



SUMMONS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT A MEETING OF THE HART DISTRICT COUNCIL WILL BE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC OFFICES, HARLINGTON WAY, FLEET ON THURSDAY 27 APRIL 2017 AT 7.00 PM

Joint Chief Executive

CIVIC OFFICES, HARLINGTON WAY
FLEET, HAMPSHIRE GU51 4AE

AGENDA

**COPIES OF THIS AGENDA ARE AVAILABLE IN LARGE PRINT AND
BRAILLE ON REQUEST**

1 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

To confirm the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 30 March 2017. **Paper A**

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To declare disclosable pecuniary, and any other, interests.

4 PRESENTATION - AEROBILITY

5 COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 12 – QUESTIONS BY THE PUBLIC

To receive any questions from members of the public submitted pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 12.

*Note: The text of any question under Council Procedure Rule 12 must be given to the Chief Executive not later than **Noon on Friday, 21 April 2017.***

6 COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 14 – QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

To receive any questions from Members submitted pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 14.

Note: The text of any question under Council Procedure Rule 14.3 must be given to the **Chief Executive not later than 5.00 pm on Monday, 24 April 2017.**

The text of any question under Council Procedure Rule 14.4 must be submitted to the **Chief Executive before 10.00 am on Thursday, 27 April 2017.**

7 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

8 CABINET MEMBERS' ANNOUNCEMENTS

9 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

10 MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

The Minutes of the following Committees, which met on the dates shown, are submitted.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14.1, Members are allowed to put questions at Council without Notice in respect of any matters in the Minutes to the Leader of the Council or any Chairman of the relevant meeting at the time those Minutes are received by Council.

Meeting	Date	Page Numbers	For Decision
Overview & Scrutiny	21 March 2017	26-27	
Audit	28 March 2017	11-13	
Cabinet	6 April 2017	49-53	
Planning	12 April 2017	99-115	16/02989/OUT – Land at Odiham Road, Riseley, Reading, Berkshire Departure from the Local Plan - only if requested

Date of Despatch: 18 April 2017

COUNCIL

Date and Time: Thursday, 30 March 2017 at 7.10 pm

Place: Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Fleet

Present:

COUNCILLORS –

Southern - (Chairman)

Ambler	Crookes	Morris
Bailey	Dickens	Neighbour
Billings	Forster	Oliver
Blewett	Gray	Parker
Burchfield	Gorys	Radley (James)
Butler	Harward	Radley (Jenny)
Clarke	Kennett	Renshaw
Cockarill	Leeson	Wheale
Crampton	Makepeace-Brown	Wright

Officers Present:

Patricia Hughes	Joint Chief Executive
Gill Chapman	Committee Services

Prior to the start of the meeting Members observed a minute's silence to reflect on the terrorism atrocities that took place in London on 22nd March 2017.

98 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 23 February 2017 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

99 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Councillors Axam, Collett, Crisp and Kinnell.

100 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were made.

101 COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 12 – QUESTIONS BY THE PUBLIC

None received.

I02 COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 14 – QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

Questions received from Members, and responses, are detailed in Appendix A to these minutes.

I03 CHAIRMANS ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman had attended the following events on behalf of the Council.

4 March 2017	Basingstoke Mayor Spring Charity Concert, the Anvil, Basingstoke
18 March 2017	Greenfields Junior School - opening of new building and celebration of 40 th birthday year
19 March 2017	Hampshire County Council Chairman's Concert, the Anvil, Basingstoke
25 March 2017	Pelly Concert "All That Jazz" – Church on the Heath.

The Vice Chairman had attended the following events on behalf of the Chairman:

10 March 2017	Mayor Rushmoor Charity Ball, Princes Hall, Aldershot
27 March 2017	Judging at the Great Station Cake Off at RAF Odiham

On behalf of the Chairman, Councillor Parker had attended the Fleet Pond Society Annual General Meeting on 18 February 2017, to present the Chairman's Award to the Volunteer of the Year.

The Chairman reminded Members that he would be holding his third Charity Dinner on 22 May 2017 at the Courtyard Café in Hartley Wintney, and was looking forward to seeing Councillors there.

I04 CABINET MEMBERS ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Leader of the Council, **Councillor Parker**, announced:

Following the Housing White Paper publication, I have been seeking better understanding of its impact on Hart. To that end, I have been attending a number of events where it has been discussed. This includes the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Local Government Association, of which I am Vice Chairman, on 3rd March; an event jointly hosted by South East England Councils and the LGA Economy, Environment, Housing and Transport policy board on 6th March, at which the minister Mr. Gavin Barwell MP spoke; and a seminar run by the District Councils Network on 24th March.

Some members are aware that I have been appointed by the LGA to chair the Planning Advisory Service Governance Board; members may know that the Planning Advisory Service has in the past held a number of training events for members and officers as well as providing valuable advice in planning policy matters. DCLG has recently reduced funding, and thus the board has to review its programme. The first meeting under my chairmanship was on 23rd March.

