



**WATFORD
BOROUGH
COUNCIL**

COUNCIL MEETING

11 July 2017

7.30 pm

Town Hall, Watford

Contact

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For information about attending meetings please visit the council's website.

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3 July 2017

Councillor

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Council of the Borough of Watford to be held on Tuesday, 11th July, 2017 starting at 7.30 pm at the Town Hall, Watford to take into consideration and determine upon the following subjects, namely: -

1. **Apologies for Absence**
2. **Disclosure of Interests**
3. **Minutes**

The [minutes](#) of the meeting held on 23 May 2017 to be submitted and signed.

4. **Official Announcements**
5. **Mayor's Report** (Pages 7 - 12)
6. **Questions by Members of the Council under Council Procedure Rule 10.0**
7. **Questions by Members of the Public under Council Procedure Rule 11.0**

The following question has been received from Mrs Pearse:

“What annual revenue is the Council expecting to receive from the decision to charge for collection of additional green bins as outlined in the Summer 2017 About Watford magazine?”

8. **Petitions presented under Council Procedure Rule 12.0**
9. **Business especially brought forward by the Chairman or the Head of Paid Service which in the opinion of the Chairman should be considered as a matter of urgency.**

10. Appointment to West Herts Crematorium Scrutiny Committee (Pages 13 - 16)

A report of the Committee and Scrutiny Officer. To appoint a representative from Watford Borough Council to the West Herts Crematorium Joint Committee.

11. Neighbourhood Forum Annual Report 2016/17 (Pages 17 - 48)

Report of Committee and Scrutiny Officer. The reports from each of the Neighbourhood Forums for 2016/17.

12. Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme Amendment (Pages 49 - 52)

Report of Head of Revenue and Benefits to ask Council to amend the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme

13. Motions submitted under Council Procedure Rule 13.0

1. The following motion has been proposed by Councillor Mark Hofman and seconded by Councillor Asif Khan

“Council notes:

That on Friday 16th June, Herts Valleys CCG informed families across Watford that they would no longer be funding its contribution of £600k to run Nascot Lawn Children’s Respite Service. Consequently Nascot Lawn will be forced to close on 31st October 2017.

Council further notes:

That Nascot Lawn Respite Centre provides regular overnight respite and care for a community of 60-80 children and young adults with severe learning and physical disabilities with additional complex medical needs. A day care service for children under 5 is also provided.

That Nascot Lawn is the only CCG funded respite centre in Hertfordshire, operated by Hertfordshire Community Trust.

That Nascot Lawn allows parents and carers to take a much needed break, confident in the knowledge that their child is receiving the highest standard of care by familiar staff.

That the CCG has been formally placed in ‘financial turnaround’ by NHS England and £45m cuts to health and care provisions must be made.

Council believes:

- *That removing services at Nascot Lawn will have a devastating effect on the families who are most in need of support, and that the CCG should reconsider*

their decision.

- *That providing support for the most vulnerable children in our society is a basic function of a health and care system, and that withdrawing this service will have a disproportionately negative impact on those who need access to respite care the most.*
- *That the £45m cuts forced on the CCG by the Government are the reason for this decision.*
- *That the £600k saving that the Herts Valleys CCG will achieve will be dwarfed by the additional costs incurred by the County Council in providing replacement services for these families and young people.*
- *That the 31st October 2017 deadline for closure is unrealistically too short to enable the County Council to establish alternative provision for these families and young people within Watford.*
- *That as it has a legal responsibility to support these children that the County Council uses £600k of its recent £3m underspend of funds to ensure the continuing operation of Nascot Lawn for a further year to enable it to conduct a full review of all such services across the county.*

Council therefore resolves:

That the Mayor as a matter of urgency writes to the Chief Executive of the Herts Valleys Clinical Commissioning Group and the Chief Executive of Hertfordshire County Council to:

- *Inform the CCG that this council strongly opposes the closure of the Nascot Lawn respite centre.*
- *Ask that HVCCG and Herts County Council work together to ensure that Nascot Lawn patients are able to access the appropriate respite facilities for their needs, and that Herts County Council are given the time necessary to find suitable alternatives that provide a high standard of support for the children and families that rely on Nascot Lawn care services in Watford.*

Council further resolves

That the Mayor writes to the Secretary of State for Health, the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to:

- *Inform them that the decision to enforce £45m of cuts on HVCCG is impacting severely on vital front-line services which cater for the most disadvantaged and vulnerable people in our town and county.. These enforced savings, combined with continuing reductions to Hertfordshire County Council's budget have created a situation where it is simply not possible to provide the level of care required to meet the needs of Watford's residents.*
- *Seek Government support to ensure HVCCG is able to adequately fund health and social care provision in accordance with patient need.*
- *Ask that in the event of austerity measures being relaxed across the UK, Health and Social Care services are prioritised as areas which require immediate additional funding.*

Write to Richard Harrington MP that he:

- *Immediately contact the Health Secretary, demanding that CCG be given the funds required to keep Nascot Lawn respite centre open.*
- *Contacts and write to his fellow conservative MP's in Hertfordshire and call upon them to lobby the Secretary of State for Health and the Prime Minister to ensure that the centre remains funded and fully open.*
- *Ensures that all health services are funded properly and that further cuts to vital health care are not made."*

2. The following motion has been proposed by Ahsan Khan and seconded by Councillor Matt Turmaine

"This council is totally sympathetic to Watford licensed taxi drivers who are worried about the effect of the unprecedented intrusion of cabs in Watford, operated by the American firm Uber, which has recently become embroiled in storm of controversy and complaints both nationally and internationally.

