



**WATFORD  
BOROUGH  
COUNCIL**

# **COUNCIL MEETING**

**17 October 2017**

**7.30 pm**

**Town Hall, Watford**

**Contact**

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**Publication date: 9 October 2017**

9 October 2017

Councillor

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Council of the Borough of Watford to be held on Tuesday, 17th October, 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 11 July 2017 to be submitted and signed.

4. **Official Announcements**
5. **Mayor's Report** (Pages 7 - 11)
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 Mr John Dowdle:

*“Watford Council web page*

*[https://www.watford.gov.uk/homepage/3/major\\_projects\\_update](https://www.watford.gov.uk/homepage/3/major_projects_update) states that as part of the proposed Watford High Street Improvements:-*

*‘Blue badge parking (approximately five spaces) to be relocated from the High Street between Clarendon Road and Market Street, and expanded to 10 new bays in Church Street.’*

**QUESTION:** *What is the exact length and width of each of the 10 new blue badge parking spaces on Church Street and is there actually sufficient space to accommodate all 10 vehicles?”*

**8. Petitions presented under Council Procedure Rule 12.0**

A petition in the following terms has been received. At the time of agenda publication the petition contained 105 signatures of Watford residents.

Statement:

“We, the undersigned, call on Watford Council to immediately cease work on destroying St Mary’s historic Town Square. The One Bell Pub extension is taking almost half of our historic Town Square and needs urgently to be stopped, and St Mary’s Square fully reinstated.”

A petition in the following terms has been received. At the time of agenda publication the petition contained 34 signatures of Watford residents.

Statement:

“We the undersigned petition the council to make Northfield Gardens a safer place for children, parents and carers who are crossing the road to and from school before someone gets seriously hurt.”

**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. Business Rates Retention Pilot (Pages 12 - 20)**

A recommendation to Council following an executive decision taken by the Mayor

**11. Local Plan Review 2016 - 2036 (Pages 21 - 28)**

Report of Deputy Managing Director and Director of Place Shaping and Corporate Performance from Cabinet to recommend to Council that the Local Plan Part 2 is not submitted for examination and instead focus resources on progressing the Local Plan Review

**12. Scrutiny Annual Report (Pages 29 - 56)**

A report of the Committee and Scrutiny Officer. This report provides an overview of the scrutiny work carried out in Watford Borough Council in 2016/17

**13. Members' Performance Scheme - Self Assessments (Pages 57 - 129)**

A report of the Democratic Services Manager. Members' completed self-assessments for 2016/17

**14. Amendment to Council's Scheme of Delegation (Pages 130 - 134)**

A report of the Head of Democracy and Governance to amend the council scheme of delegation to add additional officers to take action with regards to the functions relating to Licensing and Registration.

**15. Motions submitted under Council Procedure Rule 13.0**

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

*"The council notes that the Herts Valley Clinical Commission Group (HVCCG) has withdrawn its legal defense against the closure of Nascot Lawn. We also note that this was as a result of the great campaign run by the parents of children who go to Nascot Lawn, respite and medical centre.*

*We call upon the council to*

- write to the chair and chief executive of the HVCCG to honour its commitment to continue to fund the much loved respite centre, noting that we are deeply concerned that staff are still leaving the centre and that no attempt is made to retain them, thus enforcing a backdoor closure.*
- write to the chief executive of Herts County Council, calling him to work with HVCCG to come to a funding proposal which will see the permanent survival of the Nascot lawn.*
- write to Watford's MP, Richard Harrington, to get the required funding from central government, for the funding of Nascot Lawn and other health services in Watford which are due a cut of £45 million."*

2. The following motion has been proposed by Councillor Mo Mills

*"We, as Councillors for West Watford call on the Mayor and her Liberal Democrat Cabinet to show they are finally taking the issue of fly tipping seriously for the whole of our town, by immediately installing CCTV cameras at the notorious dumping area at the Junction of Harwoods Road and Chester Road.*

*Our residents are fed up with having this constant anti-social behaviour blight on their doorsteps just as we are fed up having to report it to Council Officers with no effective deterrent introduced by this administration.*

*As residents constantly remind us the Mayor wouldn't let this happen on the streets of Oxhey Village, the Cassiobury estate or Nascot ward or Tudor Avenue, so let us see her and this Council take strong action to show all areas in the Borough are being treated equally."*

3. The following motion has been proposed by Councillor Taylor, seconded by Councillor Grimston

*"Council notes:*

- That the next censuses in England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland will be conducted in 2021.*
- The 'Count Them In' campaign of the Royal British Legion, Poppy Scotland, Help for Heroes and others to highlight the lack of information on members of our armed forces, their communities, where they live and their needs.*

*Council believes:*

- That it is very important that all local council meet their Armed Forces Covenant commitments.*
- That no member of the Armed Forces community should be left disadvantaged because of their service.*
- That the public and voluntary sectors would benefit from knowing whether an individual has ever served in the Armed Forces, the dates that they served and whether an individual is directly related to someone who has served in the Armed Forces.*
- That the 2021 census should include questions concerning our Armed Forces community.*

*Council therefore resolves:*

- That the Mayor writes to the MP for Watford and Secretary of State for the Cabinet Office to.*
- Highlight the contribution made by the Armed Forces community to our town and region.*
- Explain our support for the 'Count Them In' campaign and ask for the 2021 census to include questions about our Armed Forces community."*

4. The following motion has been proposed by Councillor Taylor and seconded by Councillor Williams

*“Council notes:*

- *Ward Councillors in Watford regularly receive complaints from residents about the poor standard of road resurfacing works and repairs carried out by the Highways Contractors Ringway*
- *That Ringway has been fined over £1m for substandard work on Hertfordshire’s highways between October 2012 and April 2016.*
- *That despite this poor standard of work by Ringway on roads in Watford and elsewhere in Hertfordshire which clearly represents poor value for money for Council Tax payers of Watford that the Hertfordshire County Council intends to extend the highways contract for Ringway until September 2024 without a new re-tender process.*

*Council believes:*

- *That the condition of roads in Watford has deteriorated significantly since the Ringway contract started in October 2012 because of poor quality standards within Ringway and a failure by HCC to manage the works contract adequately*
- *That renewing the contract gives Ringway the green light to continue to provide Watford residents a sub standard service*
- *That it is a dereliction of duty by HCC not to market test by re-tendering the service to ensure that Watford and Hertfordshire residents are getting value for money and the highest possible standard of service.*
- *That the highways budget should be increased and more funding devolved to local county councillors so that they are able to target roads in the worst condition as well as monitor the quality of works before sign off*

*Council therefore resolves:*

- *That the Mayor, as a matter of urgency, writes to the Leader of Hertfordshire County Council to:*
- *Highlight the failure of the current highways contractor, Ringway, to repair and maintain the roads in Watford to an acceptable standard*
- *Review the level of investment in Hertfordshire’s roads and pavements and if necessary increase it*

- *Ask that Ringway's contract is not automatically extended until 2024 but that a full retender process takes place."*

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**