Following the consultation conducted by Fleet Town Council regarding the Harlington, their Chairman, Councillor Bob Schofield, has contacted us to arrange a meeting to discuss we take things forward. It is likely to take place next week.

Finally I thought members might like a little good news. Following Hart's bid to the Homes and Communities Agency for capacity funding for large sites and housing zones, and after DCLG moderation, Hart has been awarded £20,000.

The Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, **Councillor Burchfield**, reported that Members and Officers had attended the LGC awards as Hart had been nominated for an award. Unfortunately we did not win.

The Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing, **Councillor Crampton**, announced:

The NHS is facing a funding gap as demand continues to increase and the money the NHS receives will not keep pace with demand. To tackle the deficit, the NHS is rearranging A&E provision and amalgamating departments. There are still ongoing decisions to be made about the building of a critical care hospital locally. The NHS is also placing more emphasis on self help and prevention. Hart Council is helping to do this in two ways. Firstly, we are offering support, providing information and working partnership with other agencies through our Health and Wellbeing Board and contributing to the consideration of new ways of working across the health and care system through sustainability and transformation plans.

Secondly, we are promoting healthy weight and physical activity, which leads me into our new leisure centre which is to open on 1st April. A group of us on the Leisure Centre Working Group were shown around the leisure centre last week. We all felt very pleased with the building, equipment and pools - everything in fact apart from the internal décor which some of us felt was too orange and green, but you will be able to judge for yourselves on Saturday. Also I would like to mention that another round of Everyone Active's 'Sporting Champions' funding is available. This scheme provides funding and support for talented athletes across the UK. It would be wonderful to have someone from Hart win one of these awards. For more information go to the website www.easportingchampions.com

I would also like to announce that we have teamed up with our partners in Rushmoor and Waverley to organize a special wellbeing day and two week festival from 7th to 21st May.

On Sunday 7th May at the Aldershot Garrison sports centre there will be a 'One You' wellbeing day, a free fun event for all ages. Between 11 am and 3 pm there will be free health checks for those aged 40 to 74 as well as advice and demonstrations on health related topics. From Monday 8th May to 21st May we will be encouraging people to move more with a range of free, discounted or low cost physical activities across Hart, Rushmoor and Waverley. For more information go the website www.hart.gov.uk/oneyou.

The Cabinet Member for Economic Development, **Councillor Crookes**, announced:

On Friday March 17th Hart Council, together with the Hampshire Chamber of Commerce hosted its first “Meet your Member of Parliament Business Breakfast”. Ranil Jayawardena MP spoke on a wide range of economic and business issues and took questions from the audience of local businesses.

On March 23rd I attended the Town and Country Planning Association (TCPA) Spring Conference. The Conference theme was “Let’s get building! Financing and delivering new large-scale communities – innovation and opportunities”.

The significant learning point was that Local Authorities have significant value to add in delivering larger scale new communities, and that they should engage positively as a partner as early as possible in such schemes.

The Cabinet Member for Environment, **Councillor Forster**, announced:

I believe most are aware that the SWT Rail franchise has been awarded to First MTR who will be taking over from Stagecoach from 20 August this year. The Leader of Council has already been in touch and they have indicated some improvements that they are planning. As chair of the Blackwater Valley Transport Advisory Committee I have invited them to attend the meeting on April 5th and am awaiting confirmation. Councillors are welcome to attend if they wish to hear what they have to say.

The Waste tender is on track and the JGG met last week - responses from all the invited bidders are expected, and we are currently running slightly ahead of schedule. We have a bidders day at the start of April, and the formal ITT will then be issued. Note we currently have one additional experienced member of the team (who formerly worked for BDBC) who stated shadowing Maria Massarella who will soon be taking maternity leave.

The Waste Service is running well, although last week there was 24hrs disruption on 2 rounds due to staff illness. Residents were kept informed, and the information on the delay was notified on our website by officers the same day. The crews worked late over 2 days and were able to ensure collections were carried out within a day.

CCTV Helen Lolly, Environmental Health Manager at Rushmoor, who supports Hart’s CCTV activities through the JGG, will be leaving shortly after 21 years service: We wish her all the best.

The electric vehicle day queried by Councillor Radley was a success, with a few hundred residents attending and visitors from Farnham, Aldershot and even Bournemouth. It was a pleasure to see Councillors Gorys, Morris, Parker and Wheale also came along with a number of officers - including John Elson, Les Murrell (who organised the day) and Amy Summers. I was glad we had a selection of vehicles from £15,000 upwards, as well as an Electric Van and a range of electric bicycles. It was notable that we had a real cross section of the public attending, including young and elderly.

