

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Council held in the Council Chamber at the  
Town Hall Chapel Road Worthing on**

**31 October 2017**

The Mayor, Councillor Alex Harman  
The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Paul Baker

Councillor Noel Atkins	Councillor Louise Murphy
Councillor Antony Baker	*Councillor Mark Nolan
Councillor Roy Barraclough	*Councillor Luke Proudfoot
Councillor Keith Bickers	Councillor Clive Roberts
Councillor Callum Buxton	Councillor Jane Sim
Councillor Rebecca Cooper	Councillor Bob Smytherman
Councillor Edward Crouch	*Councillor Elizabeth Sparkes
Councillor James Doyle	Councillor Hazel Thorpe
Councillor Diane Guest	Councillor Bryan Turner
Councillor Lionel Harman	Councillor Val Turner
Councillor Joshua High	Councillor Vicky Vaughan
Councillor Paul High	*Councillor Steve Waight
Councillor Daniel Humphreys	Councillor Paul Westover
Councillor Susan Jelliss	*Councillor Steve Wills
Councillor Kevin Jenkins	Councillor Mark Withers
Councillor Heather Mercer	Councillor Tom Wye
*Councillor Sean McDonald	Councillor Paul Yallop
Councillor Nigel Morgan	

\*=absent

Councillor Roberts left the meeting at 7.24 pm during the item 'Gambling Act 2005 - review of Statement of Licensing Policy'.

**C/025/17-18 Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Sparkes, McDonald, Wills, Waight and Nolan.

**C/026/17-18 Marine Ward - By-election result**

Council noted the by-election result for the recent Marine Ward by-election, welcoming Councillor Cooper to the Chamber.

**C/027/17-18 Declarations of Interest**

Members were invited to make any declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests, no declarations were made at this time; there were later declarations made during various debates that are recorded in the minutes.

## C/028/17-18 Questions from the public

The Mayor announced that there were six registered questions for the meeting.

The Mayor informed Council that he would be reading the first registered question. He had spoken to the person who was unable to attend the meeting to assure himself of the genuine nature of the absence and question.

The question put to the Executive Member for the Environment was:

*‘under the anti social behavior crime and policing act; would the council consider introducing a public space protection order against seagull feeding? As other areas/councils have done so?’*

Response from the Executive Member for the Environment:

- This is not currently deemed to be a major issue as only one complaint has been received, therefore there are no plans to introduce a PSPO
- Our environmental health teams deal informally with over feeding of animals and birds on private land, by way of an advisory letter
- In areas where members of the public have raised on concerns signs have been put in the areas to discourage this happening.
- If members of the public do have specific concerns and evidence to support a complaint the Council can use powers under anti-littering legislation.
- For members of the public wishing to support our local bird population the Councils’ website provides a useful link to the RSPB which gives helpful general advice about feeding birds.

The Mayor invited Mr McKnight to put his question to the Leader:

"Does the Leader of the Council accept that if the costs of the recently concluded taxpayer funded private investigation into Cllr Bob Smytherman's alleged conflicts of interest are not made known to the public then the reputation of the Council could be brought into disrepute?"

Response from the Leader:

The Monitoring Officer’s investigation into the Standards matter to which you refer, has not concluded, and the associated costs are therefore not known as yet. The matter remains confidential and internal.

The Leader didn’t see a reason why the information could not be made available in due course.

There was no supplementary question.

The Mayor invited Pauline Fraser to put her question to the Executive Member for Regeneration

‘Will the Council insist that all future private developments of more than ten units include a percentage of affordable housing in their plans as required under Section

106 of the Town and Country Planning Act (1990) b) what that percentage is and c) give assurances that the Council will not accept payment in lieu of building that agreed percentage?’

#### Response from the Executive Member for Regeneration

- The adopted Worthing Core Strategy 2011 requires 30% affordable housing on all sites of 15 or more dwellings. Whilst the starting point for negotiations is on site provision the adopted policy does indicate that, amongst other matters this will be subject to the overall viability of the scheme.
- For schemes between 6 and 14 dwellings financial contributions towards off site provision are negotiated.
- These policies are under review as part of the emerging Local Plan and will take into account the need for additional affordable housing as well as current Government policies and guidance.