This council recognises that the potential danger to the travelling public of using an Uber cab should not be underestimated. These dangers arise because these vehicles and drivers are not licensed by this Council and therefore not subject to its strict driver and vehicle checks. A passenger has no idea whether the vehicle is roadworthy or that the driver may have serious criminal convictions or is even properly insured.

The council further recognises that the licenced operator and taxi driver pay a significant amount of money to this Council for their driver, vehicle and operator licences and that they deserve their concerns to be addressed, in particular, effective enforcement against taxis which are not licenced by this council and are operating freely in this councils jurisdiction with impunity.

In light of the above, this council resolves that:

- a. Given the widespread concerns and the impact on taxi and private hire services in our area the Council asks the Cabinet Member for licencing to produce a report for next Council on the issues and options for a way forward on this matter.*
- b. It writes to Uber requesting it to suspend its operations in Watford until such time that it is granted a licence by this council.*
- c. It will seek legal opinion on Uber cars ranking in Watford, particularly near Watford Junction and near the town centres effectively plying for hire and seek to prosecute those drivers that do rank in Watford.*
- d. The Council can reduce the intrusion of those cabs not licensed by it directly, by adopting a policy that its licensing enforcement officers regularly get out on the streets to carry out driver and vehicle checks in conjunction with the police and not let them rank in places like the Sainsbury car park on top of the High Street and near Watford Junction."*

3. The following motion has been proposed by Councillor Nigel Bell and seconded by Councillor Asif Khan

“As a consequence of the terrible tragedy at Grenfell Tower and the safety implications for Watford residents from high rise buildings in the town and any future planning applications we demand an urgent review into the Council’s tall buildings policy.

As Councillors we would be showing a dereliction of duty if we didn’t call for a review and a full safety audit of all high rise buildings in our town as Councils across the Country are now carrying out.

The review should also look at the cladding and maintenance of all the social housing units in the Borough high or low rise in conjunction with all registered social Landlords as well as the implications for any privately owned blocks.”

4. The following motion has been proposed by Councillor Peter Jeffree and seconded by Councillor Iain Sharpe

“In the light of the recent tragic fire at Grenfell Tower, council reiterates the importance of maintaining the safety of buildings in Watford and ensuring that we have effective plans in place to deal with serious emergencies.

Council notes that:

- *The Mayor has written to the Chief Executives of Watford Community Housing Trust and Hertfordshire County Council and the Fire Station commanders at Watford and Garston to :*
 - *Seek assurance that all possible measures to prevent a similar incident occurring in Watford have been taken.*
 - *Seek assurance that all partners are ready to work together quickly and effectively to respond to the needs of victims and their families and communities should an emergency occur.*
 - *Ask that authorities carry out visits to tenants in the two WCHT high-rise blocks to speak to concerned residents.*
 - *Ask whether existing advice to residents should be updated.*
- *Watford Borough Council is an active partner in Herts Resilience, the county’s emergency response organisation.*
- *Watford Borough Council regularly tests and reviews emergency planning, and that the council’s plans meet the requirements of the Civil Contingencies Act 2004.*

Council commits to ensuring that we take all necessary actions within our powers that arise from the investigations and public inquiry into the Grenfell Tower, with

regard to the design, management and use of residential buildings within the borough.

Council resolves to continue working closely with all relevant agencies, including the Fire and Rescue Service, Hertfordshire Constabulary, Hertfordshire County Council, Watford Community Housing Trust and other social and private landlords to ensure the safety of all our residential accommodation.

Council proposes that a scrutiny task group be set up to review existing safety arrangements and to ensure that any emerging conclusions arising from the Grenfell Tower investigations, that are relevant to Watford, are implemented by the relevant agencies.”

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Manny Lewis'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'L' at the end.

Manny Lewis, Managing Director

Mayor's report July 2017

As I have been receiving ongoing hospital treatment my activities as Mayor over the past month have been limited. I am grateful to my deputy Cllr Peter Taylor and my portfolio holder for community Cllr Karen Collett for representing me in my absence.

Partnership working

Health and Social Care

I have met with the Chief Executive and Chair of Herts Valleys Clinical Commissioning Group. With the group formally in financial turnaround, they must achieve savings of around £45m and I raised serious concerns about how this scale of cuts would impact on frontline services.