A number of street waste bins have been upgraded at low cost with cigarette butt receptacles retro fitted in Fleet and elsewhere. Litter and dog fouling enforcement will be starting soon, with the publicity campaign as agreed with Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Following on from awareness created following Councillor Wheale's efforts in painting Fleet Blue. Fleet Lions raised a significant amount, and are offering free PSA tests next week at Fleet hospital, which should be prebooked with the Lions – details are on the Fleet Lions website www.fleetlions.org.uk

The Cabinet member for Housing, **Councillor Gorys'** reported:

The Housing Strategy and Development Team have arranged 2 well attended events recently:

Firstly, on the 14th March, Hart and Rushmoor held a joint shared ownership event at Rushmoor's Council Offices. Local housing associations, Help to Buy South, and independent financial advisers joined officers from both Councils and provided information and advice to just under 300 people. This was a great turnout and feedback from attendees was really positive.

On 23rd March officers from the Housing Strategy & Development and Housing Options teams held a consultation event at the recently completed Wickham Court - a Sentinel housing scheme comprising of 41 apartments for people aged 55 and over. The aim of the event was to establish what residents thought was good about their accommodation and what improvements they thought could be made to help inform how new developments and allocations to the properties could be improved in the future. Residents were really engaged with the event and analysis of their comments will be carried out in the next few months. The results will be fed back to Sentinel and will also be used to help inform new developments.

My thanks to Nicola Harpham, Alison Smithen, Katy Herrington, Gemma Watts and Vicky Atkinson for their work on these events, which were a great success.

In terms of funding achievements:

Work undertaken by Nicola Harpham has ensured the Council has received the full £25k allocation from the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) "Community Housing Fund". Having received half the money already the Council was required to provide an outline of how they would make use of the funding and satisfy DCLG this plan was robust in order to receive the full amount. Housing Services have developed a plan alongside partners involved in the Hampshire Alliance for Rural Affordable Housing (HARAH) and will be working with local voluntary sector and community groups to look at opportunities to increase community engagement in meeting local housing needs.

You will all be aware that Hart has been successful in leading a bid for Homelessness Prevention Trailblazer funding of £385k to work in partnership with Rushmoor to develop the local approach to preventing homelessness. I can confirm that the Housing team has worked closely with Rushmoor Borough Council's Housing Options Manager to recruit to 3 posts, a Transition & Partnerships Manager, and 2 Health & Wellbeing Officers. These posts will be instrumental in supporting us to develop the trailblazer across both areas and improve the way we deliver local services for people who are homeless or threatened with homelessness. The team

will shortly be out to advert again to recruit an Employment and Training Officer to complete the Hart & Rushmoor "Trailblazer" team.

Finally, having mentioned a bid we had already submitted for further DCLG domestic abuse funding at a recent Full Council meeting, I am now happily able to confirm that Hart has attracted a further £312k to support victims of domestic abuse across Hampshire. This enables the continuity of a number of elements of the Hampshire Making Safe Scheme, which, as lead authority for the County, Hart achieved £905k previously. This new money will ensure ongoing support is available for domestic abuse victims within the scheme, including target hardening to enable people to continue to live safely in their homes, and an additional boost for helping victims of domestic abuse access private rented sector accommodation across the 11 districts. Hart has therefore played an instrumental role in securing over £1.2m to help victims of abuse in Hampshire, and I'd like to express my thanks to Kirsty Jenkins and Vicky Atkinson in the housing team for their work on securing this additional funding.

Councillor Gorys also referenced a recent issue of homelessness, details of which had appeared on social media. He cautioned everyone that the use of social media could be counter-productive in some situations and should be used with care.

The Cabinet Member for Regulatory Services, **Councillor Kennett**, reported:

At a recent meeting of the Community Safety Strategic Partnership, which I chaired, the local police commanders briefed us on the latest Peel Report. Each year H.M. Inspector of Constabulary publishes a PEEL report on every Police Force in the country. PEEL, apart from being the name of the founder of the modern police, is an acronym for Police Efficiency, Effectiveness and Legitimacy. They review one of these aspects each year and this year it is Effectiveness.

The Hampshire Police Force is rated overall as "Requires Improvement", particularly in areas such as responding to Domestic Violence and protecting vulnerable people, and also the way they investigate crime. The good news is that the Inspectorate was "impressed" by the way the police interact with partner agencies and names the Safer North Hampshire community safety partnership as being a good example of how to operate. This is a good endorsement of what we have done in pooling our department with those of Rushmoor and Basingstoke.

Separately, at a recent meeting of the Hart and Rushmoor Domestic Abuse Forum which I attended, a guest speaker from the Office of the Hampshire Police and Crime Commissioner stated that the Forum was considered to be "the gold standard" among all similar bodies in the county.

Lastly, I would like to remind councillors of the private briefing session on Regulatory Services next Monday evening. I would urge as many of you as possible to come and find out more about all the work done by the unsung heroes who provide a range of core services of the council, many of them statutory. Nick Steevens and his team have put together an excellent overview which will be of interest to councillors generally and particularly to anyone who may aspire to oversee the department at any time in the future.

