

AGENDA SUPPLEMENT (1)

Meeting: Council

Place: Council Chamber - County Hall, Bythesea Road, Trowbridge, BA14 8JN

Date: Tuesday 21 May 2024

Time: 10.30 am

The Agenda for the above meeting was published on 13 May 2024. Additional documents are now available and are attached to this Agenda Supplement.

Please direct any enquiries on this Agenda to Kieran Elliott of Democratic Services, County Hall, Bythesea Road, Trowbridge, direct line 01225 718352 or email committee@wiltshire.gov.uk

Press enquiries to Communications on direct lines (01225)713114/713115.

This Agenda and all the documents referred to within it are available on the Council's website at www.wiltshire.gov.uk

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DATE OF PUBLICATION: 20 May 2024

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Wiltshire Council

Full Council

21 May 2024

Item 7 - Public Participation

From Denise Harvey

**To Cllr Nick Botterill - Cabinet Member for Finance, Development Management,
and Strategic Planning**

Question (P24-11)

I read in 'The Times' (early May), that many councils are taking advantage of Michael Gove's planning changes by reducing the number of homes they intend to allow to be built in the future.

Bearing in mind that I understand that Wiltshire Council's 'Local Plan' is currently being prepared for inspection (later this year or early 2025), I would like to know has Wiltshire Council reduced the number of houses it wishes to see built (in line with other Councils?).

In particular, has it reviewed its current 'stated' policy in order to prevent Hilperton being swamped with hundreds more new houses – remembering that the parish has recently had (another) approx. 400 houses given planning permission?

It feels as if Hilperton is seen as an 'easy' target by the planners at Wiltshire Council, and it would be reassuring to know that Wiltshire Council has reduced the number of houses in the Local Plan for Hilperton

Response

The response to the consultation and submission of the Local Plan will be considered by Cabinet and Council in October this year. The headline number of new homes identified in the draft Local Plan 2020- 2038 is 36,740 homes, which is considerably lower than the level of 45,630 homes consulted on in 2021. It appears from the changes announced by the Secretary of State that only in a small number of exceptional circumstances (not relevant locally) can authorities determine that they can plan for a lower number of homes than the government's standard method.

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Wiltshire Council

Full Council

21 May 2024

Item 7 - Public Participation

From Colin Gale – Chairman of Rushall Parish Council

To Cllr Nick Holder - Cabinet Member for Highways, Street Scene and Flooding Questions

Introduction:

This question was originally submitted on 10th April for the Cabinet on the 16th April, however, the submission was 1 hour 37 minutes late past the cut off time for public submissions. It is believed that the question was forwarded by Democratic Services to the Director for Highways but no acknowledgement/response has been received from WC Highways.

Background:

There is a long ongoing issue of flooding at Rushall Bridge outside the entrance way to Avon Villa and River House. There are two drains outside the entrance way to the properties and a further drain/gulley on the opposite side of the road. These drains/gullies feed into the River Avon on either side of the bridge, There is clearly no routine scheduled drain clearance maintenance service by Wiltshire Council to these drains apart from Rushall PC requesting the Parish Steward to clear the top entrance to the drains/gullies. The Parish Stewards have repeatedly requested the Gulley Tanker come and blast the drains to clear them and so that the Stewards can also identify the entry point to the river.

I have repeatedly reported the flooding issue on MyWilts without any success over a long period of time, see below:

Case reference 00046518 – reported 8 Nov 2021, 5.33pm – Flooding on Pewsey Rd.

Wiltshire Council Note: 9th Nov 2021, 9.32am – This report has been completed.

Wiltshire Council Comment: Thank you for your report. As a priority, we empty blocked gullies that are causing house flooding or road safety issues. If the gully is not causing an immediate issue but could cause future house or road safety flooding, a visit will be arranged as soon as resources permit. As this gully is not causing flooding to a high speed road with high traffic levels or causing damage to property it is not considered a high priority at this time. The process to empty gullies such as this one is to report it to your local Parish or Town Council who can request the gully to be cleaned by Wiltshire Council's discretionary gully emptying service. Please be aware that often a drain looks

blocked from the top but the water is still draining underneath. Often there is little we can do to prevent water pooling in periods of high rainfall and we are aware of hot spots. I can understand that this is frustrating but we work on a priority based system so we cannot deal with this drain any sooner than when its routine unblocking is due, unless requested by the town or parish council. The report will be closed.

