

NOTICE OF MEETING **RURAL FORUM**

will meet on

MONDAY, 11TH NOVEMBER, 2019

At 5.30 pm

in the

COUNCIL CHAMBER - TOWN HALL

TO: MEMBERS OF THE RURAL FORUM

COUNCILLORS CHRISTINE BATESON (CHAIRMAN), DAVID COPPINGER,
MAUREEN HUNT, DAVID CANNON, GERRY CLARK AND SAMANTHA RAYNER

SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

COUNCILLORS SIMON WERNER AND SAYONARA LUXTON

Karen Shepherd – Head of Governance - Issued: November 1st 2019

Members of the Press and Public are welcome to attend Part I of this meeting. The agenda is available on the Council's web site at www.rbwm.gov.uk or contact the Panel Administrator **Shilpa Manek** 01628 796310

Fire Alarm - In the event of the fire alarm sounding or other emergency, please leave the building quickly and calmly by the nearest exit. Do not stop to collect personal belongings and do not use the lifts. Do not re-enter the building until told to do so by a member of staff.

Recording of Meetings –In line with the council's commitment to transparency the meeting will be audio recorded, and filmed and broadcast through the online application Periscope. The footage can be found through the council's main Twitter feed @RBWM or via the Periscope website. The audio recording will also be made available on the RBWM website, after the meeting.

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AGENDA

PART I

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>PAGE NO</u>
1.	<u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u> To receive any apologies for absence.	-
2.	<u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</u> To receive any declarations of interest.	5 - 6
3.	<u>MINUTES</u> To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on March 4 th 2019.	7 - 10
4.	<u>MATTERS ARISING FROM LAST MEETING AND ANNUAL RURAL FORUM FARM WALK</u> To discuss any matters arising and to review the annual farm walk.	-
5.	<u>REVIEW OF TERMS OF REFERENCE</u> To review the Forum's Terms of Reference following amendments made to the RBWM Constitution.	11 - 12
6.	<u>APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN</u> To discuss the appointment of a Chairman for the Forum.	-
7.	<u>REFRESH OF FORUM MEMBERSHIP</u> To discuss an update and refresh of the Rural Forum membership.	-
8.	<u>RURAL CRIME UPDATE</u> To receive a summary of rural crime within the Royal Borough from Inspector Louise Warbrick.	Verbal Report
9.	<u>TREES NEAR THE HIGHWAY AND TPOS ON AGRICULTURAL LAND</u> To receive a presentation from Helen Leonard.	Verbal Report
10.	<u>UPDATE FROM THE FARMING COMMUNITY</u> To receive an update from Nick Philp.	Verbal Report
11.	<u>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</u> To discuss any other matters of business.	-

12.

DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

-

Next meeting to take place March 12th 2020 at 5.30pm.

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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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RURAL FORUM

MONDAY, 4 MARCH 2019

PRESENT: Councillors David Coppinger, Richard Kellaway and Colin Rayner

Also in attendance: Liz Hadden, James Copas, Louise Warbrick, Nick Philp, Paul Rinder, Andrew Randall, Michael Craig, Paul Rinder and Alan Keene

Officers: Helen Murch, David Scott, David Cook and Ian Motuel.

CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION

The Vice-Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Bateson and Cllr Beer.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest received.

MINUTES

Resolved unanimously: that the minutes of the meeting on 26 November 2018 be approved.

TRAVELLER LOCAL PLAN ISSUES AND OPTIONS PAPER

Ian Motuel, Principal Planner (RBWM) gave a presentation on the Traveller Local Plan Issues and Options Paper. The Forum were informed that the Local Development Scheme (LDS) committed the Council to producing a single issue Traveller Local Plan. The Plan would set out how the accommodation needs of Gypsy and Traveller groups would be met until 2033.

The Forum were informed that there was not one group but a range of people with different histories and cultures that came under the scope, for the purpose of the consultation three types of traveller groups within the Royal Borough had been identified they were; gypsies and travellers, travelling showpeople and boat dweller.

A number of issues had been identified that traveller groups faced these were:

- Travellers facing inequalities and worst outcomes of any groups.
- Most gypsies and travellers stay on permanent, authorised sites but some live on unauthorised sites.
- Travelling showpeople need sites large enough to store their equipment.
- Boat dwellers increasingly use rivers to live on due to housing pressures
- Unauthorised encampments disrupt local community facilities and worsen relationships with settled communities.

The presentation showed a map of existing sites available to travellers within the Royal Borough. The council vision was to “build a borough for everyone – where residents and businesses grow, with opportunities for all”. This included reducing inequalities and reducing tension between communities yet respecting the law and protecting the vulnerable.

The Local Authority had a legal requirement to produce this plan and so far had identified the accommodation needs, published the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) in June 2018, prepared a Sustainability Appraisal Report and had prepared a Traveller Site Assessment Methodology.

The Royal Borough were consulting and seeking advice on the plan and thus had been brought to this forum and the next steps were shown.

In response to question the forum were informed that the sites sought would be mixed use and not just permanent. It was explained the importance of a Section 61 of the CJPOA to direct unauthorised campers to leave the site. They can do this without reference to the courts as well as the use of section 62.

It was noted that it was important to have a transient site to help the use of the legalities mentioned above and to help reduce fly tipping and other harm caused by illegal encampments. The Royal Borough had set aside £85k to protect its own land but more needed to be done for private land.