The current adopted planning policy was for a mix of affordable house, including social rent and intermediate housing to meet local needs on all but the smallest sites:

- On all sites of 6 to 10 dwellings, 10% affordable housing will be sought via a financial contribution
- On all sites of 11 to 14 dwellings 20% affordable housing will be sought via a financial contribution
- On all sites of 15 or more dwellings, 30% affordable housing will be sought via a financial contribution

The policy approach was to seek to secure on-site provision on sites of 15 dwellings or more, with financial contributions for site of 6-14 units. This was subject to

- The economics of providing affordable house
- The extent to which the provision of affordable housing would prejudice other planning objectives to be met from the development of the site
- The mix of units necessary to meet local needs and achieve a successful development

Where the Council accepts that there is robust justification, the affordable housing requirement may be secured through off-site provision.

The supplementary question related to the Council using Legislation to transfer land to public ownership; the Executive Member responded that he presumed Ms Fraser meant Compulsory Purchase powers. He asked that Ms Fraser supply the question to him and he would give a written response.

The Mayor invited Luke Angel to put his question to the Leader

‘Is it right for the Council to make up for the government's chronic underfunding and cuts to local authority budgets by forcing people on the lowest income, who are already struggling to pay £5 council tax per week?’

#### Response from the Leader:

The Council tax support scheme had been subject to a number of discussions by the Council; there had been significant cuts to funding but he did not accept the ‘chronic underfunding’ in the question. The Council Tax support scheme locally had put in place a

hardship fund for clients, many of whom were vulnerable, to approach for support with their council tax payments. A considerable amount of work is being undertaken across a number of Council Service areas to provide support to residents affected by a number of Welfare Reforms.

The supplementary question was on whether an impact assessment had been undertaken for the effect of the £5 since its introduction. The Leader explained that the Council worked with a number of organisations to get access to the hardship fund for their clients.

The Mayor invited Jane Rennie to put her first question to the Executive Member for Environment

‘The benefits of trees in towns are well documented and the avenues and roads in Worthing that are well provisioned are lovely. I understand however that the council has reduced the tree planting budget and if people want trees in their road they have to pay a premium. Please may we return to tree lined avenues? Hackney Borough Council can do it - why can't we?’

The Executive Member for the Environment responded:

Tree planting within the Highway is the responsibility of the County Council but I can raise this matter with the County Councillors representing Worthing.

There was no supplementary question.

The Mayor invited Jane Rennie to put her second question to the Executive Member for the Environment

‘The Council paid for stencils warning people to pick up dog mess and these are all over the pavements on George V Avenue and no doubt other places. Most responsible dog owners clean up but some don't and having reminders like these has no effect and the stencils are now fading - in my view a waste of money.

‘Please will you consider utilising the money in a different way eg having the beach patrollers or others to enforce the bye laws re dog mess - that will soon motivate people to clean up’.

The Executive Member for the Environment responded:

We have found that temporarily stencilling encourages dog owners to act responsibly and clean up after their pet, along with targeted education and enforcement patrols from our Dog Warden team, in locations where dog fouling is prevalent has proved to be an effective method in enforcing the Dog Control Public Space Protection Order.

Permanent stencils lose their impact after a while, which is why we have chosen to adopt the temporary stencilling route for its impact.

The Beach Office team, along with our Community Park Rangers have also been empowered and trained to issue Fixed Penalty Notices for breaches of the Dog Control Public Space Protection Order as the Council takes seriously the local residents concerns over this anti social behaviour.

On a supplementary question about a more proactive approach, particularly by Dog Wardens. The Executive Member suggested that reporting instances of dog fouling via the phone or website would alert the Council to make a response.

As West Sussex County Council had been mentioned, Councillors Paul High, Atkins and Bryan Turner all declared interests as members of that Council.

*(see also minute C/030/17-18)*

### **C/029/17-18 Confirmation of Minutes**

**Resolved** that the minutes of the Meeting of the Council on 18 July 2017 be approved as a correct record and they be signed by the Mayor.

### **C/030/17-18 Announcements by the Mayor, Leader, Executive Members, Head of Paid Service**

The Mayor announced that last month he had been honoured to attend a commemorative event, the first of its kind in Worthing, to mark the achievements of Second Lt Montague Moore and his awarding of a VC. This was marked by the laying of a commemorative plaque in Montague Place. The event was very well attended with members of Montague's family present on the day. Since then a message had been received from Montague's son in Australia thanking us for remembering his Father. Thank you to everyone who attended and to those who put the event together.

