce that he would be participating in the Christmas Shopping Challenge to demonstrate his support of local retailers. He urged everyone to support local retailers during the critical period whilst the town centre was being regenerated, as this would be a challenging period particularly for small businesses. In addition, the borough would be running a Small Business Saturday on Saturday 6 December in the town centre, presenting another good opportunity to show support for the borough's small businesses.

30. **Executive Report**

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Bettison, presented his report on the work of the Executive since that reported at the Council meeting on 17 September 2014. The Executive had met three times on 23 September 2014, 21 October 2014 and 18 November 2014.

The Leader highlighted the following matters that had been considered:

- **Community Hubs**, five new community hubs were planned before 2026. It was intended that the community hubs would be managed by town and parish councils.
- **Polling District and Polling Places Review**, No changes were proposed for 31 out of the 33 polling districts and the Council was recommended to create two new polling districts.
- **Local Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report:**
 - Key areas last year included the: Child Sexual Exploitation (CES) Strategy, Children's Society Survey of more than 2000 children/young people and a conference on neglect with Frank Field MP.
 - The focus for 2014/15 included further development of CSE protection and support, early intervention framework, domestic abuse, reducing the impact of substance and alcohol misuse in children and young people, reducing impact of parental mental illness on children and understanding harm associated with misuse of technology.
- **Binfield Learning Village and Community Facilities**, since 2003 more than 5000 new school places had been created however additional capacity in the north of the borough was still essential. The Blue Mountain proposals would deliver a nursery, a two form entry primary school, a seven form entry secondary school and special educational needs provision. This would amount to 1,851 additional places.

- **Customer Contact Strategy 2011-2014:** progress over the last three years included improved online access to libraries, increased numbers of school admission applications being completed online, the Digital Inclusion Project, an automated telephony service and a redesigned Benefits and Housing Service.
- **Other significant issues considered by the Executive included:**
 - Office Accommodation Strategy
 - Enforcement Policy
 - Amendment to the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA) Policy
 - Roles and responsibilities of the Director of Children’s Services and Lead Member clarified.
 - Business and Enterprise Work Plan
 - Complaints Procedure
 - Corporate Performance

Councillor Mrs Temperton asked for clarification regarding the cost to parents of the Kidz Saturday and holiday schemes, as the report in the agenda papers was unclear on page 18. In addition, Councillor Mrs Temperton asked if the John Nike holiday scheme would no longer be supported by Aiming High, as this scheme was being reduced by half.

Councillor Dr Barnard confirmed that the cost to parents for the Kidz Saturday and holiday scheme would be rising from £12 to £20 and that the John Nike holiday scheme would no longer be supported by the Aiming High programme. These changes had been made following consultation with parents and carers and the options chosen were supported by parent and carers as well as providers.

Councillor Mrs Temperton asked that given that this respite offered a lifeline to families with disabled children in particular and was vital, could the funding not be found from the Council’s significant reserves.

Councillor Dr Barnard reiterated that the option agreed by the Executive was a sustainable one which offered best value and the right balance. Further, this option had been chosen by parents and carers locally.

On the proposition of Councillor Birch, seconded by Councillor McCracken it was

RESOLVED that:

Polling District and Polling Places Review 2014:

- 1) (i) **No changes were made to the following polling districts and polling places which met statutory criteria and provided reasonable and accessible facilities:**

BA	BD	BE	BF	BG	BH	BJ	BK	BM	BN
BP	BQ	BT	BW	CS	SJ	SO	SP	SQ	WG
WM	WN	WP	WQ	WS	WV	WW	WX	WY	WZ

- (ii) **No changes were made to polling district CN (Crowthorne) noting that the TRL site was a long term development area and therefore would be kept under review as development progressed**

- (iii) **A new polling district BC be created to cover those properties in the Wykery Copse development, Peacock Lane and Waterloo Road which were currently located in BB and that the Jennett's Park Community Centre, Tawny Owl Square, be designated as the polling place for the new BC polling district. Electors in the revised BB polling district will continue to vote at Farley Wood Community Centre.**
- (iv) **A new polling district BLP be created for The Parks and surrounding roads and that the Parks Community Centre be designated as the polling place for the new BLP polling district. Electors in the revised BL polling district will continue to vote at St Paul's Church.**

Policy on Directed Surveillance and Use of Covert Human Intelligence Sources

- 2) **Amendment to the Council's Policy on Directed Surveillance and Use of Covert Human Intelligence Sources under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA) 2000, as detailed in the agenda papers on page 17 be approved.**

31. Establishment of an Appointment Committee

The Council considered a report regarding the establishment of an Appointment Committee to appoint to the position of Borough Solicitor.

On the proposition of Councillor McCracken, Executive Member for Culture, Corporate Services and Public Protection seconded by Councillor Birch it was **RESOLVED** that the tabled revised recommendations be approved:

- i) **That a Committee of the Council of five members (4:1), including at least one Member of the Executive (plus up to two substitute members per group) be appointed, with the following terms of reference:**

"To interview and appoint on behalf of the Council to the post of Borough Solicitor"
- ii) **that Councillors Leake, McCracken, McLean, Mrs Temperton and Thompson be confirmed as the nominated members**
- iii) **that Councillors Ms Brown, Heydon and Ms Miller be confirmed as the substitute members.**

32. Schedule of Meetings 2015-16

The Council considered a report seeking approval of the revised Schedule of Meetings for 2015/16 tabled at the meeting.