The Cabinet Member for Town and Village Regeneration, **Councillor Morris**, reported:

The planning of Church Road Car Park refurbishment is now moving ahead at pace and the resurfacing, which is just one element, is planned to commence in August when the car parks are least busy. Within a month the project datelines will be published along with a comprehensive press release informing all residents of any disruption to Church Road car parks function. Hart has now obtained an agreement with the owners of the service yard within Church Road car park and plans are now being put in place to paint parking bays within this area to facilitate parking enforcement. The car park traffic order will be amended to legalise this enforcement.

Having carried out a car park review plans are in the embryonic stages to refurbish Hartley Witney's car park. This car park is considered poorly designed and not functional for modern car park use. Hartley Wintney Parish Council has been approached and their input, along with our infrastructure officer's expertise, will mean a better and safer car park can be introduced.

Business Improvement District (BID) - The Ballot was a resounding yes, some 68% in favour of going forwards with this initiative. The next process will see the BID management engaging with Hart officers and myself to carry this project forward.

I was fortunate to attend last week in Liverpool a Regeneration Conference which showcased the transformation of run down buildings and brownfield sites in and around the city of Liverpool including its docklands. There has been a common and successful trend in Liverpool's holistic regeneration which Hart could learn lessons from.

The City Council's early involvement, engaging with business forums, business associations, Architects, Building Companies at home and abroad, Local Enterprise Partnerships, schools, and emergency services providers was seen as essential to formulate the real needs of all sectors across the community. Their Local Plan and Neighbourhood plans also formed a key driving force to help deliver the much needed changes. No political committees were formed including the aforementioned parties and zonal regeneration plans in the form of master plans were produced by these committees. These were not developer led but were seen as the present and future requirement to successfully bring forward all the Councils regeneration goals.

Liverpool's regeneration to date and its ongoing work has been an enormous piece of project management that has brought together many sectors of the population. Key players have been industry experts bring forward proven schemes of work and crucially the management and funding of that work.

Another strong message that came out of the Conference was that there is plenty of money available to finance regeneration projects if sound business plans were put together. These funds could either be from government or the private sector. Although government may not prioritise Hart when allocating funds as we are perceived as being a wealthy area, it should not prevent putting forwards financial requests.

So where could Hart learn from this? Removing the politics from regeneration or other projects that serve the community would be a good start. Employing officers with project management skill sets, and also having at least one officer who would work solely on fund raising for projects across the district.

In the coming months I intend to work with both Joint Executives so that Hart can look to utilise some of Liverpool's models which brought forward their regeneration success stories.

105 JOINT CHIEF EXECUTIVES' REPORT

The Joint Chief Executives had nothing substantive to report.

106 MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

Meeting	Date
Staffing Committee	14 February 2017

No questions asked.

Minute 5 – Pay Policy Statement Financial Year 2017-18

RESOLVED

That the Pay Policy, attached as Appendix A to the minutes, be approved.

Overview and Scrutiny Committee	21 February 2017
--	-------------------------

No questions asked.

Cabinet	2 March 2017
----------------	---------------------

No questions asked.

Minute 131 – Winchfield Neighbourhood Plan – Bringing Into Legal Force

RESOLVED

That under Section 38A(4) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 the Winchfield Neighbourhood Plan be 'made' (brought into legal force) to form part of the statutory Hart Development Plan with immediate effect.

Planning Committee	8 March 2017
---------------------------	---------------------

No questions asked.

Item 103 & 104 – Departure to the Local Plan – Schoolfield Corner, Church Lane, Dogmersfield *

RESOLVED

This Departure to the Local Plan was deemed to be REFUSED as per the Minutes.

* The development site lies in the open countryside outside the defined settlement boundaries in an area where development would not normally be permitted. The Planning Committee was not minded to refuse the application on the grounds of Policy RUR2. This would have been contrary to Policy and the delegated powers to the Planning Committee by the Council do not allow the Committee to take a decision contrary to such a Policy without referring the matter to Full Council.

The meeting closed at 7.45 pm

QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

Councillor James Radley asked:

Please can the portfolio holder for car parks reassure residents that the recent 'electric car track day' in Church Road car park proceeded with full and adequate third party liability insurance?

Councillor Morris responded:

Each exhibitor who intended to allow any member of the public to drive a demonstrator car out of church road car park and to demonstrate or test drive on public roads took it upon themselves to check each drivers validity to drive such a car in the same way they would at their normal place of work. The demonstrator cars were all fully comprehensively insured.

The event was not a track day and vehicle movement was managed to protect public safety. The closest private track is at Transport Research Laboratory site in Crowthorne but this public event saw test drives only on local roads and compliant with the law.

Events within Hart's car parks are normally covered by current public liability insurance. However, as this event involved demonstration vehicles being parked within Church Road car park and then being demonstrated on public roads, Hart requested assurance from its insurance brokers that the event had the proper insurance cover. Confirmation that the event was adequately covered was given.