#### *Public Questions:*

It was pointed out to the Mayor by a member of the public in the gallery that there was still 5 minutes of public question time.

The Mayor invited any members of the public to ask their questions.

Katy Parsonage asked for clarification as to publicity and accessibility to hardship fund. Councillors Crouch and Humphreys responded that it was on the Council Tax page of the website.

Sam Ready asked for clarification of the cycle laws on priority. The Leader responded that the majority of cycle routes were the responsibility of West Sussex County Council but the Prom was the responsibility of the Borough Council.

Returning to his Announcements, the Mayor explained that over the last few weeks he had spent some time with different teams within the Councils including the Beach Control, Kerbside Crew and Parks; coming up was volunteering with the Street Outreach Workers. The Mayor highly recommend councillors to consider spending time with the different teams as it has been incredibly interesting and great fun.

The Mayor mentioned the German Twinning Delegation visit where he had had the pleasure to meet the 3 German Mayors and their delegation from the Elztal region in southern Germany. The event had been coordinated by the Worthing Twinning Association to celebrate the 20th anniversary of twinning between the two countries.

The Mayor had had the pleasure of welcoming Peter & Miriam Webb of ETI (Electronic Temperature Instruments Ltd) to afternoon tea in the Parlour to celebrate their 3rd Queen's Award. ETI have extended an invitation to all councillors to have a tour around the factory at Easting Close arrangements were being co-ordinated by the Civic Office with details to follow.

In September the Mayor had welcomed Lady Emma Barnard, the new High Sheriff of West Sussex to the Town Hall. After refreshments and introductions to senior officers and councillors, he had taken Lady Emma on a whistle stop tour of the town and Pier .

The Mayor placed on record the Council's congratulations to Tori Bush a Worthing resident, who had recently completed a 21/2 year 30,000km solo cycle through 33 countries. He had welcomed Tori and her family with a small event in the Parlour to hear more of her successful journey and incredible achievement.

During the afternoon The Mayor had the pleasure of meeting HRH Princess Alexandra at the Care for Veterans (formerly QAHH) where she opened a new wing at the home.

A new batch of Borough Crest Lapel pins were available, the pins were £5 each - £3 of which covered the manufacturing and the remaining £2 to be put towards the Mayoral Charities. Contact the Civic Office for further details.

On 17 November the Mayor would be judging the A&W Council Staff Fancy Dress Competition in aid of Children in Need. The theme for this event is Heroes and Villians.

The Mayor made announcements relating to his Charities - he had been visiting several local schools to thank the students who have made donations to the Mayor's Charities by having non-uniform school days. This had been well supported and to date this new idea is expected to raise almost £3000 for the Mayor's Charities.

On Friday 17 November was the Mayor's Fish and Chip and Quiz Evening - 5.30pm for 6.00pm at the Warren Rooms, Worthing College. The evening would include a fish and chip supper, family quiz and a magic show by Magic Martin. Max. team size of 6 and price is £10 adult & £5 child. Tickets obtained from the Mayoress.

On Sunday 17 December at 6.30pm. - Mayor's Christmas Carol Service at St. George's Church, Worthing. Members were encouraged to support this event, more details would be available soon.

No other announcements were made.

### **C/031/17-18 Items raised under the urgency provisions**

There were no items under the urgency provisions for Council.

### **C/032/17-18 Recommendations from the Executive and Committees to Council**

Council had before it recommendations from the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the Joint Strategic Committee, the Licensing and Control Committee B and the Joint Senior Staff Committee on various dates. Extracts of these minutes had been circulated and are attached to the minutes as items 8 A to 8 E.

## **Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee - 27 July 2017**

The Chairman of the Joint Committee presented the recommendations from his Committee on page 7 the agenda, item 8A.

### **(i) Annual Report 2016/17**

The recommendation was seconded by Councillor Smytherman.

Concern was expressed by a Member that scrutiny could be more effective by amongst a range of suggestions; hearing residents views and listening to concerns, delving into the budget, looking at issues around affordable housing. It was felt that the programme of work was poor.

To counter a Member felt that scrutiny was effective in challenging the Executive Members; ideas and items for the work programme were regularly submitted and considered for inclusion in forthcoming work. It was suggested that the ideas raised be put forward in the usual way for consideration.