The Forum discussed what happened when there was an illegal encampment and how each incident had to be treated on its own merits. The council had a legal responsibility to provide sites but also wished to protect the venerable and local communities. It was important to have this policy in place to help support the council's position.

The Forum noted the presentation.

RURAL CRIME

Louise Warbrick informed the Forum about unauthorised encampments statistics for this year within RBWM, with Braywick Park being the only one this year. There had been improved communications between the council and Thames Valley Police. If there was a criminal offense then TVP could use their 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. Although so far the number of crimes reported was low this did not reflect what the farming community were experiencing and it was important that all incidents were reported and crime reference numbers obtained.

Concern was raised about crimes such as hare coursing where participants were showing their activities online and convoys of cars were travelling across Berkshire especially to West Berkshire but nothing was done. It was noted that the police could not access facebook accounts to prosecute such activities.

The Chairman asked if there was any evidence of increased knife crime within the area and was informed that although it was a concern nationally there was little evidence of it becoming an increased issue locally. Knife crime usually was between people who knew each other, one venue had installed a knife arch and metal detectors had been purchased.

Councillor C Rayner mentioned that the way farmer shotgun licences were processed was to be changed and asked if an update could be provided.

The Forum noted the update.

BROADBAND BERKSHIRE

David Scott provided an update on the superfast broadband project.

The Forum were informed that the Superfast Berkshire programme started in 2011 as part of the Governments initiative to improve broadband coverage in areas where it may not otherwise have been commercially viable for the private sector to provide. The programme was supported by all six Berkshire authorities and by Thames Valley LEP.

The project had now commenced Phase 3 roll out with BT and Cigaclear expanding coverage to 99%. Phase 1 works are complete with any gaps being fed into Phase 2 and 3. Wraysbury and Horton area was being looked at by BT as a commercially viable area.

There had been a delay with Phase 3 whilst BT completed remedial work, both BT and Cigaclear were behind schedule. It was noted that West Berkshire had been ahead of East Berkshire, West Berkshire were also piloting wireless solutions and EE were looking at 4G solutions.

The project team could be contacted via the following email projectteam@superfastberkshire.org.uk.

The Chairman asked if the council made a financial contribution and was informed there had been an initial investment of about £200,000 and annual contributions of £20,000.

The Forum noted the update.

UPDATE FROM THE FARMING COMMUNITY

The Forum received a presentation relating to the farming community. The main points of the discussion included:

- Weather, since November there had been rain and snow with a relatively warm February however a depth it was till dry.
- Commodity prices had been high compared to the previous year.
- New environmental schemes had been introduced and when signed up lasted for five years. More areas covered by native wild grasses were being encouraged.
- There had been three incidents of boundary damage by cars entering fields.
- Brexit – a no deal solution could result in a trade embargo with difficulties exporting products such as lamb. There would also be an increased cost of imports and a reduced workforce.
- It was estimated that 10% of UK greenhouse gases were from agriculture and that farmers managed 71% of the landscape but only 65% was suitable to grow grass.

The Chairman mentioned that as we were not self sufficient in milk production and that 71% of our beef came from Ireland there could be opportunities post Brexit. In response the Forum were informed that this would be counter balanced by the level of red tape and the increased cost of labour. It was expected that there would be a low or no tariff on food so little opportunity.

Cllr C Rayner mentioned that it was difficult to get planning permission for rural worker accommodation.

The update was noted.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no business raised

DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The future meeting dates were noted.

The meeting, which began at 5.30 pm, finished at 7.10 pm

CHAIRMAN.....

DATE.....

Rural Forum

Purpose

The forum is intended as a platform to discuss issues relevant to our rural areas and to make recommendations to the appropriate Panel or Forum.

- (i) Be made aware of, and have the opportunity to comment on, the rural work done by the Council and rural-interest organisations
 - (ii) Provide a local Forum for discussion about the aspirations and concerns of farmers, rural businesses and other representatives from the rural community of the Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead District
 - (iii) Provide a networking opportunity amongst a variety of rural interests
 - (iv) Act as a consultative, information sharing/gathering arena
 - (v) Identify areas of special rural interest to link into the Council's Community Planning process, and other plans where appropriate
- Meeting open to the public and press to attend.
 - Agendas and Minutes of each Forum will be made available on the Council's website.

F18.2 Membership

- (i) Six Councillors
- (ii) Membership of the Rural Forum will be by invite and will consist of representatives from:
 - National Trust - 1 representative plus 1 substitute
 - Berkshire College of Agriculture - 1 representative plus 1 substitute
 - Woodland Managers - 1 representative plus 1 substitute
 - Country Landowners Association - 1 representative plus 1 substitute
 - Crown Estate - 1 representative plus 1 substitute
 - Council for Protection of Rural England - 1 representative plus 1 substitute
 - National Farmers Union - Up to 3 representatives to cover RBWM
 - Smallholders Association - 1 representative plus 1 substitute
 - Parish Councils - 2/3 from RBWM
 - RBWM Officers with a rural interest - When item on the Agenda requires.

Additional organisations and individuals may be invited to attend a Forum if they have an interest in a specific agenda topic.

F18.3 Quorum: 4 Members

F18.4 Frequency

Twice per year. Up to 2-hour meetings will be held bi-annually in June and November and will be organised by RBWM, Democratic Services.

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