Councillor Radley asked a supplementary question:

Did you ask the insurer for confirmation before or after my question?

Councillor Morris responded:

To be candid, after.

Councillor James Radley asked:

Did the council seek to cover 'lost car parking revenue' from those electric car dealerships which benefited from this promotional event?

Councillor Morris responded:

The introduction of electric vehicle charging points into church road car park was sanctioned at cabinet and received encouraging cross party support from individuals from other political party members, Community Campaign Hart and Liberal Democrats, with laudatory support from Councillor Neighbour, Leader of the Liberal Democrats at the subject Cabinet meeting, where he congratulated Councillor Forster for bringing forward such an ambitious and forward thinking initiative.

The natural progression was then to demonstrate to the public which vehicles can use such a sustainable facility and so Councillor Forster asked our energy and environment officer (who we share with Rushmoor) to arrange the event.

The day was a great success where the sun shone on the "right- eous" as expected and the feedback from the many residents who attended said the event was extremely interesting and informative. A number of local electric vehicle owners also attended and some indicated Hart's charger initiative had acted as a catalyst and helped them go electric. They also appreciated the focus at the event for electrically assisted bicycles

As predicted from previous trends none of Fleet's car parks were full at any time during the event particularly Church Road car park and as a car park needs to be turning cars away before revenue is lost, none was lost. Even though Church Road car park capacity wasn't exceeded each electric vehicle event exhibitor had been instructed to purchase valid day parking tickets for the cars on display in the same way everyone using the car park is expected to so. In reality the event probably raised revenue as some visitors came from Aldershot, Farnham and as far afield as Bournemouth and Winchester just to attend this Fleet event, and subsequently also visited our retailers in Fleet high street.

Councillor Radley asked a supplementary question:

Could the Member confirm that the policy of the car park needing to be full and turning cars away before revenue is lost is Council Policy and will be applied to other events in the future.

Councillor Morris responded:

I will look into it.

COUNCIL

Date and Time: Thursday, 27 April 2017 at 7.00 pm

Place: Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Fleet

Present:

COUNCILLORS –

Southern - (Chairman)

Ambler	Crookes	Neighbour
Axam	Dickens (7.10pm)	Oliver
Billings	Forster	Parker
Blewett	Gray	Radley (James)
Burchfield	Gorys	Radley (Jenny)
Butler	Harward	Renshaw
Clarke	Kennett	Wheale
Cockarill	Kinnell	Woods
Collett	Leeson	Wright
Crampton	Makepeace-Browne	
Crisp	Morris	

Officers Present:

Daryl Phillips	Joint Chief Executive
Gill Chapman	Committee Services

I 07 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 30 March 2017 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

I 08 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillor Bailey.

I 09 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were made.

I 10 PRESENTATION - AEROBILITY

Mike Miller, Chief Executive Officer of Aerobility gave a presentation outlining the work of the charity. Aerobility, working out of Blackbushe Airport, helped people with disabilities to learn to fly.

Councillor Crisp would be doing a sponsored wing walk on 26 May (sponsorship page www.mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/gerrycrisp) raising money for the charity.

Members thanked Mike for the information and wished the Charity well in its very worthwhile endeavours.

I 11 COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 12 – QUESTIONS BY THE PUBLIC

A question was received from Ms Gabriele McKeown, details of which are set out in Appendix A attached to these Minutes.

I 12 COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 14 – QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

No questions received.

I 13 CHAIRMANS ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman had attended the following events on behalf of the Council.

5 April 2017	Hart Civic Day
6 April 2017	HCC Chairman – Concert at the Anvil, Basingstoke
12 April 2017	HCC Chairman’s Civic Dinner, Winchester

The Chairman reminded Members that it was now important for members to promote the Local Plan strategy with one voice.

I 14 CABINET MEMBERS ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Leader of the Council, **Councillor Parker**, announced:

I have only one announcement this month, and that is to formally inform members that the consultation under Regulation 18 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 of the draft Local Plan was formally launched yesterday. I would welcome comments from all residents, including members and those over the borders in adjacent districts and counties.

The Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, **Councillor Burchfield**, reported:

We are holding the county election and the general election in quick succession, which due to the timescales, means an overlap between elections.

During this period officers will endeavour to ensure the continued high quality of services to both the public and members, but we would ask Councillors to work with us and be understanding during this period of high levels of workload for the Elections Team, Committee Services and Corporate Services as a whole.

Guidance on the extension of Purdah, for Councillors will be circulated in due course.

The Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing, **Councillor Crampton**, announced:

I would like to update you on the projects underway in our open spaces. We are restoring the Causeway pond in Hartley Wintney. The banks of this historic pond were being eroded and by planting on the banks this erosion has been halted.

