

NOTICE
OF
MEETING

**PLACE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY
PANEL**

will meet on

Tuesday 31 January 2023

At 7.00 pm

In the

Council Chamber - Town Hall, Maidenhead, and on [RBWM YouTube](#)

To: Members of the Place Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Councillors John Bowden (Chairman), Helen Taylor (Vice-Chairman), Greg Jones, Maureen Hunt, Sayonara Luxton, Shamsul Shelim, Leo Walters, Joshua Reynolds, Mandy Brar, Gurch Singh, Jon Davey, Margaret Lenton (Wraysbury Parish Council) and Pat McDonald (White Waltham Parish Council)

Substitute Members

Councillors Gerry Clark, Gary Muir, Julian Sharpe, Catherine Del Campo, John Story, Chris Targowski, Helen Price, Amy Tisi, Geoff Hill and Simon Werner

Kirsty Hunt, Service Lead – Electoral & Democratic Services - Issued: 23 January 2023

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 Democratic Services Officer **Oran Norris-Browne** Oran.Norris-Browne@RBWM.gov.uk

Recording of Meetings – In line with the council's commitment to transparency the Part I (public) section of the meeting will be streamed live and recorded via Zoom. By participating in the meeting by audio and/or video, you are giving consent to being recorded and acknowledge that the recording will be in the public domain. If you have any questions regarding the council's policy, please speak to Democratic Services or a Legal representative prior to the meeting.

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.	3 - 4
3.	<u>Street Lighting - Youth Council</u> To receive a report from the RBWM Youth Council.	5 - 16
4.	<u>Thames Valley Police Annual Presentation</u> To receive a presentation from the Chief Constable and the Police & Crime Commissioner.	To Follow
5.	<u>WORK PROGRAMME</u> To consider the Panel's work programme for the remainder of the Municipal year.	17 - 18

MEMBERS' GUIDE TO DECLARING INTERESTS AT 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 Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI) or Other Registerable 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.

Any Member with concerns about the nature of their interest should consult the Monitoring Officer in advance of the meeting.

Non-participation in case of Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI)

Where a matter arises at a meeting which directly relates to one of your DPIs (summary below, further details set out in Table 1 of the Members' Code of Conduct) you must disclose the interest, **not participate in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room** unless you have been granted a dispensation. If it is a 'sensitive interest' (as agreed in advance by the Monitoring Officer), you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest, just that you have an interest. Dispensation may be granted by the Monitoring Officer in limited circumstances, to enable you to participate and vote on a matter in which you have a DPI.

Where you have a DPI on a matter to be considered or is being considered by you as a Cabinet Member in exercise of your executive function, you must notify the Monitoring Officer of the interest and must not take any steps or further steps in the matter apart from arranging for someone else to deal with it.

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 (other than from the council) made to the councillor during the previous 12-month period for expenses incurred by him/her in carrying out his/her duties as a councillor, or towards his/her 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 council.*
- *Any licence to occupy land in the area of the council for a month or longer.*
- *Any tenancy where the landlord is the council, and the tenant is a body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest in the securities of.*
- *Any beneficial interest in securities of a body where:*
 - a) *that body has a place of business or land in the area of the council, 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.

Disclosure of Other Registerable Interests

Where a matter arises at a meeting which **directly relates** to one of your Other Registerable Interests (summary below and as set out in Table 2 of the Members Code of Conduct), you must disclose the interest. **You may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting but otherwise must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation.** If it is a 'sensitive interest' (as agreed in advance by the Monitoring Officer), you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest.

Other Registerable Interests:

- a) any unpaid directorships
 - b) any body of which you are a member or are in a position of general control or management and to which you are nominated or appointed by your authority
 - c) any body
 - (i) exercising functions of a public nature
 - (ii) directed to charitable purposes or
 - (iii) one of whose principal purposes includes the influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union)
- of which you are a member or in a position of general control or management

Disclosure of Non- Registerable Interests

Where a matter arises at a meeting which **directly relates** to your financial interest or well-being (and is not a DPI) or a financial interest or well-being of a relative or close associate, or a body included under Other Registerable Interests in Table 2 you must disclose the interest. **You may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting** but otherwise **must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation**. If it is a 'sensitive interest' (agreed in advance by the Monitoring Officer) you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest.

Where a matter arises at a meeting which **affects** –

- a. your own financial interest or well-being;
- b. a financial interest or well-being of a friend, relative, close associate; or
- c. a financial interest or well-being of a body included under Other Registerable Interests as set out in Table 2 (as set out above and in the Members' code of Conduct)

you must disclose the interest. In order to determine whether you can remain in the meeting after disclosing your interest the following test should be applied.