On a vote For 28 Against 0 Abstentions 2

**Resolved** that the Adur and Worthing Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee Annual report 2016/17 be approved.

## **Joint Strategic Committee - 12 September 2017**

The Leader of the Council presented the Committee's recommendations on pages 9 to 15 circulated with the agenda, items 8B, (1 to 4).

### **(1) 1st Capital Investment Programme and Projects Monitoring 2017/18**

The Leader highlighted that the recommendation included an increase of £590,000 in affordable housing grants to Registered social housing providers. The recommendation was seconded by Councillor Jenkins.

There were no speakers on the item.

On a vote For 29 Against 0 Abstentions 2

**Resolved** that Council approved an increase of £590,000 in the 2017/18 General Fund Budget for Affordable Housing Grants to Registered Social Housing Providers, funded by set aside Right to Buy Receipts or S106 Receipts received by the Council, and to delegate approval to allocate this funding, as schemes are identified, to the Head of Housing in conjunction with the Chief Financial Officer and the Executive Member for Housing, as detailed in paragraphs 2.2.3 iii) of the report .

### **(2) The future for Teville Gate Car Park**

The Leader was pleased to present the recommendation highlighting that the funds would come from the the Local Growth Fund and be used to kick start a number of projects. The recommendation was seconded by Councillor Bickers

A number of Members rose to support the recommendation.

On a vote For 31 Against 0 Abstain 0

**Resolved** that the demolition and resurfacing element of the scheme be added to the Capital Programme subject to funding from the Local Growth Fund being formally confirmed

### **(3) Potential purchase for the provision of temporary accommodation**

The Leader proposed an amendment to the recommendation before Council as events had overtaken the need for the additional funds to be made available. The amended recommendation (Council note that no further action will be taken on making available funds for the potential refurbishment of the property detailed in the exempt report) was seconded by Councillor Crouch.

Members rose to thank the officers for the speed in which they had reacted to the opportunity to bid for the property which had eventually been sold for considerably more than expected. Members asked that officers remain alert for future opportunities.

The Executive Member for Customer Services commended officers for their 'out of the box' thinking and echoed concerns on provision for people who were homeless in Worthing. She assured Council that opportunities would be investigated and progressed as they arose.

On a vote For 29 Against 0 Abstain 2

**Resolved** that Council note that no further action will be taken on making available funds for the potential refurbishment of the property detailed in the exempt report.

### **(4) Strategic Property Acquisition**

The Leader presented the recommendation which was seconded by Councillor Jenkins

On a vote For 28 Against 0 Abstain 3

**Resolved** that Council release the funding for the purchase from the Local Growth Fund.

### **Licensing and Control Committee B - 2 October 2017**

The Chairman of the Committee introduced the recommendation on page 17 of the agenda which was seconded by Councillor Smytherman.

Members commended on the national news announced during the day that the Government would be looking at fixed odds betting machines noting that it was likely that the Policy would have to be reviewed again in the near future.



On a vote For 30 Against 0 Abstain 0

**Resolved** that Council adopt the draft Statement of Gambling Licensing Policy

### **Joint Strategic Committee - 10 October 2017**

#### **(1) Our Growing Regional Economy - the Greater Brighton Economic Board**

The Leader presented the recommendation (8D 1) which was seconded by Councillor Jenkins.

Members rose to discuss the success of the Board since its inception as a new initiative in the local area, the expansion to welcome Crawley Borough Council and the Gatwick area; the later seen as an opportunity to address the 2nd runway issue at Gatwick Airport in due course.

On a vote For 28 Against 0 Abstain 2

**Resolved** that Worthing Borough Council ratify Crawley Borough Council's membership of the Greater Brighton Economic Joint Committee (which meets with the Greater Brighton Business Partnership as the Greater Brighton Economic Board), subject to the decision of other constituent authorities, and delegated authority to the Solicitor to the Councils to make consequential changes to the Joint Committee Agreement and the Councils' Constitutions.

#### **(2) Health related development on Worthing Town Hall car park**

The Leader presented the recommendation (8D 2) which was seconded by Councillor Bickers.

Members rose to support the proposal placing on record its thanks to a number of officers who had worked closely on the project in the background to reach the proposal before Council. Members felt that it was an exciting time to be in Worthing with the various initiatives coming forward noting the opportunity to bring a number of health services together in this one location for residents.

