



## AGENDA

### PART I

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>PAGE NO</u>
1.	<u>CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION</u>  The Chairman to welcome all to the Forum	-
2.	<u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u>  To receive any apologies for absence	-
3.	<u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</u>  To receive any declarations of interest	5 - 6
4.	<u>MINUTES</u>  To consider the minutes of the meeting held on 26 November 2018	7 - 10
5.	<u>TRAVELLER LOCAL PLAN ISSUES AND OPTIONS PAPER</u>  To receive a presentation from Ian Motuel, Principal Planner	Verbal Report
6.	<u>RURAL CRIME</u>  To receive an update from Thames Valley Police	Verbal Report
7.	<u>BROADBAND BERKSHIRE</u>  To receive an update from David Scott, Head of Communities, Enforcement and Partnerships	Verbal Report
8.	<u>UPDATE FROM THE FARMING COMMUNITY</u>  To receive an update on issues affecting the Farming Community	Verbal Report
9.	<u>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</u>	-
10.	<u>DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS</u>  To receive an update on the future of the Forum in light of the constitutional review and to note the following provisional dates for meetings of the Rural Forum during 2019/20 (subject to approval by Full Council on 26 February 2019): <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 11 June 2019 (Rural Walk)</li><li>• 11 November 2019</li><li>• 12 March 2020</li></ul>	-





## MEMBERS' GUIDE TO DECLARING INTERESTS IN MEETINGS

### Disclosure at Meetings

If a Member has not disclosed an interest in their Register of Interests, they **must make** the declaration of interest at the beginning of the meeting, or as soon as they are aware that they have a DPI or Prejudicial Interest. If a Member has already disclosed the interest in their Register of Interests they are still required to disclose this in the meeting if it relates to the matter being discussed.

A member with a DPI or Prejudicial Interest **may make representations at the start of the item but must not take part in the discussion or vote at a meeting.** The speaking time allocated for Members to make representations is at the discretion of the Chairman of the meeting. In order to avoid any accusations of taking part in the discussion or vote, after speaking, Members should move away from the panel table to a public area or, if they wish, leave the room. If the interest declared has not been entered on to a Members' Register of Interests, they must notify the Monitoring Officer in writing within the next 28 days following the meeting.

### Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPIs) (relating to the Member or their partner) include:

- Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain.
- Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit made in respect of any expenses occurred in carrying out member duties or election expenses.
- Any contract under which goods and services are to be provided/works to be executed which has not been fully discharged.
- Any beneficial interest in land within the area of the relevant authority.
- Any licence to occupy land in the area of the relevant authority for a month or longer.
- Any tenancy where the landlord is the relevant authority, and the tenant is a body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest.
- Any beneficial interest in securities of a body where:
  - a) that body has a piece of business or land in the area of the relevant authority, and
  - b) either (i) the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body **or** (ii) the total nominal value of the shares of any one class belonging to the relevant person exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.

Any Member who is unsure if their interest falls within any of the above legal definitions should seek advice from the Monitoring Officer in advance of the meeting.

A Member with a DPI should state in the meeting: ***'I declare a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in item x because xxx. As soon as we come to that item, I will leave the room/ move to the public area for the entire duration of the discussion and not take part in the vote.'***

*Or, if making representations on the item: 'I declare a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in item x because xxx. As soon as we come to that item, I will make representations, then I will leave the room/ move to the public area for the entire duration of the discussion and not take part in the vote.'*

### Prejudicial Interests

Any interest which a reasonable, fair minded and informed member of the public would reasonably believe is so significant that it harms or impairs the Member's ability to judge the public interest in the item, i.e. a Member's decision making is influenced by their interest so that they are not able to impartially consider relevant issues.

A Member with a Prejudicial interest should state in the meeting: ***'I declare a Prejudicial Interest in item x because xxx. As soon as we come to that item, I will leave the room/ move to the public area for the entire duration of the discussion and not take part in the vote.'***

*Or, if making representations in the item: 'I declare a Prejudicial Interest in item x because xxx. As soon as we come to that item, I will make representations, then I will leave the room/ move to the public area for the entire duration of the discussion and not take part in the vote.'*

### Personal interests

Any other connection or association which a member of the public may reasonably think may influence a Member when making a decision on council matters.