Where a matter (referred to in the paragraph above) **affects** the financial interest or well-being:

- a. to a greater extent than it affects the financial interests of the majority of inhabitants of the ward affected by the decision and;
- b. a reasonable member of the public knowing all the facts would believe that it would affect your view of the wider public interest

You may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting but otherwise **must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation**. If it is a 'sensitive interest' (agreed in advance by the Monitoring Officer), you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest.

Other declarations

Members may wish to declare at the beginning of the meeting any other information they feel should be in the public domain in relation to an item on the agenda; such Member statements will be included in the minutes for transparency.



Street Lighting Report

25.05.22

Written by:

Y.Cllr. Caitie Holden in collaboration with all members of RBWM Youth Council

We, at the Youth Council, believe that the issue of street lighting is of paramount importance. We spoke about its significance in our letter regarding the budget consultation and reiterated this at our in person meeting. Not only can street lighting help to reduce road traffic accidents, it will also protect pedestrians by increasing visibility. Furthermore, according to the College of Policing (and corroborated in a report by The Swedish National Council for Crime Prevention), five studies conducted in the UK revealed that 38 fewer crimes per 100 occurred when an area was well lit, compared to areas with little to no street lighting. The authors stated that in the studies conducted by Painter and Farrington (2001) in Dudley and Stoke-on-Trent, “the financial savings from reduced crimes greatly exceed the financial costs of the improved street lighting installed” (see page 19 of the review).

Recent public incidents, such as the murder of Sarah Everard, have only served to demonstrate how fundamental it is to have well lit and accessible public spaces. According to the group *Counting Dead Women*, 139 women were killed by men in 2021, and in 2020 it was revealed that the Thames Valley ranked sixth on the list of the highest number of women killed by men. The report put forward by the Femicide Census examined the murder of women at the hands of men, with the most recent report, in 2018, finding that the Thames Valley ranked worryingly high in the UK.

We hope that the Council will prioritise the regularly used roads which are currently completely unlit, or partially unlit, as they are particularly unsafe. Our primary concerns are rooted in the more rural areas of the Borough, such as the villages of Datchet, Wraysbury and Old Windsor, where street lighting is already scant. There is a large section of Albert Road (at the Old Windsor end) which is completely unlit and therefore, unsafe. This stretch of road is regularly used by young people commuting to and from school who access the street in all types of weather and every season; it is understandable that many are anxious about travelling home from school on winter afternoons when the sun has set and the road is plunged into darkness. Additionally, we are very concerned that some main roads in the Borough are completely unlit and there is no existing infrastructure to support safety measures. The B3021 Southlea Road, the road that connects Old Windsor and Datchet, has no street lighting at all. On top of that, the pavement is extremely narrow and poorly maintained, resulting in pedestrians often being forced onto the main road; the entire stretch of road is surrounded by open fields and the River Thames so should something happen, pedestrians are entirely isolated. For the residents of Old Windsor, a village that already suffers from poor connectivity, this road to Datchet is the easiest way to access a train station. The train station connects Datchet to London Waterloo and many villagers use this route on a daily basis to commute to work - there is no public transport linking the villages. At present, because of how unsafe the road is, most adults will drive to the station which presents complications in itself in the form of emissions. This option is not available however, to the students who need to attend school in either village. Datchet is home to Churchmead C of E Secondary School and Datchet St Mary’s Primary School; Old Windsor has Kings’ Court First School and St Peter’s

Middle School, children from both attend schools in the other village. It is a similar story for Home Park (linking Datchet and Windsor). There is absolutely no lighting along this stretch of road which crosses the river and passes by large and exposed playing fields. Like the B3021, the area is not residential and therefore, should something happen, there would be no help available. The road is used regularly by vulnerable people - women and children - to commute between Datchet and Windsor and ultimately, like the B3021, the lack of lighting is simply an incident waiting to happen.

As the Youth Council we have put forward several other areas throughout the Borough which we believe need urgent attention. For example, there is hardly any lighting in the alleyway from Brownfield Gardens to Ludlow Road. Portlock, Wellington (North End by the junction), at the top of Castle Hill is very poorly lit and this is a main route to Maidenhead town centre; the northside of St Mark's Road (near St Mark's Hospital) has many street lights covered by overhanging trees. Furthermore, Courthouse Road in Maidenhead has bad lighting, particularly near Oaken Grove Park which is near Courthouse Primary School - and other surrounding schools - and is regularly frequented by students and families. Clewer Avenue in Windsor also suffers from scant lighting, as does Parsonage Lane - also in Windsor. This issue of insufficient lighting is prevalent across Windsor, and is very noticeable in Peel Close, Peascod Place and even the alleyway beside the Windsor Youth Centre - an area regularly frequented by young people, and is a meeting place for both the Youth Council and the Girls' Forum.