A large wildflower area has been created at Zebon Copse, in total 1200 m² has been planted. It will provide a boost for bees and other wildlife and regenerate an area destroyed by the National Grid. Working with BT, we are installing a wild flower area on the billboard on Fleet High Street. Similar wild flower planting projects will commence this year in Yateley and other areas of Fleet.

The Bramshot Farm SANG is progressing and we hope that the new access and car park will be in place by late summer when we can open it to the public. Phase 2 will deliver the visitors facilities and work on this will also start this year. We are hoping to have an open day when we can show members around this summer.

The Visitor Services department went live on 1st April. They are looking at the aspects of visitor management and promotion of the countryside and in particular SANGs promotion to attract people to these areas and away from our more sensitive sites. They will also support our key corporate objective such as Health and Wellbeing by extending the use of our open spaces to promote exercise and so on.

All Green Flag inspections have now been done and we are hopeful that we will have a 'full house' of awards in July and we will of course inform members of what we have achieved when we have the results. We currently have more Green Flag awards for excellent provision of green space than any other district in Hampshire, and draw with the county at four each.

Our new leisure centre opened on 1st April. The day was a great success with around 5,500 people attending. The feedback has been good, there were a few snagging issues which I am pleased to say have been or will be addressed.

Comments I have had have been also entirely positive, 'impressive' was said quite a number of times and one member of the public asked me to pass on their thanks to the Council for making this happen.

The Cabinet Member for Economic Development, **Councillor Crookes**, reported:

Cabinet agreed to set up the new Hart Lottery, which will be launching on Tuesday, 9 May, in association with HVA. This is an opportunity to contribute to local causes and we look forward to its success.

The Cabinet Member for Environment, **Councillor Forster**, announced:

Waste Contract retender: We have now agreed a shortlist of six bidders and we are on track to issue tenders by 5 May.

Litter enforcement: All is now in place to start the litter enforcement on 8 May and we are encouraging people to complete the online form identifying litter/dog fouling hotspots that they would like particular attention paid to

<https://www.hart.gov.uk/stop-it-dont-drop-it>. Neighbouring authorities will be watching the trial with interest.

Grounds maintenance are now entering their busiest time of year and grass cutting crews are out across the district and will be also working some weekends to ensure they keep the grass to manageable levels. Work is going well!

Fly tipping seems to be a particular problem at the moment and we have seen a significant increase in the last few weeks in the number of commercial fly tips that we have had to deal with. To address this we will shortly be trialling a new mobile CCTV system which it is hoped will be more effective at gathering evidence.

The CCTV annual report considered at recent Joint Governance Group meeting with Rushmoor, will be circulated to members of the service board for consideration. Things are going well.

Operation Hermes: Hart is to host the biannual Livex on the 29 June. This is a multi-agency exercise involving all blue light services, the military and partner authorities and will test the organisation's ability to deal with a major civil emergency.

Consolidation of on Street Parking and Waiting Restrictions: You should have seen details of the "Hart District Council (Prohibition and Restriction of Waiting and Loading and Parking Places) (Consolidation) Order 2017" - it revokes 93 existing traffic regulation orders (TO) across the District that relate to a variety of prohibitions and restrictions, which includes orders dating from the 1960's, and brings (consolidates) all prohibitions and restrictions into one simple order. This is being done to improve efficiency in preparing new traffic regulation orders across the district by consolidating the orders. This process will also enable accurate and up to date information to be provided, for instance for Penalty Charge Notice appeals etc. We do have to consult as this is a major change, in line with the Traffic Management Act 2004.

Benefit to residents will result from placing all the consolidated order on the geographical information system [GIS] and on our website, so everyone can easily find out where and when parking is permitted - and not permitted. Future TO updates will be easier.

The Cabinet Member for Housing, **Councillor Gorys**, reported

The Housing team organised an Older Persons' Information Event in partnership with Vivid (previously Sentinel Housing Association) which was held at Campbell Place today, promoting housing options for older people in the district. The event was very well attended and feedback has been highly positive. My thanks to Nicola Harpham, Alison Smithen, Katy Herrington, Gemma Watts, Kate Layzell, Laura Cohn, and Diane Heberd for their work on the event.

As I have announced before I can now confirm that the Housing team has recruited three posts to support us to deliver the DCLG funded Homelessness Prevention Trailblazer across Hart and Rushmoor. Brian Bridger has joined the team as Transition & Partnerships Manager, and Tanith Perridge and Cisco Guedelha have joined as Health & Wellbeing Officers.

The Cabinet Member for Regulatory Services, **Councillor Kennett**, reported:

Many members will have fielded complaints from the public about delayed planning applications, and this is largely due to problems of staff turnover and recruitment. Currently we are four planning officers short and the reason is very simply that we pay less than neighbouring councils and planning consultants. Not all the people we lose are outstanding but they are competent enough to get £3000 or £5000 more elsewhere.