Status: Completed

Case reference 00046626 – reported 9 Nov 2021, 2.30pm – Flooding on Pewsey Rd.

Wiltshire Council Note: This report has been passed to our Highways team for investigation.

Status: In Progress.

Case reference 00132482 – reported 13 Nov 2023, 10.41am – Flooding on Pewsey Rd.

Wiltshire Council Note: This report has been passed to our Highways team for investigation.

Status: Received.

In January 2024 there was extensive flooding at Rushall Bridge with the water level across the complete width of the road approximately 12 inches deep. The front garden of Avon Villa was completely underwater and the water was lapping at the door step to the property. The garage which is located at the front of the house was underwater and between 6-12 inches deep. The car which was in the garage had to be removed and moved to the driveway of River House, the neighbouring property. Rushall PC sand bagged the entrance to the house to try and protect it and also had to sandbag the driveway to try and limit the impact of the bow waves caused by vehicles driving through the water, see pictures below.



On the 4th March 2024 I reported the blocked drains to the local Highways Engineer and Highways Manager requesting the drains be cleared as a priority and provided picture of the drains.

There was some delay in getting a response from the Wiltshire Council Highways Engineer so I again emailed WC on the 19th March pointing out the availability of the newly promoted drain blaster in the WC News.

Finally after enlisting support from the local WC Councillor I received a response from the Highways Engineer on 2nd April. However, the response was not particularly promising advising that "At present the council's resources are being targeted at area's where properties are experiencing flooding".

On 'Good Friday', 29th March Pewsey Road at Rushall Bridge was again flooded and again the water went upto the door step of Avon Villa and again the garage to the property was underwater and the car had to be moved out of the garage.

I emailed the local WC Highways Engineer and Highways Manager again on 3rd April advising that the current low priority being placed by WC on getting the drains cleared was unacceptable and again I provided pictures clearly showing the extent of the flooding.

I received a response back from the WC Highways Manager the same day which was full of apologies but lacked any real commitment to resolve the issues as a priority. The local Highways Manager identified a further contributing factor to the road flooding being the drain outlet on the Avon Villa side of the road being to a head in Avon Villa garden. The outlet head is approximately 3-4 metres from the river and the ditch was silted up. The Highways Manager suggested that it was the property owner's responsibility to keep this ditch between the head and the river clear. How the council were ever allowed to run the highway drainage through private property is beyond belief and then for the drain head to fall well short of the river is clearly a significant issue in the overall highway drainage. The owner of Avon Villa is a senior lady who lives on her own. I have started to dig the ditch on behalf of Rushall PC but believe in the long term this is a WC Highways engineering issue to resolve.

Note! The drainage head/outlet from the gully on the otherside of the road into the river is at the river edge.

I emailed the local WC Highways Manager on 5th April and advised that I have started to clear the ditch and requested that the drain tanker is arranged as a priority but have had no response.

Question (P24-12)

What does it take to get routine scheduled highways management of clearance of blocked drains cleared carried out? It is clear from the background information above that there is a serious shortfall which is causing unnecessary risk and damage to private properties?

Response

We recognise that regular maintenance of drainage assets is crucial for flood prevention. Consequently, additional funding has been allocated to this aspect of highway maintenance and efforts are underway to establish a robust and improved gully cleaning program.

Examining the specific case used to illustrate this question, investigation reveals that a major cause of flooding at this location is the minimal elevation difference between the carriageway, property threshold levels, and the nearby river. Throughout much of the winter, during which we have seen unprecedented and prolonged wet weather, the river level has remained very high, submerging the outfalls from the drainage system and impeding the water flow through it.

Question (P24-13)

What is WC Highways going to do to resolve the current highways drainage into the river which is clearly inadequate and falls well short of a long term drainage solution?

Response

Some works have already been undertaken to clear the short length of channel into the river. However, the proximity of the river to this location does mean that a solution to prevent flooding completely is not possible. Mitigation measures, such as property level flood protection, are possible for property owners to pursue.

Wiltshire Council

Full Council

21 May 2024

Item 7 - Public Participation

From Celia Beckett

**To Cllr Nick Botterill - Cabinet Member for Finance, Development Management,
and Strategic Planning**

Preamble:

When we submitted our comments on the Local Plan in November 2023, we were advised that the plan would be submitted to the Secretary of State in the 2nd quarter of 2024. It now appears that the submission date will not be until the 4th quarter (according to the Time Line on the Wiltshire Council website).