Specifically I raised concerns regarding the decision to cut funding from Nascot Lawn Respite Centre and asked a series of questions regarding alternative funding options, partnership working with Herts County Council and alternative provision for the affected patients. I have separately written to the CCG on behalf of residents who have contacted me about Nascot Lawn and I hope to hear back with some detailed answers.

I am in regular contact with John Wood, Chief Executive of Hertfordshire County Council and will continue to raise the issue of respite care provision for current Nascot Lawn patients.

West Herts Hospitals Trust

I have welcomed the news that Herts Valleys CCG approved West Herts Hospitals Trust's strategic outline case to totally redevelop Watford General Hospital.

With plans to redevelop the WGH now agreed, the Trust can now begin work on a case for Department of Health funding.

The first new development to take place on the site should be improvements to the hospital car park. Throughout my mayoral term this has been an issue which has constantly been raised by patients, visitors and staff and I am pleased that improvement plans are now in place.

Fire Safety and emergency planning

Following the tragic fire in Kensington, I wrote to the Chief Executives of Watford Community Housing Trust and Hertfordshire County Council, Chief Inspector Paul Sandwell and to the station commanders of our two fire stations.

I raised questions regarding safety checks and evacuation procedures, whether visits from firefighters and housing trust officers could take place to residents on the Meriden Estate which is home to two large towers, and whether organisations were ready to work together quickly and effectively to provide assistance and support to communities should an emergency occur in Watford.

Watford Workshop

I opened Watford Workshop's new 'Learning Pod' with Cllr Taylor.

This new facility will help Watford Workshop deliver their aims of helping disabled people achieve greater independence and providing routes into employment.

The new Learning Pod (place of development) specifically will cater for training in three areas – independent living skills, safety awareness and health and hygiene in the home.

Big Events

Imagine Watford

This year's Imagine Watford festival of street theatre and performance took place over two weeks in June and July. Now in its seventh year the festival brought large crowds to the top of the town to watch a whole variety of different performances by artists from around the world.

The programme is chosen by Watford Palace Theatre – who I have recently congratulated on retaining their Arts Council England 'National Portfolio Organisation' accreditation. This means our theatre continues to receive arts council funding and is recognised as one of the leading arts organisations in the UK.

Headliner 'Galileo' by French artists 'Deux Ex Machina' was a spectacular display featuring fireworks, a light show and acrobats performing on a giant sphere suspended in the sky from a crane.

Free live music in Cassiobury Park

A summer series of live music has started at the Cassiobury Park bandstand, featuring local bands and touring performers from all across the USA.

Cllr Collett attended a special performance by 'Electric Umbrella' - a project which brings together music industry professionals and adults with learning disabilities make music and perform together. The project aims to challenge perceptions of learning disability by allowing everyone to demonstrate their ability at performing music in a range of venues – whether in a pub, a theatre or in our park.

Family fun day at Harwoods Rec

Cllr Collett attended on my behalf a family fun day at the new Harwoods adventure playground which opened in June, with a steel band, inflatables and barbecue. The fun day was well attended as children were able to try out the new play equipment for the first time.

The new equipment at Harwoods includes two zipwires, a climbing wall, tunnels, a sensory play area with music and sound effects and tall towers, bridges and slides. The playground is open all day, every day for children aged 5-15 and is free of charge.

Community

Blue Plaque for Watford Colosseum

I unveiled a Blue Plaque at Watford Colosseum to recognise the venue's contribution to the UK's musical history. Home to the BBC Concert Orchestra the Colosseum is renowned for its acoustics making it a perfect recording venue for film and TV soundtracks.

The plaque was awarded to the Colosseum as part of the BBC's 'Music Day' celebrations – 49 have been granted across the country to recognise exceptional venues and artists.

Steve Sinnott Foundation 'Education for All'

Cllr Taylor spoke on my behalf at the Steve Sinnott Foundation's 'Education For All Awareness Day' at West Herts College. The Watford-based charity, founded in memory of the former NUT leader Steve Sinnott, works to establish literacy programmes and teacher development across developing nations.

Jo Cox picnic in the park

Cllr Collett attended on my behalf a 'picnic in the park' event at Cassiobury Park, held in memory of Jo Cox MP. The event was well attended and honoured Jo Cox's work in Parliament on combatting loneliness.

Watford BID

I regularly meet with Watford BID's leadership team to discuss matters affecting the Town Centre and our business community.

I am delighted that the BID businesses have once again paid for the floral displays which have proven very popular with residents and visitors to the town centre. They will remain in place until October.

Broken ground at new Muslim Youth Centre

I joined Richard Harrington MP and members of Watford's Muslim community at a ground-breaking ceremony for the new Muslim Youth Centre in West Watford.

This important new project has been given a grant by Watford Borough Council to help provide a community centre led by our town's Muslim community for young people from across the Borough - both Muslims and those of other faiths too.