This is happening at a time of greatly increased workload, not only with a relatively normal surge in applications, but also we have two very large, listed sites at Bramshill and Minley Manor which are both sensitive and time consuming. There are over 60 Appeals pending on Bramshill alone. Discussions regarding Minley Manor are less advanced and it is hoped, but by no means certain, that the Council can reach agreement with the developers. Appeals, as you know, are very expensive in time as well as money.

On 7 April I attended a meeting of the Hampshire Police and Crime Panel at which the Commissioner outlined progress against his plan. The plan has ten priorities but most are vague and it is not really possible to judge success. There was a general feeling among members that it needed to be less vague and that this can be tightened in future. At the same meeting his Estates Manager confirmed that although the negotiation had been lengthy the sale of the Fleet Police Station should soon be completed. The site should then be a useful addition to our brownfield land supply.

The Cabinet Member for Town and Village Regeneration, **Councillor Morris**, reported:

On 6 April I attended the Armed Forces Military Covenant quarterly meeting held at RAF Odiham where topics discussed covered government funding through grants for covenant initiatives, neighbouring covenant champions and other military units outside of Hart working together sharing experiences and bringing forward funding success stories. As always these meetings hold great value helping to ensure service personal serving or retired are never disadvantaged in the community.

The Fleet Business Forum has now been disbanded as the Business Improvement District (the BID) have taken over their previous role. I attended the inaugural Fleet BID Annual General meeting on 24 April, eligible to BID members who elected Board members. As Hart's board member I also attended the first Board meeting held this morning where individual responsibilities were determined. The board is a set of very proactive members who have a full agenda of initiatives to bring forward to enhance the shopping experience for Fleet and further promote Fleet as a shopping destination.

The parking management team are maintaining their high levels of efficiency and even though they are understaffed the traffic management and enforcement process continues to successfully fill the void between now and when the revenue collection service is outsourced in October this year. Incidents including abandoned car removal, PCN's and car park revenue can be viewed on the parking Dashboard on

Hart's website. I encourage all councillors to visit this site to understand the work parking officers do.

Preparation ground work at Church Road car park will commence for 3 days, from Wednesday 10 to Friday 12 May, for drainage and surface structure testing works. The three areas within the car park will be cordoned off for public safety and all adjacent residents and businesses will be informed by letter. Also a press release will be issued to inform the greater public along with notices on social media and notice boards within the car park.

There has been a delay with the installation of the upgraded ticket machines because the company carrying out the work have gone through manpower issues and business restructuring. The current installation commencement date is 22 May 2017, which will see Victoria Road and Ghurkha Square trial the upgraded machines for two weeks to iron out any teething problems, and then all of Hart's car parks will have upgraded machines fitted soon after.

I 15 JOINT CHIEF EXECUTIVES' REPORT

The Joint Chief Executives' thanked Members for their support in the preparation and publication of the Draft Local Plan, now out for consultation until 5pm on 9 June. A briefing for Parishes had been held, and Roadshows were planned. He asked that Members encourage residents to attend the roadshows and respond to the consultation.

There was a four week public inquiry scheduled on the proposed development at Bramshill, which would be held at Bramshill House in October.

I 16 MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

Meeting	Date
Overview and Scrutiny	21 March 2017
Councillor Axam asked that the Minutes reflect that he had sent apologies.	
Audit	28 March 2017
No questions asked	
Cabinet	6 April 2017
No questions asked.	
Planning Committee	12 April 2017

Minute 68 – Neighbour Notification Letters
Councillor Collett expressed concern at the decision to stop sending out neighbour notification letters. He highlighted examples of where this would be a problem in that some local residents may not become aware of development that could have a potential impact upon them.

Councillor Ambler, Chairman of Planning Committee, assured Members that the new scheme had been debated at length, both at Planning Working Group and Committee. Parishes, communities and neighbours all had a part to play in publicising applications, and savings would amount to £20k per year.

Councillor Collett asked that this decision be reviewed in due course.

I6/02989/OUT – Land at Odiham Road, Riseley, Reading, Berkshire

The application had been brought to Committee as a Departure because the site lies outside the settlement boundary and in that respect is contrary to Local Plan Policy RUR2. A request for debate had been received. Members' attention was drawn to the Briefing Note circulated, the reasons for the departure and the options for the Council going forward.

Councillor Ambler introduced the item. Local Plan policies on the delivery of housing were out of date and this was a case where para 14 of the NPPF (the presumption in favour of development) applied. He highlighted the benefits of the development which would deliver both market and affordable housing which must be given substantial weight. The scheme would result in the loss of some trees and hedging, although potential mitigation would offset this harm. The proposal would not in the opinion of the Planning Committee result in significant harm to the natural or built environment. Placing all factors and all of the relevant material considerations in the balance, the benefits of the development outweighed any adverse conflict with Policy RUR2. He therefore, moved that the recommendation set out at Minute 69 of the Planning Committee be approved. Councillor Cockarill seconded the Motion.