Question (P24-14)

- a) Please can you advise the public the reasons for the delay and the implications of this in the event of a change of government?

We understand from an article in the Times Newspaper (3rd May) that a number of local authorities have revised their housing targets for the next 10 years to avoid building on greenfield sites.

Development of greenfield sites are required to be sustainably assessed by the impact on:

- i. The environment and biodiversity
 - ii. Accessibility
 - iii. Flood risk
 - iv. Heritage
 - v. Landscape
 - vi. Traffic
 - vii. Services
- b) Does Wiltshire Council intend to alter the pre submission local plan in North East Trowbridge to reduce the number of houses planned on greenfield sites and meet the sustainability criteria required by Wiltshire Council as outlined above?

Response

In response to (a), we had a huge response to our Local Plan Regulation 19 consultation, which closed on 22 November 2023. Since then, we have been working through more than 10,000 comments from many different stakeholders and all parts of the county.

This is a large and complex undertaking, and we want to be sure that we get it right, so everyone's views have been considered prior to the plan being submitted for examination. We have therefore updated the timeline for submission of the next stage of the Local Plan. The Local Plan will now be considered by Cabinet at its meeting on 8 October, followed by Full Council on 22 October.

In response to (b), as explained above, the response to the consultation and submission of the Local Plan will be considered by Cabinet and Council in October. The headline number of new homes identified in the draft Local Plan 2020- 2038 is 36,740 homes, which is considerably lower than the level of 45,630 homes consulted on in 2021. It appears from the changes announced by the Secretary of State that only in a small number of exceptional circumstances (not relevant locally) can authorities determine that they can plan for a lower number of homes than the government's standard method.

Question (P24-15)

Preamble:

Since our comments were submitted in November work has started in Hilperton Parish on a large-scale development alongside Elizabeth Way. This area lies within the Yellow Zone of the Trowbridge Bat Mitigation Policy. Despite this limited protection has been afforded to the protection of hedgerows and there is totally inadequate mitigation for the bat species in terms of the density of the development. We previously have raised our concerns with Cllr Botterill and he assured us that the local plan would not adversely impact on the bats because of the financial provision for bat mitigation, but if this mitigation is purely financial and not in the development area it will not protect these internationally rare species. There has been a substantial public outcry about this development (Wiltshire Times 18.4.24 "Bellway Development destroys ancient hedgerow").

Question (P24-15)

If the proposed further building on greenfield sites for North East of Trowbridge does proceed in the local plan what guarantee can be given that there will be adequate protection for biodiversity. Given the extensive destruction of habitat that is already occurring within the protected zone for bats this should take even greater priority.

Response

The emerging Local Plan is supported by Habitats Regulations Assessment, which assesses the impact of the plan proposals on protected habitats including those associated with the Bath and Bradford-on-Avon Special Area of Conservation. The policy for Land North-East of Hilperton, Trowbridge (Policy 53) makes provision for bats including the protection and enhancement of core bat habitat. The policy refers to a funding contribution to deliver a strategic approach for management, monitoring and off-site measures to protect important wildlife sites around Trowbridge.

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Wiltshire Council

Full Council

21 May 2021

Leader's Motion

Item 9 – Annual Appointment of Committees

- a) Appointment of Committees and Review of Allocation of Seats on Committees to Political Groups**
- b) Appointment of Members to Committees, Area Boards, and the Dorset and Wiltshire Fire Authority and other bodies**
- c) Appointment of Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen - Committees**

The Leader will move the following:

The Council is asked:

- a) To note the report and the legal requirements.
- b) To re-appoint the following committees with the terms of reference as set out in the Constitution:
 - Strategic Planning Committee
 - Area Planning Committees: Northern, Eastern, Southern and Western
 - Licensing Committee
 - Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee
 - Children's Select Committee
 - Environment Select Committee
 - Health Select Committee
 - Standards Committee
 - Audit and Governance Committee
 - Staffing Policy Committee
 - Officer Appointments Committee
 - Electoral Review Committee
 - Appeals Committee
 - Wiltshire Police and Crime Panel (joint with Swindon Borough Council)
 - Wiltshire Pension Fund Committee (joint with Swindon Borough Council)
 - Health and Wellbeing Board
- c) To re-appoint those Area Boards, as set out at Item 9a Appendix 1 of the report presented and within the Constitution, to comprise the Unitary Members for that area.
- d) To re-appoint the Local Pension Board established under the Public Service Pensions Act 2013 and consequent amendments to the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013.