On the proposition of Councillor McCracken, Executive Member for Culture, Corporate Services and Public Protection seconded by Councillor Birch it was **RESOLVED** that the tabled **Schedule of Meetings for 2015/16 be approved.**

33. **Questions Submitted Under Council Procedure Rule 10**

- (i) Councillor Ms Brown asked Councillor Brunel-Walker, Executive Member for Economic Development and Regeneration the following published question:

Now that Fenwick have finally signed to be the second anchor store in Bracknell Town's regeneration, can the Council give the residents their much requested definitive time scale of month and year for the following:-

1. *Start of building M&S, Fenwick and other shops*
2. *Completion of this build and opening of the shops*
3. *Start of rebuild of Charles' Square*
4. *Completion of this rebuild and opening of the shops*
5. *Demolition of the 3M building*
6. *Completion of the rebuild of its replacement flats and shops*
7. *Completion of the bus station renovation*
8. *Demolition of Coopers Hill*
9. *Rebuild of the Youth Hub and flats*
10. *Opening of this central Youth facility promised 2 years ago?*

In response to part 1-7 of the question, Councillor Brunel-Walker stated that as a multi-million pound project, the regeneration remained hugely complicated and everybody working on the scheme was eager to make progress as quickly as possible. The Council continued to play a pivotal role in enabling the regeneration to happen although, ultimately, very substantial financial investment (£200m for the next phase) would be made by development partners, the Bracknell Regeneration Partnership. The decision on timing would ultimately be theirs and it simply was not possible to give a "definitive" timetable.

Councillor Brunel-Walker stated that having said that, the very significant landmark of securing Fenwick of Bond Street as an anchor for the scheme meant that June/July 2015 should see the start of construction work for the Northern Retail Quarter West, which would include the new Fenwick, Marks and Spencer and other shops and restaurants, together with the new Cineworld multiscreen cinema. The redevelopment of Charles Square would start a little later but be coordinated as part of the same construction programme, which should all be completed in September 2017, ready for opening at Christmas 2017.

In response to a supplementary question from Councillor Ms Brown, Councillor Brunel-Walker confirmed that the refurbishment of the bus station would take place in early spring next year.

In response to part 8-10 of the question, Councillor Dr Barnard stated that the Coopers Hill Scheme would come forward over the next few months. The Council was working with a local housing provider to secure new youth accommodation which it was planned would include a theatre, dance studio, technology suites, cafe and a number of flexible spaces. This was still at the proposal stage so it was too early to

give any definite dates. Outline plans for the construction of this town centre facility for young people and 123 affordable housing one and two bedroomed flats had been produced. A report was due to be presented to the Executive in January 2015.

In response to a supplementary question from Councillor Ms Brown regarding the finalisation of the plans for the youth facility, Councillor Dr Barnard stated that it was not possible to give a definitive timescale, it was crucial that a high quality facility that was sustainable was delivered.

(ii) By Councillor Mrs Temperton to Councillor Dr Barnard, Executive Member for Children, Young People & Learning

Evidence shows that there will again be pressures on the budget from the need to support an increased number of children taken into care. 'Homestart' is a local organisation that trains volunteers to work with vulnerable families in their homes; providing support, building confidence and resilience; helping to prevent family crises and breakdown. At this time last year, it was proposed that the budget to 'Homestart' be cut by £20,000, a 1/3rd of their budget. In the actual budget this cut was 'reprieved for just one year to allow a review of funding'. I trust the Council will again recognise that supporting 'Homestart's' early intervention is an investment to save a lot of money.

Can we be assured there will be no cut in 'Homestart's' funding in the 2015/2016 budget?

In response Councillor Dr Barnard confirmed that there were no plans to cut the Homestart grant for 2015/16, the Council would continue to support these excellent services as well as considering how support could be increased.

In response to a supplementary question from Councillor Mrs Temperton, Councillor Dr Barnard stated that Homestart would be informed of their grant arrangements for 2015/16 as part of the usual budget setting process.

(iii) By Councillor Mrs Temperton to Councillor Dr Barnard, Executive Member for Children, Young People & Learning

Piloting the web-based "Mindfull" programme in two secondary schools was a welcome recognition of the urgent need for counselling, to support young people's mental well-being.

In light of the collapse of this programme and before another such is commissioned, what extra support is being offered to our young people in the interim?

In response Councillor Dr Barnard stated that MindFull was part of the Beat Bullying Group which had gone into administration without advanced warning to the Council. Crucially local young people had not started to use the service and existing support to young people, outside of services provided by Beat Bullying Group, continued as before.

Over the past two months, Public Health had met with various providers and was inviting proposals to run a six month pilot in the two schools already identified. A new service specification and contract would then be put in place.

In November, the Chief Officer for Learning & Achievement launched a programme of emotional and mental health and well being awareness raising in schools and was launching a refreshed Healthy Schools programme, which had a particular emphasis on emotional and mental health and wellbeing. The Council was fully engaged in the wider work around Child & Adolescent Mental Health Service together with NHS partners. This included the implementation of new care pathways for children and young people experiencing mental health problems.

In response to a supplementary question from Councillor Mrs Temperton, Councillor Dr Barnard stated that feedback from young people was needed before the six month trial could begin in the two schools identified.

MAYOR