During the debate Councillor Smytherman declared a personal interest in Coastal West Sussex Mind.

On a vote For 30 Against 0 Abstain 0

**Resolved** that Council

(1) Amend the 2017/18 Capital Programme by £262,000, funded by prudential borrowing, to fund the necessary studies outlined in paragraphs 5.5 and 5.6 of the report, subject to NHS partners committing to the project via a Development Agreement and underwriting the cost of the studies if they should choose to withdraw from the project;

(2) add the scheme to the Capital Programme for 2018/19 and 2019/20.

*The Chief Executive left the meeting at 7.40pm before the commencement of the next item.*

### **Joint Senior Staff Committee - 17 October 2017**

As Chairman of the Committee, the Leader introduced the recommendation, item 8E on page 23 of the agenda. Mentioning how the Council and the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) were working together on the public health agenda he felt that this was the next step in the indicatives by the Borough Council for partnership working. He felt that the step was bold and revolutionary, similar to the partnership working with Adur District Council a decade ago.

The recommendation was seconded by Councillor Val Turner.

Members rose commenting that their earlier reservations for joint working across local government had proven to be unfounded with this opportunity being another innovation for the Council to lead in partnership working. A number of members felt this was an excellent opportunity to influence a joined up system and would be of enormous benefit to the residents of Worthing. There was a concern that the challenge for the Chief Executive with this secondment and 2 councils to oversee could be 'all consuming'.

On a vote For 26 Against 0 Abstain 4

**Resolved that** the secondment of the Chief Executive to the Coastal West Sussex Clinical Commissioning Group on the terms set out in the report be agreed by the Borough Council.

*The Chief Executive returned to the meeting at 8pm as the next item commenced.*

### **C/033/17-18 Leader's Report on decisions taken by the Executive**

The Leader of the Council presented his report on decisions taken by the Executive since the last Ordinary meeting of the Council; which were detailed in Item 9, on pages 25 to 29.

The Leader commented on the response to the consultation on the A27 Worthing and Lancing Improvement Scheme which was felt to be 'not good enough'. The Leader also commented on the match funding request for the Museum redevelopment.

The Executive Member for Customer Services also addressed Council on the Museum redevelopment explaining her enthusiasm that a number of partners wished to progress opening up the Council's costume collection.

Questions were asked on the Council Tax Support scheme with the Executive Member for Digital and Resources explaining that the fund would be in the budget for the following year and to date, there was un allocated money in the current year; and the public consultation on the Council Tax Support scheme which was felt to be of insufficient quality to which the Executive Member for Customer Services noted the concerns expressed.

### **C/034/17-18 Political Balance and Committee Memberships**

The Mayor introduced the report to Council on pages 31-38 of the agenda which reported on the political balance changes as a result of the Marine Ward by-election.

The Leader proposed the recommendations in paragraph 6.2 including that Councillor Cooper take the vacated seat on the Licensing Committee.

Councillor High seconded the proposal.

On a vote For 27 Against 0 Abstain 3

**Resolved** that the Council

- (1) Notes the re-calculation of the political balance as detailed at paragraph 2.4 in the report
- (2) Notes and approves the following committee membership changes:

Planning Committee - Councillors Crouch and Roberts relinquish their seats to be replaced by Councillors Wills and Baker.

Licensing Committee - Councillor Crouch relinquish his seat with Council Cooper taking the vacancy.

#### **C/035/17-18 Members Questions under Council Procedure Rule (CPR) 12**

The Mayor announced that the Proper Officer had received 16 questions from Members under CPR 12, which would be asked in accordance with the Rule, one supplementary question may be asked which must arise out of the original question or the reply. Questions will be asked in rotation around the Groups represented in the Chamber, there is 30 minutes allowed for questions. There are 5 rotations of speakers possible, at the end of 30 minutes the Mayor explained that he would extend the time to the end of the current rotation of speakers.