Major Projects

HLF Cassiobury Park project – opening of new pools, splash area and café

I opened Watford's Cassiobury Park hub building and refurbished paddling pools following a £2.8m investment by Watford Borough Council and the National Lottery.

As well as the pools, we have also installed a fully accessible water play area with 30 state-of-the-art splash pads, water jets and fountains.

The new hub building is constructed using sustainable methods and contains toilets, changing rooms, a community and exhibition room, education space, and a new Café – Daisy's in the Park.

There are also Changing Places facilities for disabled users, so that everyone can enjoy this wonderful water play park and community meeting place.

The new hub and refurbished pools are part of our £6.6m lottery funded improvement project for Cassiobury Park which has also seen the bandstand restored, tree planting, new flower beds, a refurbishment for the Cha café, an upgraded Rickmansworth Road entrance, works on the river bank, a programme of children's activities, new information and directional signage and much more.

Watford Riverwell

The Health Campus Partnership has chosen 'Watford Riverwell' as its name for the project.

The new name reflects the importance of the River Colne that runs through the site and is in keeping with the surrounding areas of Holywell and Brightwell. The river itself will become a key feature of the new neighbourhood and is being cleaned up as part of the scheme's environmental improvements.

Watford Riverwell are holding a community exhibition at Watford Football Club Captain's Suite from 10am-2pm on Saturday 8 July and 4pm-8pm on Tuesday 11 July where latest plans will be displayed.

Latest plans for the site involve a retirement village with on-site care, space for the hospital redevelopment and expansion, new homes including affordable housing, commercial units and new public open spaces.

Intu update

Hollywood Bowl and Superdry are the latest big brand names to sign up for a unit at the new intu extension.

Work on the site is progressing well and the scale of the project is now evident to visitors to the High Street as 5,000 tonnes of steel form the new building's frame.

The centre will open in time for Christmas next year and will host big names in retail, food and entertainment, anchored by Debenhams and featuring an IMAX Cineworld cinema.

While construction work is ongoing we are also working on plans to improve the streetscape of the High Street between Clarendon Road and the intu centre.

PART A

Report to: Council
Date of meeting: 11 July 2017
Report of: Committee and Scrutiny Officer
Title: Appointment to West Herts Crematorium Scrutiny Committee

1.0 **Summary**

1.1 This report seeks the appointment of a non-executive member to the West Herts Crematorium Scrutiny Committee as a result of a vacancy arising.

2.0 **Recommendations**

2.1 that Council appoints a non-executive councillor to the West Herts Crematorium Scrutiny Committee.

Contact Officer:

For further information on this report please contact: Sandra Hancock,
Committee and Scrutiny Officer
telephone extension: Tel: 01923 278377 email:
sandra.hancock@watford.gov.uk

Report approved by: Carol Chen, Head of Democracy and Governance

3.0 **Detailed proposal**

3.1 At Annual Council on Tuesday 23 May 2017 members agreed the appointment of Councillor Derek Scudder to the West Herts Crematorium Scrutiny Committee for a three-year term of office, ending in May 2020. At the same time Council was informed that the Mayor had appointed Councillor Karen Collett to the West Herts Crematorium Joint Committee.

3.2 After the meeting the Mayor agreed to change her appointment to Councillor Derek Scudder. This has meant that a vacancy has now arisen on the West Herts Crematorium Scrutiny Committee.

- 3.3 According to the joint agreement for West Herts Crematorium, each constituent council can appoint one non-executive councillor to the scrutiny committee. The usual term of office is for 3 years, which is currently due to expire on 31 May 2020. The term of office automatically ends if the appointed councillor ceases to be a non-executive councillor. If Council does not appoint a non-executive councillor to the scrutiny committee, it would not be involved in the scrutiny of the Joint Committee's decisions.
- 3.4 The Liberal Democrat Group has nominated Councillor Rabi Martins as Watford Borough Council's representative to the West Herts Crematorium Scrutiny Committee.
- 3.5 Council is asked to appoint a non-executive councillor to West Herts Crematorium Scrutiny Committee for the current term of office, which is due to expire on 31 May 2020.

4.0 **Implications**

4.1 **Financial**

- 4.1.1 The Head of Finance (shared services) comments that there are no direct financial implications arising from this decision.

4.2 **Legal Issues (Monitoring Officer)**

- 4.2.1 The Head of Democracy and Governance comments that the appointee cannot be a member of the cabinet.

4.3 **Equalities/Human Rights**

- 4.3.1 There are no equalities or human rights implications associated with this report.

4.4 **Potential Risks**

Potential Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Overall score
Council does not appoint a non-executive councillor to the West Herts Crematorium Scrutiny Committee.	1	2	2
Those risks scoring 9 or above are considered significant and will need specific attention in project management. They will also be added to the service's Risk Register.			

4.5 **Staffing**

- 4.5.1 There are no staffing implications associated with this report.