Members with a Personal Interest should state at the meeting: ***'I wish to declare a Personal Interest in item x because xxx'. As this is a Personal Interest only, I will take part in the discussion and vote on the matter.***

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# Agenda Item 4

## RURAL FORUM

MONDAY, 26 NOVEMBER 2018

PRESENT: Councillors Christine Bateson (Chairman), Malcolm Beer and Richard Kellaway

Also in attendance: Liz Hadden (BCA), John Bloomer (NFU), Alan Keene (Bisham Parish Council), Annie Keene (Local Farmer), James Copas (Copas Farms), Louise Warbrick (TVP), Andrew Randall (Randall Farms Ltd), Nick Philp (David Philp & Partners) and Philip Mortimer (Fairacres Farm Ltd)

Officers: Shilpa Manek

### CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked those present to introduce themselves.

The Chairman explained the reason for postponing the Rural Forum on the 7 November 2018 to the 26 November 2018.

RBWM had received the sad news of the death of John Emmett, brother of William Emmett and a past member of the Rural Forum. The Forum observed a one minutes silence in memory of John Emmett.

### APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillors Coppinger and Rayner and Paul Rinder, Geoffrey Copas and William Emmett.

### DECLARATION OF INTEREST

No Declarations of Interest were received.

### MINUTES

The minutes of the previous meeting on 6 March 2017 were unanimously agreed as an accurate record.

### UPDATE FROM THE FARMING COMMUNITY

Andrew Randall and Nick Philp, both gave a presentation to Members relating to farming. The main points of the discussion included:

- Seen extremes of all seasons which has had extreme effects to the ground and to livestock and to the crops yield, 15% down than last year.
- There had been a lack of rainfall and the forest fires had been devastating with loss of buildings and houses.
- It was great to see the entire farming community pull together to assist and support each other.

- The farming community were struggling and were all looking at increasing efficiency and reduce costs.
- The new Agricultural Bill was just in the process of going through. This would replace the CAP once we left the EU. Direct payments would be phased out by 2027.
- Currently environmental stewardship schemes to reach end of agreements 2020-25 and a new environmental land management scheme (NELMS) would replace it which would include payments for public goods such as soil health, water quality, air quality, carbon reduction, increased biodiversity and improving public access.
- The effects of NELMS to RBWM would include possible food prevention measures (more flood plain management and tree planting and soil management further up the catchments to hold water back), greater public access (farmers paid to increase public access to their land) and more biodiversity measures (specific to local environment and help improve species under threat).
- Funds were guaranteed only until 2022.
- Trade deals were discussed by the Forum.
- Farmers would lose subsidies and all RBWM farmers relied on them to make profit. All farmers would lose money. In the future, farmers would be paid only for looking after fields and open farms to the public.
- There would be a radical change in farming by 2027, it would not be as now.
- RBWM farmers exported malt, barley, wheat, corn and rape to many EU countries.
- Cattle feed grass silage was in shortage, 50% down as stocks had already been used. This had been substituted by forage from elsewhere.
- Food security was currently not an issue with supermarket shelves stocked but would be important in the future.

## RURAL CRIME

Louise Warbrick informed the Members about unauthorised encampments statistics for this year in RBWM. There had been a total of 22, the most being in June (6) and August (7). There had been improved communications between the council and Thames Valley Police. If these became a criminal offense then TVP could use powers and it would be easier for residents to get support from the police. It was always better to have prevention measures in place and TVP had worked with the Council on injunctions and worked with other partners to put other measures in place. David Scott was best to contact for advice on unauthorised encampments.

There had been an increase in arson, of criminal nature, not natural. The Thames Valley Police were working with farmers to eradicate. There had been 36 rural offenses between April and September, these included hunting, theft, burglary and arson. The crime figures were the higher in 2018-19 compared to 2017-18 but Louise Warbrick informed the Forum that this was because crime levels were being recorded differently.

Other points raised by the Forum included:

- Two people from Datchet had been convicted for hare coursing in Cambridgeshire.
- There was a disparity in how forest fires were handled, some fire-fighters went in to put out the fires, others stayed out of the field. Forest fires were on the increase especially with climate change.

- The stealing of expensive equipment was a real problem but had now become infrequent. However, the industry had moved on too and had introduced more preventative measures.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

A few points were raised by Forum Members, these included:

- The Borough Local Plan and the progress – Councillor Kellaway informed that it was currently with the Inspector.

**ACTION: To have on next Rural Forum Agenda.**

- Alan Keene informed Forum members about the Public Access Forum and that it represented walking and cycling in the borough. They were looking for members.

- Broadband Berkshire was discussed and it was agreed that it was still not very reliable.

**ACTION: Place on a future Agenda**

- It was requested that more councillors attend the Rural Forum.

DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Forum Members noted the date of the next Rural Forum on 4 March 2018 at 5.30pm.

This was due to be held at the Guildhall, Windsor but Forum Members requested it be changed to the Town Hall, Maidenhead.

The meeting, which began at 5.30 pm, finished at 6.50 pm

CHAIRMAN.....

DATE.....

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