The Mayor announced that the following Councillors and their number of questions had been submitted:

Councillor Thorpe 3 questions  
Councillor Smytherman 3 questions  
Councillor Withers 1 question  
Councillor Cooper 3 questions  
Councillor Westover 1 question  
Councillor Yallop 3 questions  
Councillor Murphy 1 question  
Councillor Vaughan 1 question

The order would be

First rotation:

Councillor Thorpe - Question 1, Councillor Withers, Councillor Cooper - Question 1.  
Councillor Westover

Second rotation

Councillor Smytherman - Question 1, Councillor Cooper Question 2, Councillor Yallop Question 1

Third rotation

Councillor Thorpe - Question 2, Councillor Cooper Question 3, Councillor Murphy

Fourth rotation

Councillor Smytherman - Question 2 , Councillor Yallop Question 2

Final rotations

Councillor Thorpe - Question 3, Councillor Yallop Question 3, Councillor Smytherman Question 3, Councillor Vaughan

### **First Rotation:**

#### **Councillor Thorpe to the Leader:**

‘It is totally understandable and eminently sensible to benefit from the experience of being a member of staff down, and that quite naturally Directors are willing to take on more responsibility BUT what safety net is there in place for staff whose working days have and will be stretched to the limit – requiring working at home, at 10 o’clock at night or other unsocial hours in order to just get the legislation coming down the line in place?’

#### **The Leader’s response:**

We take staff welfare, and work-life balance issues seriously, with a strong group of Heads of Service in place, we do not foresee additional pressures to staff as a result of these changes. Directors while taking on some additional responsibilities, also have opportunities to further build connections between teams in the organisation to the benefit of residents, and have created a strong and coherent leadership team.

#### **Councillor Withers to Executive Member for Regeneration**

‘I note the positive efforts that have been made to make Worthing more cyclist friendly, including the bikes for rent in the town centre. Does the Worthing Local Plan allow for the development of a comprehensive cycling policy e.g. a local cycling and walking infrastructure plan (LCWIP) decided by WSCC which includes a plan for a network of cycle paths based on the routes that people actually use, and where new development always takes account of cycle paths?’

#### **Response by the Executive Member for Regeneration:**

Following close liaison with Worthing Borough Council and other key stakeholders West Sussex County Council published its Walking & Cycling Strategy in 2016 to cover the period to 2026. The Strategy is designed to complement the Government’s Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy and sets out the County Council’s aims and objectives for walking and cycling together with its priorities for investment in infrastructure improvements. It contains a list of more than 300 potential schemes suggested by stakeholders, a number of which are located within Worthing.

Although drafted prior to the adoption of the Walking and Cycling Strategy (2016) the policies set out in Worthing's current Development Plan (Core Strategy - 2011) broadly reflect its aims objectives. The Core Strategy includes transport objectives that, when delivered, will help to deliver a range of sustainable transport choices and hence, reduce the need to travel by car. Policy 19, 'Sustainable Travel' seeks to achieve this, in part, through improving walking and cycling networks. There is therefore no reason why, under the current planning framework, suitable schemes for enhanced provision for walking and cycling would not be supported.

The development of a new Local Plan to replace the existing Core Strategy now provides an opportunity to embed the key principles of WSCC Walking and Cycling Strategy within the local Development Plan. In response to this, the Plan is likely to incorporate a more positive approach for walking and cycling infrastructure, particularly where opportunities exist to enhance existing networks or link new development sites.

Consultation on the Draft Local Plan and associated Infrastructure Delivery Plan is expected to be held early next summer. This will provide an opportunity for all interested parties, including walking / cycling groups to comment on proposals and put forward any suggestions as to how the existing network could be improved.

**Councillor Cooper to the Leader of the Council:**

'Would you agree that the provision of adequate social housing must be a key priority for this Borough? Accordingly, in view of recent statements made by Central Government, could the Leader and/or Chair of Planning please write to Sajid Javid and ask for assistance (legislative and financial) to assist the people of Worthing?'

**Response by the Leader:**

The Government through the lobbying by the Local Government Association has offered additional funding to deliver more rented accommodation but I do agree that it would be beneficial to highlight the problem this Council is having delivering affordable housing through the current planning system.

I have spoken directly to the Secretary of State and Ministers regarding the broken housing market and would be happy to send a letter.

**Councillor Paul Westover to Executive Member for Digital & Resources**

'I understand the Councils have been receiving very positive feedback from customers ordering garden waste bins, with delivery times reduced from several days to in some cases under an hour! Can the Executive Member explain how this has been achieved and are there future plans to do similar elsewhere?'

**Response by the Executive Member for Digital and Resources:**

Waste services 'the bins' was one of the first services to get the digital treatment using the council's new 'platform' approach. The idea being to strip out waste, ditch unnecessary and slow paper processes and deliver an experience that our customers really value. As indicated by the compliments you reference in your question.