Additionally, there are some instances where lighting simply doesn't work at all, as is the case on Mill Lane outside Clewer Church. The light has been out for months on Wessex Way in Maidenhead and the junction of Bracken Road and nothing has been done about it. Clewer Fields in Windsor has a similar issue, there are many lights, however three of them are broken and there are no signs of their imminent repair.

We have also noted areas that need intervention, such as on Ascot Road, near where the houses are on a curve, there are no pavements or lights and cars travel down here very quickly which is very obviously a safety concern. Burchett's Green is a small village made up mostly of private roads, however it is also a main route for students walking home from Berkshire College of Agriculture. Some choose to cycle during the summer however, during the winter, by 4:30, it is both dark and unsafe.

We are also concerned by how dark and potentially unsafe the alleyways across the Borough are and would welcome conversation between us and the Council on how to better protect these areas and the residents who use them.



Figure 1: A lack of lighting in Clewer Avenue



Figure 2: A lack of lighting in Clewer Avenue



Figure 3: A lack of lighting in Clewer Avenue



Figure 4: A lack of lighting in Clewer Avenue



Figure 5: The lighting in Parsonage Lane is practically nonexistent



Figure 6: It's a similar story in Peel Close

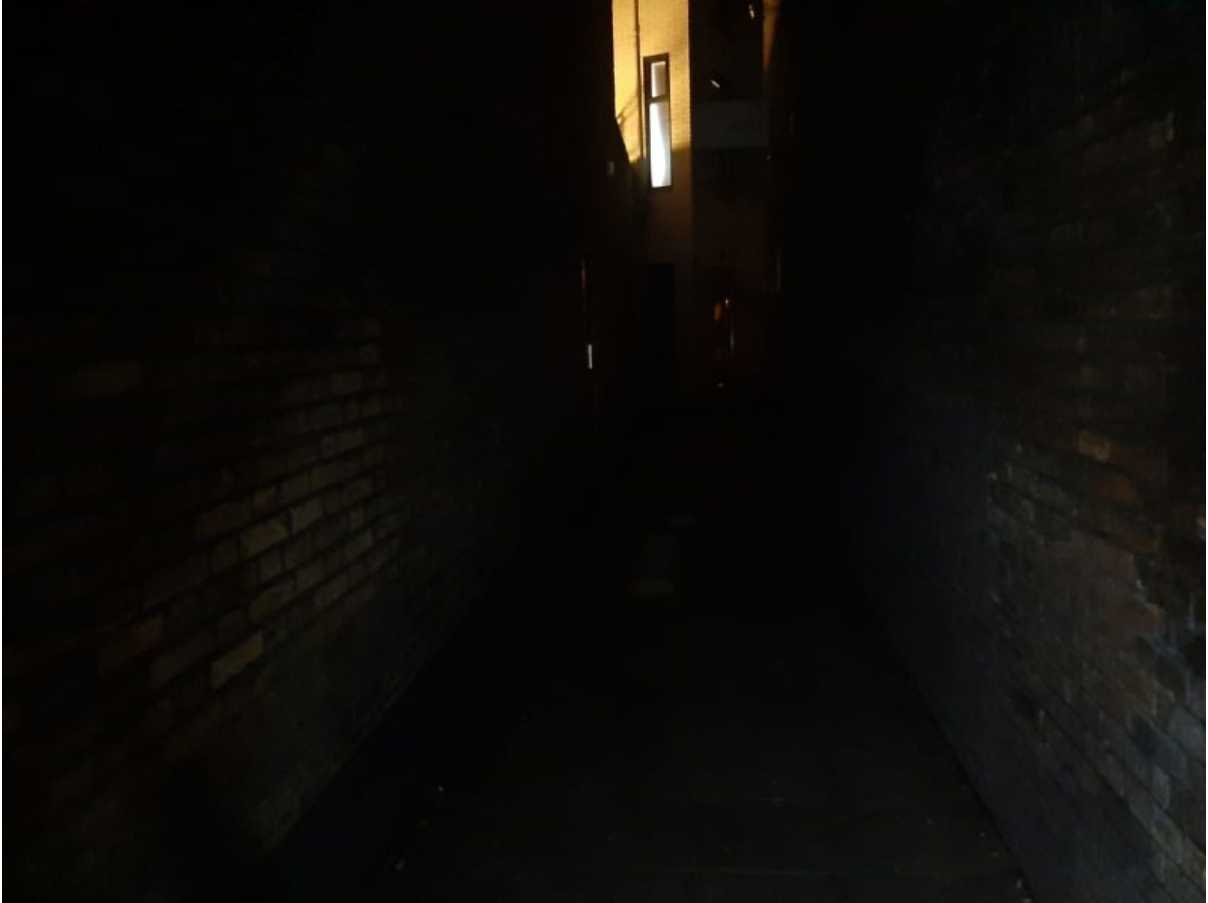


Figure 7: Peascod Place is alarmingly badly lit.



