

Daneshill House
Danestrete
Stevenage
Hertfordshire

10 October 2023

Dear Sir/Madam

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Stevenage Borough Council will be held in the Council Chamber, Daneshill House, Danestrete, Stevenage on Wednesday, 18 October 2023 at 7.00pm and you are summoned to attend to transact the following business.

Yours faithfully



Matthew Partridge
Chief Executive

AGENDA

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
2. **MINUTES - SPECIAL COUNCIL AND SCHEDULED COUNCIL - 19 JULY 2023**

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Special and Scheduled meetings of the Council held on 19 July 2023.

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3. **MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS**

To receive any communications that the Mayor may wish to put before the Council.
4. **COMMUNITY PRESENTATIONS**

None received.
5. **PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS**

None received.
6. **QUESTIONS FROM THE YOUTH COUNCIL**

None received.

7. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

The following questions have been submitted by members of the public. Written answers to the questions will be published on a supplementary agenda.

(A) Question from Mr Jim Borchers

“It is good to see that residents are moving into the new development at Kenilworth Close.

Can you give an update on when the ‘**four new retail units and enhanced community spaces**’ will be available for the current and future residents of Bragbury End to access?”

(B) Question from Jennifer Huygen

“Having recently moved to Stevenage and having done so particularly because I enjoy going out in nature and cycling, I was disappointed to realise there are barely any streetlights. This makes me uncomfortable going out after work by myself, particularly in Fairlands Valley Park.

I understand that street lighting is the remit of Hertfordshire County Council, but I would like to ask you very specifically about Fairlands Valley Park which has long sections without lighting and falls under the responsibility of Stevenage Borough Council. It is exceptionally dark, even early in the evening. This creates an unsafe environment, especially for women who are already disadvantaged when it comes to leading active lifestyles. Research from Sport England shows that the pandemic and cost-of-living crisis have had a disproportionate impact on women. Meaning that women have less to spend on weekly budgets and less time to spend on themselves. As a result, their activity levels have fallen and show little sign of recovery. 2.4 million fewer women than men strongly agree that they enjoy getting active. Sport England calls this the enjoyment gap and their research shows that 1 in 5 women say they worry about their safety whilst working out.

Given that wildlife friendly solutions to park lighting exist, can Stevenage Borough Council explain its plan to install lighting along paths across Fairlands Valley Park to ensure everyone can enjoy this park and lead more active lifestyles, even after sunset?”

(C) Question from Mr Teun van Leeuwen

"Towns that increased their bike usage have shown that success hinges on periodic inclusive cycling policy audits that ensure policy matches with needs, not just infrastructure-focussed audits. How will Stevenage Borough Council audit its policy: through inviting experts from the Dutch Cycling Embassy, by employing the Bypad method — proven effective in the UK and towns and cities worldwide — or using a different recognised participatory cycle policy auditing framework that uses best practices and taps into the experiences of Stevenage residents?"

8. LEADER OF THE COUNCIL'S UPDATE

In accordance with the Council's Standing Orders, the Leader of the Opposition shall be given the opportunity to raise one matter relevant to the Borough that has arisen since the last meeting of the Council. The Leader of the Council shall then have the opportunity to advise the Council of matters relevant to the Borough that have arisen since the last meeting.

9. UPDATE FROM SCRUTINY CHAIRS

To receive updates from the Chairs of the Scrutiny Committees on the recent activities of those Committees.

10. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

In accordance with Standing Orders, the following motions have been received for consideration:

(1) Maintenance of roads in the Borough

To be moved by the Labour Group.

"A Local Government Authority (LGA) analysis from March this year stated that the Government spent 31 times more per mile maintaining motorways and 'A' roads last year than they did on funding councils to repair crumbling local roads.

Figures from that same report show that the Government spent £192,000 per mile on maintaining strategic roads, such as motorways or major 'A' roads compared to just £6,000 per mile on fixing potholes on local roads.

This is despite local roads making up 180,000 miles of the UK's overall network, with strategic roads making up just 4,800 miles.

Given that there are some 3,200 miles of roadway in the county, this equates to almost two potholes for every road in Hertfordshire.

In June this year, the Herts County Council secured some £4m extra funding from the Government to address the issue of potholes in our roads. Given that there are ten authorities within the County, then evenly distributed this equates to some £400k each.