4.6 Accommodation

4.6.1 There are no accommodation implications associated with this report.

4.7 Community Safety/Crime and Disorder

4.7.1 There are no community safety or crime and disorder implications associated with this report.

4.8 Sustainability

4.8.1 There are no sustainability implications associated with this report.

Appendices

None

Background Papers

- Annual Council report and minutes from the meeting on 23 May 2017.

File Reference

- None

PART A

Report to: Council
Date of meeting: 11 July 2017
Report of: Committee and Scrutiny Officer
Title: Neighbourhood Forum Annual Report 2016/17

1.0 **Summary**

1.1 Neighbourhood Forums were established at Annual Council on 21 May 2008. It was agreed that each forum would comprise the three borough councillors for the local electoral ward.

1.2 In accordance with the protocol for Neighbourhood Forums, each forum is required to produce an annual report providing details of the activities which have taken place during the year. The reports include information about each forum's spending for meetings and projects.

2.0 **Recommendations**

2.1 that the annual reports provided at Appendix 2 be noted.

Contact Officer:

For further information on this report please contact: Sandra Hancock,
Committee and Scrutiny Officer
telephone extension: Tel: 01923 278377 email:
sandra.hancock@watford.gov.uk

Report approved by:

3.0 **Detailed proposal**

3.1 Neighbourhood Forums were established to enable ward councillors to engage with local residents, businesses and community groups within their ward. Meetings can be arranged to promote the council's business and carry out consultation on ward-related matters.

- 3.2 In 2016/17 each Neighbourhood Forum was allocated a budget of £2,500. The funds could be used to set up meetings with the local community. Two Neighbourhood Forums held meetings within their wards to consult on local issues. These were Central and Nascot wards.
- 3.3 The funding could also be used to support projects within the ward. During 2016/17 all 12 Neighbourhood Forums chose to fund projects for their area. All wards made donations to local groups, benefitting young people, older people and the wider community. They covered the cost of new equipment, improvements to facilities or local events. Many of the wards made donations towards the cost of environmental or highways improvements. Details of the overall expenditure for each ward are shown in Appendix 1.
- 3.4 Information about the individual wards and their projects are included in the annual reports at Appendix 2.

4.0 **Implications**

4.1 **Financial**

- 4.1.1 The Shared Director of Finance comments that the financial implications are contained in the report.

4.2 **Legal Issues** (Monitoring Officer)

- 4.2.1 The Head of Democracy and Governance comments that there are no legal implications in this report.

4.3 **Equalities/Human Rights**

- 4.3.1 There are no risks associated with equalities or human rights within this report.

4.4 **Potential Risks**

- 4.4.1 There are no potential risks identified in this report.

4.5 **Staffing**

- 4.5.1 There are no staffing implications in this report.

4.6 **Accommodation**

- 4.6.1 There are no accommodation implications in this report.

4.7 Community Safety/Crime and Disorder

4.7.1 There are no community safety or crime and disorder implications as a direct result of this report.

Some wards have contributed towards the cost of improving community safety or crime and disorder within their wards. Further information is available in the annual reports.

4.8 Sustainability

4.8.1 There are no sustainability implications as a result of this report.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Neighbourhood Forum Expenditure 2016/17

Appendix 2 – 2016/17 Neighbourhood Forum Annual Reports

Background Papers

- Application forms and expenditure sheets for the individual forums

File Reference

- None

**NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM
EXPENDITURE 2016/17**

The table below provides expenditure details of each Neighbourhood Forum. It has been broken down to show the amount spent on holding meetings and funding projects within the wards.

WARD	AMOUNT SPENT ON MEETINGS	AMOUNT SPENT ON PROJECTS IN WARD	TOTAL EXPENDITURE
Callowland	-	£2,500.00	£2,500.00
Central	£0	£2,475.00	£2,475.00
Holywell	-	£2,500.00	£2,500.00
Leggatts	-	£2,500.00	£2,500.00
Meriden	-	£2,500.00	£2,500.00
Nascot	£208.83	£2,254.00	£2,462.83
Oxhey	-	£2,500.00	£2,500.00
Park	-	£2,497.50	£2,497.50
Stanborough	-	£2,440.78	£2,440.78
Tudor	-	£2,475.50	£2,475.50
Vicarage	-	£2,500.00	£2,500.00
Woodside	-	£2,500.00	£2,500.00

Total spent: £29,833.61

**Neighbourhood Forum
Community Engagement Fund
Annual Report 2016/17**

Ward: Callowland
Membership: Councillors Sohail Bashir, Ahsan Khan, Robbie Laird

Activities during 2016/17

Project / meeting	Costs
Parkgate School – provision of gardening equipment for the school’s Jubilee Garden	£1,050.00
Skips for community clear up days	£1,450.00

**Neighbourhood Forum
Community Engagement Fund
Annual Report 2016/17**

Ward: Central
Membership: Councillors Stephen Bolton, Aga Dychton and Rabi Martins