- e) To appoint members to the Dorset and Wiltshire Fire Authority, in accordance with the guidance set out in this report.
- f) To delegate the appointment to Outside Bodies (other than those appointed by Leader of the Council or Area Boards) to the Director, Legal and Governance, in consultation with Group Leaders
- g) To approve a scheme of committee places which sets out the number of seats available to members of the Council and to political groups as at Item 9a Appendix 3
- h) To appoint Members to serve on those committees in accordance with the agreed scheme of allocations, until the next occasion membership is reviewed under the provisions of the Local Government & Housing Act 1989 (to be circulated separately).
- i) To appoint substitute members (to a maximum of four per group) to the committees referred to in (b) above.
- j) To appoint those Members representing electoral divisions to their respective Area Boards as set out at Item 9b Appendix 1.
- k) To note that the following persons remain appointed as non-voting co-opted members of the Standards Committee for the remainder of the council term:
 - Gordon Ball
 - Kathy Barnes
 - Joanne Cetti
 - Julie Phillips
- l) To note that the following persons remain appointed as Independent Persons for the remainder of the council term:
 - Tony Drew
 - John McAllister
 - Patricia Bunch
- m) To note the following non-elected members of the Children’s Select Committee, with any vacancies able to be filled by the Committee::

Non-Elected Voting Members	Representing
Vacancy	Church of England
Dr Mike Thompson	Clifton Diocese Roman Catholic Church
Vacancy	Parent Governor (Secondary- maintained)
Vacancy	Parent Governor (Secondary – academy)
Vacancy	Parent Governor (Special Educational Needs)

Vacancy	Parent Governor (Primary)
Non-Elected Non-Voting Members	Representing
Maisy Humphrey (Sub Declan Kiely)	School, Children and Young People representatives
Nikki Barnett	Further Education Representative
Sarah Busby	Secondary Schools Head teacher Representative
Catriona Williamson	Primary School Head teacher Representative
John Hawkins	School Teacher Representative

n) To note the following co-opted members of the Wiltshire Pension Fund Committee:

Name	Representing
(to be confirmed – currently Cllr Vijay Manro)	Swindon Borough Councillor (as determined by Swindon Borough Council)
(to be confirmed – currently Cllr Kevin Small)	Swindon Borough Councillor (as determined by Swindon Borough Council)
Jodie Smart (new ratification)	Employer Representative
Claire Anthony	Employer Representative
Stuart Dark	Scheme Member Observer- appointed by Unison
Mike Pankiewicz	Scheme Member Observer- appointed by Unison

o) To note the membership of the Local Pension Board under the Public Service Pensions Act 2013 until the expiry of the 4 year term council term, or from their first appointment.

Name	Representing
Mark Spilsbury	Independent Chairman
Karle Read	Scheme Member Representative
Marlene Corbey	Scheme Member Representative
Mike Pankiewicz	Scheme Member Representative
Paul Smith	Employer Member Representative

Laura Fisher	Employer Member Representative
James Nicholson	Employer Member Representative

- p) To note the following co-opted or other members of the Police and Crime Panel:

Name	Representing
To be confirmed – previously Cllr Stanka Adamcova	Swindon Borough Council (as determined by Swindon Borough Council)
To be confirmed – currently Cllr Abdul Amin	Swindon Borough Council (as determined by Swindon Borough Council)
To be confirmed – currently Cllr Sudhi Sri Nukana	Swindon Borough Council (as determined by Swindon Borough Council)
To be confirmed – currently Cllr Vijay Manro	Swindon Borough Council (as determined by Swindon Borough Council)
Louisa Ahmeti	Independent co-optee
Louise Williams	Independent co-optee

- q) That Council appoint the following 6 members to serve as Council representatives on the Dorset and Wiltshire Fire Authority:

Conservative (4)	Liberal Democrat (2)	Independent (0)	Labour (0)
Cllr Pip Ridout	Paul Sample JP		
Cllr Dan Cave	Brian Dalton		
Cllr Paul Oatway			
Cllr Kelvin Nash			

- r) To appoint Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of the following meetings:

Committee	Chairman	Vice-Chairman
Strategic Planning Committee	Howard Greenman	Christopher Newbury
Northern Area Planning Committee	Chuck Berry	Howard Greenman
Eastern Area Planning Committee	Philip Whitehead	Paul Oatway
Southern Area Planning Committee	Andrew Oliver	Sven Hocking