This Council calls upon the Herts County Council to recognise that Stevenage is a priority case regarding the repair of potholes because of HCC's neglect of our local roads and cycle tracks over the years and that at least £400k of the awarded funding is 'ringfenced' for the benefit and enhancement of the people and road users of the town.

We therefore move that this Council requests the County Council Highways Portfolio Holder to ensure fair shares and prompt action for Stevenage residents of repairs to potholes."

(2) Removal of London Day Travelcard

To be moved by Councillor Phil Bibby CC and seconded by Councillor Bret Facey.

“That this Council objects to the removal of the London Day Travelcard, as it would have a significant negative financial impact on Stevenage residents travelling to London.

That this Council notes:

- Day Travelcards are tickets that allow local people to travel to London and then use public transport for free once they're in the capital.
- Day Travelcards are a simple and convenient way to get into and around London, removing these tickets would mean having to purchase multiple tickets to get across the city.
- Removing the Day Travelcard would deter potential rail passengers from using the train which would go against this Council's policy of encouraging sustainable transport.
- Research suggests that scrapping the Day Travelcards could cost at least an extra £9.30 per person, per visit to London.
- Unaffordable policies and mismanagement by the City Hall have left Transport for London (TfL) on the edge of bankruptcy. The proposal to removal Day Travelcards suggests that the Mayor is trying to get commuters and tourists to pick up the bill for his mistakes.

That this Council resolves:

- To demonstrate its support for Stevenage commuters and tourists by calling on the Mayor of London and TfL to halt the withdrawal of the Day Travelcard.
- To request the Leader of the Council and Chief Executive write to the Mayor of London and ask that he reconsiders scrapping the Day Travelcard, as this proposal will negatively affect this Council's policy of encouraging sustainable transport.”

11. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS TO COMMITTEE CHAIRS / PORTFOLIO HOLDERS

In accordance with Standing Orders, written answers to the following questions will be circulated on a supplementary agenda.

(A) Question from Councillor Robin Parker CC

“A planning application for a large telecommunications mast on the pavement at The Glebe was refused by SBC recently, but SBC failed to ensure that the refusal was received by the applicant within the statutory period, so the large mast can go ahead. This is likely to upset a lot of residents.

Exactly what new procedures will be or have now been introduced to make sure that a debacle like this cannot be made by SBC in future?

In particular, why are such important legal notices sent by Royal Mail even though Royal Mail deliveries are notoriously unreliable these days? Are they sent by Royal Mail first class service?"

(B) Question from Councillor Bret Facey

"Is the Executive Member satisfied that the Council robustly punishes the perpetrators of fly-tipping?"

(C) Question from Councillor Adam Mitchell CC

"Could you please provide an update on the progress and status of the Community Centre and associated shops within the Bragbury End development?"

(D) Question from Councillor Alex Farquharson

"Does the Executive Member believe that robust safeguarding measures are in place at the 108 Oaks Cross development to protect both the tenants and neighbouring properties?"

(E) Question from Councillor Andy McGuinness

"What impact will the Prime Ministers recent announcements to delay the implementation of our net zero commitments have on the Council's operations?"

(F) Question from Councillor Tom Wren

"What action is the Council taking to reduce tenancy fraud and the sub-letting of Council properties?"

(G) Question from Councillor Stephen Booth

"Could the Leader of the Council please update the Council on progress following the passing of recent and future motions, including those on 19 July 2023 regarding consultation and the planning process; 8 March 2023 regarding pay for council and school workers and 8 March 2023 regarding Vaping?"

(H) Question from Councillor Graham Snell

"The arrangements for traffic flows exiting Tesco's into Swingate and into Lytton Way have been changed again. Has the Council consulted with the Highway Authority about these changes and is the Council working with the Authority to get a workable and permanent solution to traffic entering Lytton Way at this point?"

12. ANNUAL TREASURY MANAGEMENT REVIEW 2022/23 AND PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS

The report circulated at Item 12 was considered by the Executive on 20 September 2023 when the following recommendation to Council was agreed:

“That the 2022/23 Annual Treasury Management Review be recommended to Council for approval”.

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13. AUDIT COMMITTEE MINUTES

To note the Minutes of the meeting of the Audit Committee held on 6 September 2023.

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