Activities during 2016/17

Project / meeting	Costs	Comments
Purchase of 5,000 crocus bulbs by Rotary Club of Watford	£150.00	<p>Watford Rotary is a major contributor to the End Polio Campaign The money raised through the sale of these crocus bulbs aids this project</p> <p>The bulbs were planted by Veolia in Waterfields Park, and in St John's Primary School and Beechfield School by the children</p>
Donation to Watford Fields residents association for December event	£175.00	<p>Watford Fields Residents Association held a community event which was attended by over 50 residents of Watford Fields The money contributed towards the costs of the entertainment</p> <p>Ward Councillors are of the view that Residents Associations help build communities and protect their local areas</p>
Donation to Watford Foodbank towards cost of storage units at Wellspring Church	£620.00	<p>This has enabled Wellspring to become a foodbank centre. Here clients can now collect their food in a welcoming environment, to be offered refreshments, and to be able to chat, so that other issues may be uncovered, and appropriate assistance given or referral made. This facility was not otherwise available in full in Central Watford as part of the foodbank service.</p>

Contribution to St John's Youth hub towards cost of games console and games	£370.00	St John's Church has a strong community ethos and provides a meeting place for a range of people The Youth Hub brings young people who reside in the vicinity of St John's Church in Sutton Road as well as newcomers to the town This is a good way to integrate them into the local communities Evidence is providing young people with activities reduces ant-social behaviour
Contribution towards the cost of a bollard for Queens Road	£285.00	This was to address complaints from residents that drivers were blocking the pavement by parking inconsiderately and causing difficulties for wheel-chair users and parents with push chairs
Purchase and installation for a bench in Waterfields Park	£875.00	Waterfields Park is a popular open area next to a popular play area which has had a recent makeover. Ward councillors noticed that there was scope to improve the level of seating available, and therefore decided to fund a bench This has proved very popular with visitors to the area

Signed: Councillor 1 *Rmartins (Lead)*

Councillor 2 

Councillor 3 Aga Dychton

Date: 22nd June 2017

**Neighbourhood Forum
Community Engagement Fund
Annual Report 2016/17**

Ward: Holywell

Membership: Councillors Nigel Bell, Jackie Connal and Matt Turmaine

Activities during 2016/17

Project / meeting	Costs	Comments
EMSA (Every Monday Something Awful) Club - donation (via Watford and Three Rivers Trust) for karaoke machine	£150.00	The users of the machine have been pleased with the help it has given them to come together to sing and play as a community
Donation to West Watford Free Church to purchase aprons for use in Café West	£294.00	The free church volunteers were delighted to have a new more professional set of aprons to welcome local residents to the popular meeting place on a Tuesday morning
Contribution to Herts Pre-school Learning Alliance for the improvement of the garden facilities at the Children's Centre	£1,400.00	See the report from Cheryl Betts, the manager of the childrens centre detailing how the donation has helped the learning process for children and families close to the centre in particular those living in flats with no gardens. It has been a great help for bringing some of the most vulnerable children and families to work and play and learn together
Contribution to Watford and Three Rivers Trust towards the overall cost of the youth project to get them away from anti-social behaviour/vandalism	£656.00	To follow

Signed: Councillor 1 Nigel Bell
Councillor 2 Jackie Connal
Councillor 3 Matt Turmaine

Date: 22/06/2017



Watford South Children's Centre Group

Westfield Children's Centre, Croxley View, Watford, WD18 6AE

Thank you so much for the locality budget grant you awarded to Watford South Children's Centre earlier this year.

The money has been used to purchase some much needed resources for our large garden, which have included 2 pop up gazebo's, a new monkey climbing frame, water play resources, a sail to cover our mud kitchen, a variety of sensory toys for our quiet area including wind chimes, sensory material and visual resources.

We spent some of the grant completing some much needed maintenance which included painting our garden sheds, replanting our flowers tyres and repainting the large blackboard area.

The play team have created a lovely village area to our garden which now consists of a very noisy musical area full of pots, pans and wooden spoons, and a variety of willow buildings including a cottage, a castle and a wigwam!

Our garden area is so essential. Many of our families do not have their own garden as they live in flats, and many during a parental questionnaire said they were reluctant to use the local parks on their own.

The garden is offered to children and families every single session and all are encouraged to play outdoors. Our play team are vigilant at ensuring activities offered inside are also offered outside as we know that boys in particular often learn best through outdoor play.

The gazebo's have ensured that families with younger children have plenty of shade in a dedicated area which is so important when they also have an older child who wants to be playing outside!

Last week, we partnered with Jude at Farming for All to bring the City Farm to Westfield. We were able to not only welcome into our newly refurbished garden our own families, but also the children from Westfield Pre-school and also students and staff from Chessbrook School.

We wouldn't have been able to do this is a garden that was looking so sorry for itself before!

To give you an idea of how many families will benefit from our garden..... The centre has 94% of its 2,309 families registered and on average we see nearly 75% of those registered. Our younger families are seen more regularly and in the first year of their lives we see 97%.