Western Area Planning Committee	Christopher Newbury	Bill Parks
Licensing Committee	Peter Hutton	Allison Bucknell
Standards Committee	Paul Oatway QPM	Allison Bucknell
Audit and Governance Committee	Iain Wallis	Stuart Wheeler
Staffing Policy Committee	Stuart Wheeler	Allison Bucknell
Officer Appointments Committee	Richard Clewer	Laura Mayes
Wiltshire Pension Fund Committee	Richard Britton	Committee Appointment
Health and Wellbeing Board (Chairman only)	Richard Clewer	NA

- s) To note that the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee, Children's Select Committee, Environment Select Committee, Health Select Committee, the Police and Crime Panel, Electoral Review Committee, and the Area Boards will be asked to elect their respective Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen at their first meeting following the annual meeting of council. The Wiltshire Pension Fund Committee will be asked to elect their Vice-Chairman at the first meeting following the annual meeting of council.
- t) To note that the Appeals Committee does not meet as a formal committee and so no Chairman or Vice-Chairman will be appointed. However, three members who have undergone appropriate training are drawn from its membership to form Appeal Sub-Committees to consider and determine various types of appeals. Each Sub-Committee when convened will elect its own chairman.

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Wiltshire Council

Full Council

21 May 2024

Item 16 - Members' Questions

From Cllr David Vigar - Trowbridge Grove Division

To Cllr Richard Clewer - Leader of the Council

Question (24-02)

How many Ukrainian individuals and households are now living in Wiltshire under the Homes for Ukraine programme, according to the figures held by the Council?

Response

1672 individuals have come to Wiltshire to date. Of those, 412 have returned to Ukraine/ travelled to another country.
381 guests remain in sponsorships.

Question (24-03)

How many Ukrainian households have progressed from a sponsorship arrangement into rented accommodation in Wiltshire?

Response

670 guests are in independent accommodation (private accommodation or social housing)

Question (24-04)

How much has the Council now received from central Government as a result of the 'tariff' payments of £10,500 per Ukrainian in 2022 and £5,900 since 1 January 2023?

Response

We have received £14.699m. However, we are due to repay £0.464m due to data cleansing.

Question (24-05)

How much of that tariff funding has been spent?

Response

Provisionally, as of 31 March 2024, £3.038m has been expended. However, this is before the finalisation of capital financing and the application of funding to house acquisitions undertaken during 2023/24. In the planning of house acquisitions in 2024/25 nearly £5m of the remaining grant funding has been earmarked to assist in funding the acquisition of 25 two and three bed houses in the County.

Question (24-06)

What have been the top three uses of the tariff funding in Wiltshire?

Response

Staffing
Council tax reduction scheme
Transport for schools

Note: house acquisitions have not been listed at this time as the finalisation of the financing of the capital programme for 2023/24 is yet to be determined and the £5m use of grant funding for 25 acquisitions during 2024/25 is planned.

Question (24-07)

In November 2022, the Council said that some of the Government funding would be used to enable the Stone Circle Housing Company to purchase homes that can be used for Ukraine nationals now and for wider use into the future. How many homes have been purchased by Stone Circle for this purpose?

Response

No homes have been purchased via Stone Circle, this may change following the finalisation of the capital financing year end process.

We have earmarked the grant funding to purchase 25 Ukraine homes that will form part of the HRA stock, of which 4 properties are in the acquisition process and 5 properties have been identified and are in the negotiation stage. These are not currently reflected in the budget.

LAHF properties are not part of the H4U budget.

Question (24-08)

How many caseworkers is the Council now employing to support Ukrainian refugees as members of the Refugee Resettlement & Migration Service team?

Response

9 Caseworkers

1 Senior Caseworker

2 Development Officers

1 Assistant Team Manager

Question (24-09)

How many caseworkers is the Council now employing to support Ukrainian refugees in finding independent housing?

Response

In addition to the 9 caseworkers listed above, Ukrainians are also supported by 2 specialist officers within the housing teams. There is also a current vacancy for an additional specific post to support with access to the private sector.

Question (24-10)

How many caseworkers is the Council now employing to support Ukrainian refugees in finding employment?

Response

In addition to the 9 caseworkers within the H4U team, we also employ one employment specific officer.

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