Members debated the issues. Points of discussion included:

- A previous application in the 1980's had been refused on appeal on the grounds of harm to the countryside.
- Undermined purpose of consulting on draft Local Plan if then grant planning permission before Local Plan consultation finished.
- Recognition that to meet housing needs it was inevitable that development would take place of greenfields even where in past times planning permission had been refused - applications had to be considered on their merits taking current policy and circumstances into account.
- Prematurity – not relevant here as the draft Plan carried little weight. There could be no moratorium on development simply because a draft Local Plan was out for consultation.
- The development proposed was not so substantial and its cumulative effect was not so significant, that to grant permission would undermine the plan-making process by predetermining decisions about the scale, location or phasing of new development that are central to draft Local Plan. In any event, the development proposal was acceptable on its own individual merits irrespective of the draft Local Plan.
- Implications of the Moulsham Lane appeal in terms of approach to meeting housing needs, the strength of Policy RUR2 and compatibility with NPPF.

- This site was no special exception to other planning permission that had been granted on greenfields in similar circumstances right across the District.

After a vote the resolution was deemed to be **CARRIED**.

RESOLVED

That the Head of Regulatory Services be authorised to grant permission subject to the prior completion of an appropriate legal agreement as set out in the Planning Committee Minutes of 12 April 2017.

The meeting closed at 8.20 pm

COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 12

QUESTIONS BY THE PUBLIC

Question from **Ms Gabriele McKeown**:

Why would Hart District Council want to grant planning permission for 83 houses in an area classified as open countryside within 2km of the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area (TBHSPA) and outside any built-up settlements of Hart District, Hampshire County, Wokingham District and Berkshire County, which will cause severe material impacts on a neighbourhood outside Hart District's area of jurisdiction, and even consider a change of RUR2 to do so, whilst simultaneously force meaningful and detrimental impacts on Riseley residents who are already suffering from gridlocked peak time traffic around all the relevant roads, who are already suffering from lack of essential infrastructure (no schools, no shops, no work opportunities, very poor public transport) and from overstretched medical centres miles away, and would be prepared to increase car traffic significantly, adding to the weekdays' peak time stop and go traffic without any essential provisions for their tenants or owners to get out of their poorly connected homes other than by private car travel and not providing leisure facilities for children, growing fast out of toddler's play grounds and recreation ground offers, whilst destroying the rural setting of our, namely a Berkshire village?

Councillor Ambler responded:

The Planning Committee is made up of eleven members from each of the wards in Hart, they are elected to the Committee each year at the AGM in accordance with political proportionality. In order to sit on the Committee members undergo regular training on all relevant aspects in order that they can competently carry out their duties in determining applications.

To quote from the guidance contained within our constitution “When considering development proposals the Council will take a positive approach that reflects the presumption in favour of sustainable development contained in the National Planning Policy Framework.”

With regard to this particular application, it is my view that the officer report and Committee members properly debated all the relevant issues in reaching a decision. The location was discussed at length. It is a fact that this application site sits on the boundary of the Parish, the District and the County. As Hart covers a relatively small geographic area and shares a boundary with two adjacent counties, this situation is inevitably going to arise, however the boundaries are as they are and Hart District Council are the planning authority whose responsibility it is to determine this application.

With regard to the proximity to the SPA, as with many of the applications that we consider, the recommendation is subject to appropriate SANG being made available in mitigation. In respect of the highways issues, all the comments raised were examined and are dealt with in the comprehensive response from our highways officer, which concluded with no objection on highways grounds. This issue members also considered at length.

So in conclusion, it is my view that the Planning Committee properly weighed up all the factors and balanced the proportionate weight that should be applied to RUR2 and the NPPF presumption in favour of sustainable development, when arriving at their recommendation.

Ms McKeown asked a supplementary question:

As you have just yesterday started a 6-weeks' public Consultation phase on your Draft Local Housing Plan I ask you: How can you possibly justify a premature decision to grant an outline planning permission today for 83 houses in this greenfield site, which is disconnected and lies outside the defined settlement boundary of Riseley miles away from Hart District's infrastructure, which will undoubtedly lead to a split and not viable community and will ruin the character of our petite village, without proof of an overriding need for new houses on this site, whilst we and the wider community haven't yet commented on your draft Local Housing Plan and before you can finally specify your housing needs, which will possibly be covered in suitable and sustainable areas, well located within the Hart District, like Murrell Green?

Councillor Ambler responded:

As often happens with planning applications they are submitted and we have a legal obligation to deal with them within a timely manner. We cannot put a decision off until the local plan consultation has finished, it would probably be illegal. There is a need for new houses. At present we are working on an outdated local plan, with housing numbers to work to, and we have to continue our delivery of affordable homes. This site delivers affordable homes. All issues were considered by the Planning Committee, who came to the recommendation that will be debated later tonight.