**Neighbourhood Forum
Community Engagement Fund
Annual Report 2016/17**

Ward: Leggatts
Membership: Councillors Anne Joynes, Asif Khan and Bilqees Mauthoor

Activities during 2016/17

Project / meeting	Costs	Comments
In conjunction with Nascot councillors, donation given to Courtlands Residents' Association towards the cost of Christmas treat boxes for vulnerable residents in the areas.	£250.00	Very positive response from residents who were appreciative of the Christmas treat.
4 skips for community clean up days	£1,160.00	Extremely well received by local residents who used the opportunity to clear any unwanted items.
Donation to Christchurch and St Marks towards the cost of raised beds being developed by 'Lift Off!'	£510.00	Church was grateful for the donation, which helped their community garden.
Donation to Orchard School towards the cost of an outdoor noticeboard for the forest school work.	£580.00	Useful for the Orchard community.

Signed: Councillor Asif Khan
Councillor Bilqees Mauthoor

Date: 16 June 2017

**Neighbourhood Forum
Community Engagement Fund
Annual Report 2016/17**

Ward: Meriden
Membership: Councillors Amanda Grimston, Kareen Hastrick and Paddy Kent

Activities during 2016/17

Project / meeting	Costs
Donation towards a coffee machine for the Meriden Community Café	£1,000.00
Donation to Garston Bowls Club for a replacement carpet in the club house.	£1,500.00

**Neighbourhood Forum
Community Engagement Fund
Annual Report 2016/17**

Ward: Nascot
Membership: Councillors Mark Hofman, Jane Johnson and Mark Watkin

Activities during 2016/17

Project / meeting	Costs
Donation to Courtlands Residents Association to provide 'treat boxes' for vulnerable residents at Christmas.	£250.00
Planting of spring bulbs on 5 sites within the ward.	£1000.00
Replacement tree in Denmark Street	£140.00
Neighbourhood Forum meeting	£208.83
Community noticeboard for Nascot Residents Association	£584.80
Replacement tree in Malden Road	£140.00

**Neighbourhood Forum
Community Engagement Fund
Annual Report 2016/17**

Ward: Oxhey
Membership: Councillors Joanna Maestas, Iain Sharpe and Peter Taylor

Activities during 2016/17

Project / meeting	Costs
Donation to Oxhey Bowls Club for practice bowls	£270.00
Tree planting in various locations in the ward	£429.00
Memorial bench in Attenborough Fields	£594.00
Bench in Oxhey Park	£900.00
Litter picking equipment	£159.31
Donation towards new curtains for the community hall	£147.69

**Neighbourhood Forum
Community Engagement Fund
Annual Report 2016/17**

Ward: Park
Membership: Councillors David Barks, Anne Rindl and Nikki Steele

Activities during 2016/17

Project / meeting	Costs
Hire of Colosseum for family fun day	£350.00
Tree planting in various locations across the ward	£1400.00
Cooking equipment for Apollo Explorer Scout Group	£236.48
Stone pick and re plant the greenery in Bramleas Close	£321.73
First aid equipment and cooking pans for the Apollo Explorer Scout Unit.	£189.29

**Neighbourhood Forum
Community Engagement Fund
Annual Report 2016/17**

Ward: Stanborough
Membership: Councillors Keith Crout, Derek Scudder and Tim Williams

Activities during 2016/17

Project / meeting	Costs
Donation to Kingswood Residents Association to pay for an entertainer at the annual Christmas party	£170.00
Donation to Kingswood Residents Association towards activities for senior citizens	£300.00
Grass verge protection and to prevent blocking of residents' access by parked vehicles	£1,592.12
Provision of Holme Lea No Through Road road sign	£98.66
Replacement tree planting	£280.00

Signed: Councillor 1 Keith Crout
Councillor 2 Derek Scudder
Councillor 3 Tim Williams

Date: 22 May 2017

**Neighbourhood Forum
Community Engagement Fund
Annual Report 2016/17**

Ward: Tudor
Membership: Councillors Joe Fahmy, Stephen Johnson and Darren Walford

Activities during 2016/17

Project / meeting	Costs	Comments
Highways improvements on the junction of Balmoral Road and Knutsford Avenue to replace rotten and broken timber bollards with new ones which also provide reflective markings	£1,257.50	Residents have commented on how the replaced rotten and broken timber bollards have enhanced the immediate area. The new ones also provide reflective markings.
Donation to 21 st Watford Brownies to pay for sports and outdoor equipment, as well as some small tents for weekend camping	£600.00	New sports and outdoor equipment for the Brownies. Badminton set (rackets and a stand, net) which they intend to use inside the hall, and some outdoor sporting equipment such as skipping ropes, balls which they will use in the local park. They also have some small tents which the girls will practice with in preparation for weekend camping.