The council has adopted an award winning in-house approach to digital service design which has delivered £200K of savings whilst increasing efficiency and customer satisfaction.

By building these tools ourselves in many cases we can get things done quicker and cheaper than procuring complex and expensive external systems., In terms of the future, there are significant projects in progress and exciting plans afoot including a full redesign of the council's website, so do watch this space.

Finally I think that by having our Head of Customer Services take on responsibility for digital, there will be an even stronger link between customer centred change and our digital programme.

### **Second rotation:**

#### **Councillor Smytherman to the Executive Member for Environment**

Can the Executive Member confirm what arrangements have been made for parking in the Town Centre following the decisions to demolish Teville Gate at the same time as redeveloping the Grafton site and losing the spaces at the Aquarena and the Civic Centre sites too and will the parking strategy be shared will Full Council before all of these spaces are lost?

#### **Response by the Executive Member for the Environment**

While we have seen significant and welcomed movement on the development of site across the town, the provision of car parking is not being ignored. A car parking study has been commissioned for the Town Centre to assess the likely future medium to long term demand and capacity of parking provision across the town centre and the options for parking provision going forward. Our objective is that there will not be a net loss in parking provision.

The study will be used to inform redevelopment options and decisions which will be brought to Members for scrutiny. The immediate plans for the specific sites referred to, the plan for Teville Gate includes the provision of surface car parking which will replicate spaces for the existing level of use and the redevelopment of Grafton is a medium term project, based on the condition of the MSCP and need to take action within the next 3-5 years. It has always been envisaged that the redevelopment of the site would provide replacement public car parking and a bid for Local Growth Funding has been submitted to help the viability of the overall project. Any loss of parking at Grafton during redevelopment will only be on a temporary basis.

#### **Councillor Cooper to the Chairman of the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

Have either Chairmen ever met a member of the public who has read their Annual Report? If so, what comment have they made upon it - a triumph of process over substance?

#### **Response from the Chairman of the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee:**

In asking colleagues if they were aware of the Annual report there was little acknowledgment if the document therefore members of the public are probably not aware.

The publication of an annual report for the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee is a requirement of the Council Constitutions and is also good practice to explain to the general communities more about the role and work of the Committee as the Council's watchdog, providing effective scrutiny and challenge to the Councils' Cabinets and other stakeholders.

The 2016/17 year was a very busy year for JOSCS, covering a number of major issues affecting the wellbeing of the local communities. Both Chairmen are fully aware that effective scrutiny relies on good engagement with the communities and the need to scrutinise key issues affecting those communities. With this in mind, over the last 2 years, JOSCS has changed its working arrangements to try and engage more with the local communities and is constantly actively seeking new suggestions for its Work Programme items from local members of the Adur and Worthing communities.

Following the publication of the Annual Report to JOSCS in July a press release was issued which generated some interest and some new scrutiny requests were received. Social Media has a part in reaching residents with in particular, some considerable discussion on the new Shoreham by Sea Facebook page (closed group with over 8,500 members) on scrutiny which is helping to spread the message about the role of JOSCS.

So we would welcome any new and positive public engagement suggestions that Councillor Cooper or other Councillors have to improve the process?

### **Councillor Yallop to the Executive Member for Regeneration**

Some of Worthing's planning applicants have sought to make use of recently introduced national planning guidance measures including "Vacant Building Credit" to greatly reduce the affordable housing contributions required by Worthing's Core Strategy. This strategy was adopted in April 2011 and designed to last until 2026 but now needs revision due to changes to National Planning Policy & Guidance. I understand the updated Local Plan is expected take some considerable time to develop and adopt due to stringent requirements to re-examine many aspects and fully consult prior to public examination by a Government Inspector.

Therefore, as an interim measure would the Executive member be prepared to urgently develop a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) for Worthing seeking to ensure national guidance on Vacant Building Credit cannot derail this Council's local policies on the requirements for affordable housing contributions from developers of brownfield sites? Whilst I appreciate that officers are considering such measures as part of our revised Local Plan the need for affordable housing in Worthing is immediate and must not wait for any longer than absolutely necessary.