Figure 8: It is almost impossible to make out this street light in Clewer Fields



Figure 9: The same image, this time taken with the flash

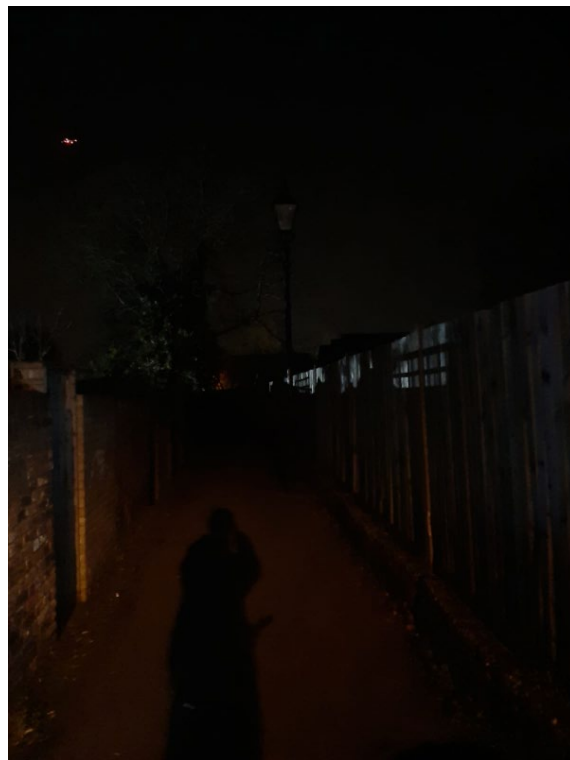


Figure 10: Another photo from Clewer Fields, also worryingly badly lit.



Figure 11: Another photo from Clewer Fields, also worryingly badly lit.

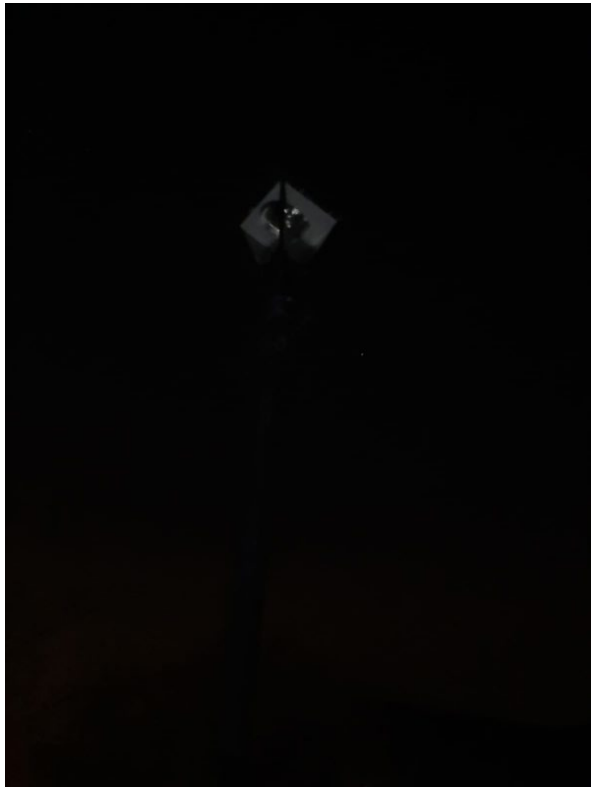


Figure 12: Another photo from Clewer Fields, also worryingly badly lit.