Project / meeting	Costs	Comments
Donation to 53rd Watford South Scout Group to purchase replacement tents	£600.00	<p>The 53rd Watford South Scout Group have greatly appreciated the replacement tents to the value of £600. We have agreed that this will be the last time we will fund replacement tents for the 53rd Watford South Scout Group. This is because we also funded them for replacement tents last year. We feel next year we should look to other organisations to provide support from our locality fund.</p> <p>We have now had the opportunity to see the donated tents in action at the recent weekend Scout camp. It was very rewarding to see how our locality budget donation has been used.</p>

Signed: Councillor 1 Joe Fahmy
Councillor 2 Steve Johnson
Councillor 3 Darren Walford

Date: 19 June 2017

**Neighbourhood Forum
Community Engagement Fund
Annual Report 2016/17**

Ward: Vicarage
Membership: Councillors Jagtar Dhindsa, Mo Mills and Nasreen Shah

Activities during 2016/17

Project / meeting	Costs
Donation to West Herts Sports Club to maintain a summer coaching programme for the junior cricket section	£600.00
Donation towards the total project costs of installing security and audio visual equipment at the Al Zahra Centre	£1,900.00

**Neighbourhood Forum
Community Engagement Fund
Annual Report 2016/17**

Ward: Woodside
Membership: Councillors Steve Cavinder, Karen Collett and Glen Saffery

Activities during 2016/17

Project / meeting	Costs	Comments
Donation towards the costs of an children's Christmas party at Leavesden Community Group	£150.00	The turnout for the Christmas party increased in numbers to 35. The decorations and presents were a huge hit with the children and the event was a success. Cllr Collett attended and assisted with the party. LCG thanked us for the support.
Donation for Alban Wood Primary School and Nursery towards the purchase of a bespoke pond cover in the community farm	£1,175.00	The bespoke pond cover is now in place and ensures safety for the children- the transformation of their community farm is developing and gives so much pleasure to the children, parents and visitors. We are in the process of arranging a visit to see the pond and improvements to the farm.
Donation for Watford Town Cricket Club to improve toilet facilities	£1,175.00	The refurbishment is almost complete and we have been invited to visit the club to have a tour. Cllr Cavinder received an e-mail with the invite. The visit will commence shortly.

Signed: Councillor 1 Steve Cavinder
Councillor 2 Karen Collett
Councillor 3 Glen Saffery

Date: 14/06/17

Report to: Council
Date of meeting: 11 July 2017
Report of: Jude Green – Head of Revenues & Benefit
Title: Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme amendment

1.0 **Summary**

- 1.1 Following the terrorist attacks in Manchester and London two charitable trusts were established to support the victims. These being the We Love Manchester Emergency Fund (WLMEF) to support people who have been injured or bereaved by the Manchester bombing and the London Emergencies Trust (LET) to support those affected by the recent London terror attacks.
- 1.2 The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) has written to all local authorities encouraging any payments received by residents who claim local council tax reduction (LCTR) to be disregarded.
- 1.3 Further charitable trusts may be generated from terror attacks or major catastrophes and to remove the need to bring a report to Council for each it is proposed to have the agreement to disregard any payments associated.

2.0 **Recommendations**

- 2.1 It is recommended that Watford Borough Council uses its ability under Section 13A of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 to fully disregard any amount received by a resident in receipt of LCTR
- 2.2 It is recommended that any future trusts and charitable payments made following a terrorist attack or major catastrophe are disregarded in full.

Contact Officer:

For further information on this report please contact: Jude Green, Head of Revenues & Benefit

Telephone extension: 8023 email: jude.green@watford.gov.uk

3.0 **Detailed proposal**

- 3.1 In April 2013, as part of the national welfare reform, the government changed the way financial support for council tax was managed. This meant the national council tax benefit system, which helped people with a low income meet their council tax obligations, was replaced by new local council tax reduction schemes managed by Local Authorities.
- 3.2 LCTR schemes are local and therefore DCLG cannot impose changes to the scheme. It for each local authority to decide if they will disregard payments made to recipients from either of the trusts.
- 3.3 We cannot be sure that recipients of Watford Borough Council's LCTR scheme will receive payments from either trust. However it is possible that, in the future, people who have received payment from either trust may move in to the area.
- 3.4 The letter received from Chris Megainey, Deputy Director, Local Government Finance within the Department for Communities and Local Government can be found in the background papers.

4.0 **Implications**

4.1 **Financial**

- 4.1.1 At this stage the financial impact is not known but it is considered it can be contained within council budgets.

4.2 **Legal Issues** (Monitoring Officer)

- 4.2.1 Section 67(2)(aa) of the Local government Finance Act 1992 states that making or revising a CTRS under s13A(2) can only be done by council.

4.3 **Equalities/Human Rights**

- 4.3.1 Having had regard to the council's obligations under s149, it is considered that there are no equality or human rights issues as all recipients of payments from the trust will be treated the same.

Background Papers

The following background papers were used in the preparation of this report. If you wish to inspect or take copies of the background papers, please contact the officer named on the front page of the report.

Local council tax support: guidance on treatment of payments from two charitable funds

File Reference

- *None*