### **Response by the Executive Member for Regeneration:**

As indicated in response to a previous question I am discussing with Officers the urgent preparation of a SPD. Many Councils and the Mayor of London are seeking to address this problem by preparing planning guidance to respond to Government guidance. Viability is an issue for brownfield sites where existing use value and cost of demolishing existing buildings does affect the overall scheme viability. However, there needs to be a better balance between viability and the need to provide urgently needed affordable housing.

## **C/036/17-18 Motions on Notice**

### **(A) Joan Bradley**

Before Council was a report from the Proper Officer as item 12 A, attached to these minutes, continuing a Motion on Notice from Councillor Doyle, seconded by Councillor Humphreys.

Councillor Doyle introduced his Motion making reference to Joan's personality and strong views on planning in Worthing and the preservation of the Borough's Heritage. Highlighting Joan's knowledge on planning matters and her ability to guide residents of the Borough through the legislative process of planning matters. Councillor Doyle felt that Joan deserved to be remembered in the Borough suggesting the appropriateness of the value of her contribution to the Borough Heritage by the naming of a suitable road after her.

In seconding the proposal the Leader thanked Councillor Doyle for the proposal, he also agreed that a formal honour to remember Joan was not something she had aspired to and felt that 'Bradley Road' would be a fitting memorial. The Leader had spoken to Joan's son reporting the family's view that the proposal had their full support and they felt that it would be a great way to remember Joan.

Members were very supportive of the suggestion but highlighted that perhaps the honour should not be restricted to 'road'; 'close', 'lane' or 'avenue' could also be appropriate. It was also felt that Joan would be quietly proud of the honour.

Councillor Doyle summed up the debate also suggesting that 'Bradley Court' could be an option.

On a vote For 30 Against 0 Abstain 0

**Resolved** that to mark the immense contribution of Joan Bradley to Worthing's built environment as Planning Committee chair and Council Design champion, at the next opportunity the Council will name a suitable new road Bradley Road.

### **(B) Promoting cycling safety - 'Dutch Reach'**

Before Council was a report from the Proper Officer as item 12 B, attached to these minutes, continuing a Motion on Notice from Councillor Doyle, seconded by Councillor Smytherman.

Councillor Doyle explained that 3,000 a day were injured by 'dooring' where vehicle doors were opened into the path of cyclists, approx 8 people died from these injuries. The 'dutch reach' was taught in Holland to all drivers, this method to open the vehicle door was for the 'far hand' to open their door, enforcing visual awareness of oncoming traffic. The RSPCA was encouraging driving instructors to start teaching this door opening method during lessons. Councillor Doyle encouraged members to view the video link, available from officers, and make the simple change to make roads safer.



Councillor Smytherman, as seconder supported the proposal urging road users, particularly younger road users learning road awareness, to keep a door width away from vehicles if possible.

Other Members in the chamber, cyclists and motorcyclists all spoke to support the proposal.

On a vote For 30 Against 0 Abstain 0

**Resolved that**

- (1) this Council asks that residents of the Borough, when driving vehicles, be encouraged to put into practice the “Dutch Reach’ to open their driver door
- (2) this Council promotes the use of the Dutch Reach by publicity on the Councils website to the linked video

**(C) Honouring the links between Worthing Borough and Richebourg L’Avoue**

Before Council was a report from the Proper Officer as item 12 C , attached to these minutes, continuing a Motion on Notice from the Mayor Councillor Alex Harman, seconded by Councillor McDonald.

The Mayor summarized the background to the Motion mentioning former Mayor, Ellen Chapman, who had forged the links with Richebourg to support the Town’s rebuilding after WW1. The Motion asked officers to bring forward ideas for a formal honouring of the links to the Joint Governance Committee focusing on the conferment of Freedom of the Borough.

The Motion found support in the Chamber.

On a vote For 30 Against 0 Abstain 0

**Resolved** that this Council acknowledges the links between the Borough and Richebourg as demonstrated by continued yearly commemorations of the actions taken by the Royal Sussex Regiment at The Battle of the Boar's Head on 30 June 1916; with this in mind the Council requests the directors for communities and digital produce a report to the Joint Governance Committee on the available options of strengthening our ongoing relationship, with a view to formally granting a civic recognition, specifically Freedom of the Borough, to honour the sacrifices of the past and strengthen ongoing ties and relationships between citizens of the Borough of Worthing and the Town of Richebourg.

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 9.15 pm, it having commenced at 6.30pm.

Mayor