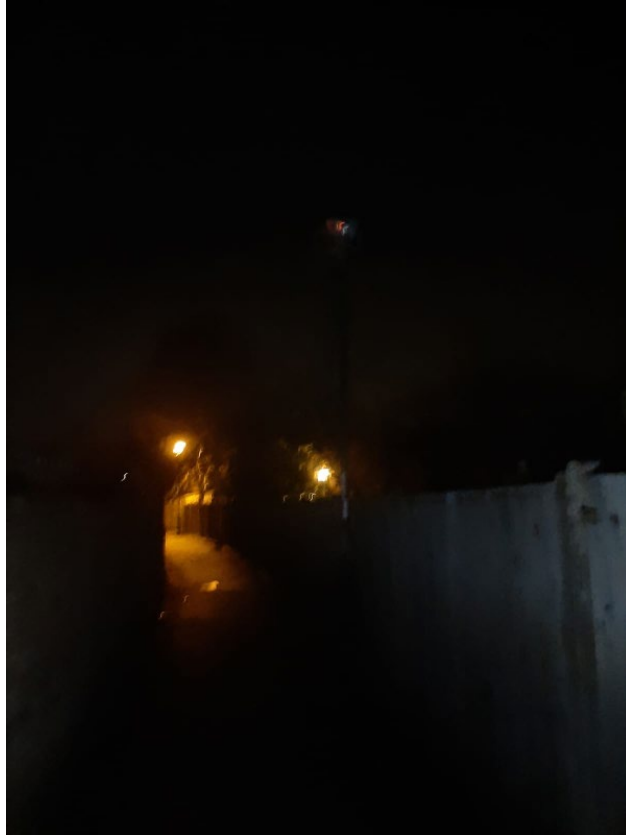


Figure 13: Another photo from Clewer Fields, also worryingly badly lit.

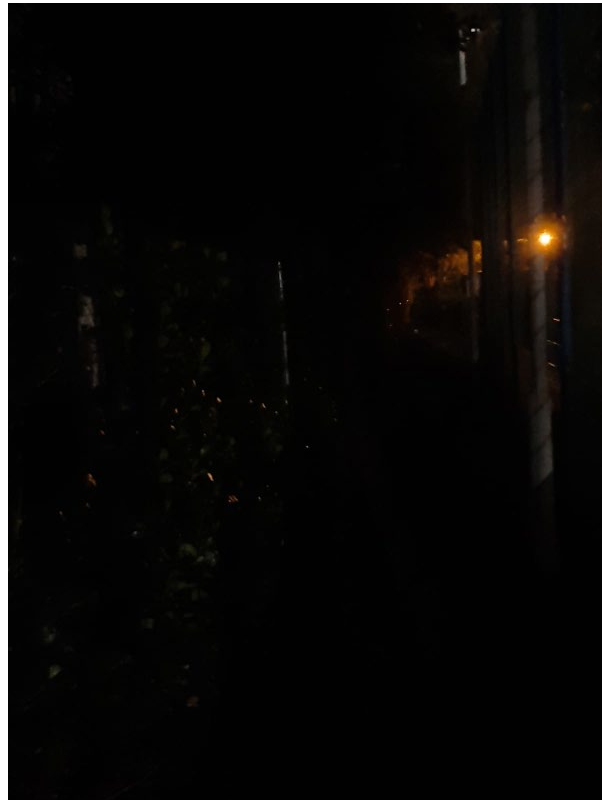


Figure 14: The Alleyway by the Youth Centre, regularly frequented by many young people, is plunged into darkness at nightfall.



Figure 15: The same photo, this time taken with the flash.



Figure 16: Burchetts Green is unsafe for the many students who walk through it in winter months.



Figure 17: Another photo of the badly lit Burchetts Green

WORK PROGRAMME - PLACE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL

To include consideration of items scheduled on the [Cabinet Forward Plan](#).

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tony Reeves – <i>Interim Chief Executive</i> • Andrew Durrant - <i>Executive Director of Place Services</i>
LINK OFFICERS & HEADS OF SERVICE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chris Joyce - <i>Head of Infrastructure, Sustainability & Economic Growth</i> • Adrien Waite - <i>Head of Planning</i> • Alysse Strachan - <i>Head of Neighbourhood Services</i>

MEETING: 12th April 2023

ITEM	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER
Hold for In-Depth Performance Reports if any referred by Corporate O&S Panel	Andrew Durrant , <i>Executive Director of Place Services</i>
Work Programme	Oran , <i>Panel Clerk</i>

ITEMS SCOPED BUT NOT YET PROGRAMMED

Item	Responsible Officer	Scoping Document Author
Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Review	Chris Joyce , <i>Head of Infrastructure, Sustainability & Economic Growth</i>	Panel Member TBC

ITEMS SUGGESTED BUT NOT YET SCOPED

Item	Responsible Officer	Scoping Document Author
Review of Street Lighting	Alysse Strachan , <i>Head of Neighbourhood Services</i>	<i>TBC after presentation from Youth Council</i>
River Thames Scheme	Chris Joyce , <i>Head of Infrastructure, Sustainability & Economic Growth</i>	Councillor Bowden

TASK AND FINISH GROUP SUGGESTIONS	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER
-	-