



**WATFORD  
BOROUGH  
COUNCIL**

# **COUNCIL MEETING**

**26 January 2021**

**7.30 pm**

**Town Hall, Watford**

## **Contact**

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18 January 2021

Councillor

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Council of the Borough of Watford to be held on Tuesday, 26 January 2021 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 13 October 2020 to be submitted and signed.

4. **Official Announcements**
5. **Mayor's Report** (Pages 6 - 10)
6. **Questions by Members of the Council under Council Procedure Rule 10.0**
7. **Petitions presented under Council Procedure Rule 12.0**

A petition in the following terms has been received by the council. It has achieved the required number of signatures.

**'Increased CCTV/safety measures in Oxhey Park'**

'Recent events involving threats to my personal safety have made it clear the inadequacy of safety measures surrounding Oxhey Park/Riverside Recreation Ground/Ebury Way. The park needs adequate CCTV to help trace criminals, as well as increased lighting to ensure public safety. I hope to raise enough support for the council to consider installing CCTV in the park as an initiative to increase the safety of families and deter the minority.'

8. **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.**

**9. Council Pay Policy Statement 2021 (Pages 11 - 31)**

Report of the Executive Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development

**10. Financial Planning (Pages 32 - 130)**

Report of the Interim Director of Finance

Further reports to follow after it has been considered by Cabinet at its meeting on 18 January 2021.

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

1. The following motion has been proposed by Councillor Williams and seconded by Councillor Stotesbury –

**Supporting the Climate and Ecological Emergency (CEE) Bill**

Council notes that:

1. The CEE Bill Alliance, made up of scientists, lawyers and activists, tabled a Private Members Bill in Parliament on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2020;
  - a) The bill has the potential to become the most significant move forward since the Climate Change Act 2008;
  - b) 88 MPs have so far supported the bill, with co-sponsors from across the political spectrum including Labour, Liberal Democrat and Greens;
  - c) The bill sets an emergency path for the UK to follow, including the creation of a Citizens' Assembly, ensuring the UK plays its fair and proper role in limiting global temperatures to 1.5°C and actively conserving the natural world.
2. Watford Borough Council declared a climate emergency in July 2019 and committed to becoming a climate neutral council by 2030, since taking actions including:
  - a) Establishing a sustainability forum to work with key communities and businesses in the borough;
  - b) Working to provide alternative and sustainable modes of transport for residents;
  - c) Leading by example to reduce waste in the council and the borough more generally;
  - d) Creating biodiversity in council-owned assets.

Council believes that:

1. All governments (national, regional and local) have a duty to limit the negative impacts of climate and ecological breakdown;

2. Local governments should not wait for their national governments to change their policies;
3. Towns, cities and local authorities are uniquely placed to lead in tackling the climate and ecological emergency due to the close links with their residents;
4. The Climate and Ecological Bill deserves the support of the government as it reassesses the urgency of the twin climate and ecological emergencies.

Council therefore resolves to:

1. Declare an 'Ecological Emergency' alongside the Climate Emergency it has already declared;
  2. Work with partners locally and regionally to drive coordinated leadership and collaborative action to aid the recovery of nature and natural environments and identify areas for habitat restoration;
  3. Lead by example and promote the good work the Council is currently and will in future be doing;
  4. Publicly support the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill;
  5. Ask the Mayor to write to our MP to urge him to sign up to support the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill.
2. The following motion has been proposed by Councillor Collett and seconded by Councillor Stiff.

### **Tracking Stalkers and Domestic Abusers**

Council notes that:

- Stalking and domestic abuse are crimes which are insidious and terrifying, the majority committed by men against women. Offenders go from victim to victim, yet many remain undetected and unconvicted.
- The evidence shows that domestic abuse has become more prevalent during the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent lockdowns. Some stalkers and domestic abusers go on to commit murder, and tragically the domestic homicide rate, mostly of women, continues to increase.
- Despite clear warning signs that such crimes are often repeated and follow a pattern, much offending behaviour remains undetected by the Police, probation and other agencies, and offenders are left at large.
- Although the provisions of the Domestic Abuse Bill now before Parliament are welcome, the Bill is manifestly deficient in not addressing the importance of robustly tracking and apprehending these offenders.

Council further notes that:

- Whilst the Domestic Abuse Bill would place Clare's Law (the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme) on a statutory footing, this will place the onus upon victims to come forward to seek information about their partner or a family member and this can sometimes place the victim in danger.
- There is no duty on police services to identify, track and manage stalkers and domestic abusers.

Council believes that:

- It is imperative that serial stalkers and domestic abusers are prioritised and proactively identified, assessed and managed by Police, probation and other relevant agencies, so that intelligence can be shared about their offending behaviour to hold them to account and close down their behaviour.
- The details of stalkers and domestic abusers should be included on the Violent and Sexual Offender's Register and managed via the Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements.

Council resolves to ask the Mayor to write to the Home Secretary asking her to make these changes to more effectively track and apprehend stalkers and domestic abusers, and to copy in our local Member of Parliament asking him to make representations to the Home Secretary in support of the Council's position.

## **12. Town Hall Quarter**

Report to follow after consideration by Cabinet on 18 January 2021.

## **13. Exclusion of Press and Public**

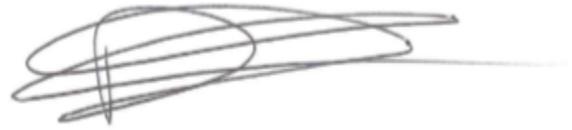
**The Chair to move:** that, under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business as it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the public were present during consideration of the item there would be disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in Section 100(1) of the Act for the reasons stated below in terms of Schedule 12A.

**Note: if approved, the Chair will ask members of the press and public to leave the meeting and the live stream will be stopped.**

**14. Watford Colosseum Management Arrangements (Pages 131 - 138)**

Report of the Group Head of Community and Environmental Services

Paragraph 3, Schedule 12A

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

**Donna Nolan, Managing Director**