

BOROUGH OF REIGATE AND BANSTEAD

COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Council held at the New Council Chamber - Town Hall, Reigate on 31 October 2019 at 7.30 pm.

Present: Councillors K. Foreman (Mayor), R. Absalom (Deputy Mayor), M. A. Brunt (Leader), T. Schofield (Deputy Leader), D. Allcard, T. Archer, R. H. Ashford, R. Biggs, M. S. Blacker, N. J. Bramhall, J. S. Bray, H. Brown, G. Buttironi, J. C. S. Essex, S. L. Fenton, P. Harp, R. Harper, N. D. Harrison, J. Hudson, G. J. Knight, S. A. Kulka, J. P. King, V. H. Lewanski, A. M. Lynch, S. McKenna, R. Michalowski, N. C. Moses, S. Parnall, J. Paul, J. E. Philpott, S. J. G. Rickman, R. Ritter, D. A. Ross, K. Sachdeva, S. Sinden, C. Stevens and C. T. H. Whinney.

49. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 26 September 2019 be approved as a correct record and signed.

50. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors G. Adamson, R. Feeney, A. Horwood, E. Humphreys, F. Kelly, C. Neame, R. Turner and S. Walsh.

Apologies for lateness were received from Councillor H. Brown.

51. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

52. URGENT BUSINESS

None.

53. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

None.

54. PETITION: M25 NOISE POLLUTION

A report was presented to the Council arising from the Council's Petition Scheme in relation to a petition of 605 signatures regarding M25 noise pollution.

The petition asked the Council to "coordinate with Mole Valley DC, Surrey CC, Crispin Blunt MP, Paul Beresford MP and Chris Grayling MP and [to] write to Highways England highlighting residents' concerns about noise pollution from the M25, specifically referencing motorway resurfacing of the atypical concrete slabs installed between M25 junctions 8 and 9 and requesting additional man-made sound barriers and tree planting along this section of motorway to protect residents". It also called "...on Reigate and Banstead [Borough] Council to consider

how it can combat noise pollution from roads directly via planning policy or other powers under its control”.

In line with the Petition Scheme, details of the petition had been published on the Council’s website along with the e-signatories. The Petition Scheme provided for the Council to decide how to respond to the petition. This included the options of supporting the action requested, or not, or referring the matter to the Executive (or the Executive decision maker) for further consideration.

As provided for in the Petition Scheme the organiser of the petition, Mr G. Curry, introduced the petition. Councillor J. Essex spoke in support of the petition as did the Leader of the Council, Councillor M. Brunt. The following is a summary of the points made:

- The carriageway between junctions 8 to 11 was particularly prone to noise because it was constructed from concrete slabs rather than asphalt which was typically quieter.
- Concerns relating to increases in traffic.
- The advent of electric vehicles would not solve the problem, as at speeds over 35mph the noise issue was down to the sound of the wheels on the road rather than the engine.
- More than ten “Noise Important Areas” existed between junctions 8 and 9.
- The need to look at transport management issues more widely and not just road surfacing.

The Executive Member for Neighbourhood Services, Councillor N. Bramall responded to the points made at the meeting and confirmed that Highways England was the government company responsible for the strategic road network, including motorways. The following points were highlighted in relation to the Junction 8 to Junction 9 stretch of the M25:

- To address noise issues, Highways England concentrated on locations where the greatest number of people were exposed to the highest noise levels. As a result, a number of properties along this stretch of the motorway had been selected for noise insulation.
- Repairs to joints on concrete sections of the clockwise carriageway had recently been completed.
- There were no plans to resurface the carriageway although Highways England had been trialling new techniques to improve concrete roads elsewhere in the south east.
- Highways England had identified that there was limited room for further tree planting within the highway boundary.

A variety of other matters, in relation to noise and air pollution and climate change, were also considered. In response to questions about noise, it was recognised planning policy was used to mitigate the impact of noise from other sources while the Council used environmental health powers to investigate noise complaints. However, it was confirmed that the Council had no powers in relation to road noise.

Councillor N. Bramhall moved and Councillor R. Ashford seconded a Motion and it was

RESOLVED that:

- (i) The first part of the petition request be supported, and that the Leader of the Council be asked to write to Highways England on the issue of M25 Noise Pollution, and in doing so engages with Mole Valley District Council, Surrey County Council, and local MPs.
- (ii) The Leader of the Council be asked to forward the petition to the Chairman of the Reigate and Banstead Local Committee for its consideration.
- (iii) That – in relation to the second part of the petition – it be noted that the Council’s powers in combating noise pollution from roads was limited to engaging with the statutory highway authorities. That where there was evidence of new or increased resident disturbance from local roads this would be drawn to the attention of Surrey County Council, including via the Reigate and Banstead Local Committee.

55. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

Nine questions were asked and responses given in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 2.15 and the Order Paper circulated at the meeting. The details were as follows:

Question by	Answered by	Subject
Cllr S. Fenton	Cllr M. Brunt, Leader of the Council	Women’s State Pension Changes
Cllr J. Philpott	Cllr M. Brunt, Leader of the Council	Women’s State Pension Changes
Cllr S. Fenton	Cllr T. Schofield, Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Finance	Brexit (Written Response)
Cllr J. Essex	Cllr R. Ashford, Executive Member for Community Partnerships	Index of Multiple Deprivation
Cllr K. Sachdeva	Cllr N. Bramhall, Executive Member for Neighbourhood Services	Recycling
Cllr M. Blacker	Cllr N. Bramhall, Executive Member for Neighbourhood Services	Air Quality
Cllr S. McKenna	Cllr R. Biggs, Executive Member for Planning Policy	Zero Carbon New Homes
Cllr H. Brown	Cllr T. Archer, Executive Member for Investment and Companies	Common Land

Cllr S. Kulka	Cllr G. Knight, Executive Member for Housing and Benefits	Affordable Housing Progress
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Note: For more information on responses to Council questions please see this page on the Council's website:

<https://reigate-banstead.moderngov.co.uk/ecCatDisplay.aspx?sch=doc&cat=13400>

56. RECOMMENDATIONS

None.

57. REPORT ON SPECIAL URGENCY DECISIONS

RESOLVED that the report, set out on the Order Paper, concerning special urgency decisions be noted.

58. STATEMENTS

The Leader of the Council, Councillor M. Brunt informed Council that, in line with the Council's corporate commitment to environmental sustainability, the Mayor's Jaguar would no longer be used. The Council was informed that this would be sold at auction and in future the Mayor would travel using one of the Council's pool cars (a mix of hybrid and fully electric vehicles) or would self-drive (using their own vehicle) to engagements.

The Leader of the Council also provided an update in relation to the establishment of a Sustainable Working Group by the Reigate and Banstead Local Committee. It was highlighted that the Working Group would help the Council, and its many stakeholders, to address a variety of issues in relation to transport and climate change.

59. MOTION: FAIRTRADE

Councillor R. Ritter moved and Councillor J. Essex seconded the following Motion, concerning Fairtrade:

The Motion asked Council to note that:

- 2019 marked 25 years since the FAIRTRADE Mark was launched in the UK.
- Since 1994, consumer demand for Fairtrade had grown thanks to the efforts of grassroots campaigners, and pioneering Fair Trade businesses.
- There were now over 600 Fairtrade Communities in the UK, including Surrey County Council from 2014.
- As a result of Fairtrade commitments from mainstream brands and retailers, the UK Fairtrade market was one of the biggest in the

world.

- Global Fairtrade sales in 2018 generated £142 million in Fairtrade Premium. Farmers in 73 countries had invested this money in their communities, increasing business productivity and contributing to the achievement of the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Despite this positive news, exploitation remained rampant in global [supply chains](#). More than 40 million people were trapped in modern slavery (as highlighted by the recent RBBC campaign about modern slavery) and 152 million young people were in child labour ([according to the UN](#)) Hundreds of millions more were earning less than a living income or wage.

The proposer of the Motion believed that:

- The Fairtrade principles of paying a 'premium' that was wholly managed by farmers and workers themselves, and of minimum prices to protect producers from market volatility, were crucial to systemic change. This 'premium' enabled farmers to be resilient to the impacts of [climate change](#).
- Public bodies, including local authorities, should support ethical procurement policies, using their purchasing power to support Fairtrade and ensure their supply chains, at home and abroad, were free of exploitation, including modern slavery.
- Companies operating through global supply chains should go further and take steps to require the payment of living wages and achievement of living incomes for all.

The Motion called on Reigate and Banstead Borough Council to:

- Commit to achieve 'Fairtrade Town' status, through support for the local Fairtrade steering group working on achieving this status for Reigate and in due course Redhill, Horley and Banstead, to achieve the status of a Fairtrade borough.
- Actively promote Fairtrade locally, through support for local groups and churches, in the media including social media, and events, including during Fairtrade Fortnight.
- Support local Fairtrade Schools, colleges and actively promote Fairtrade teaching materials in local schools and educational institutions.
- Celebrate businesses already selling Fairtrade products and incentivising more of them to champion Fairtrade in the local community.
- Review its procurement policy, including its catering and refreshments offer, to ensure that Fairtrade produce is chosen wherever possible, and that Fairtrade considerations are included as

a preference in any contracts going out to tender.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 2.17.3 the Motion upon being moved and seconded was referred without discussion to the Executive for consideration.

RESOLVED that it be noted that the Motion on Fairtrade, set out at item 11 on the agenda, be referred to the Executive for consideration.

60. MEMBERSHIP OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

RESOLVED that the updated Membership of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the remainder of the 2019/20 Municipal Year be noted.

61. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

62. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor reminded Council that a General Election would take place on 12 December 2019. As a result, it was noted that the meeting of Full Council in December would be moved as it was scheduled to take place on the same day. It was anticipated that this meeting would be rescheduled for early/mid January 2020 and it was highlighted that further information would be sent to all Members in due course.

The Mayor also informed the Council:

- Of the various Remembrance Sunday events taking place on Sunday 10 November 2019 and the Remembrance Day Service at 11.00am on 11 November 2019 at the Belfry, Redhill.
- That a Quiz Night would take place on Friday 29 November 2019 at Banstead Community Hall.
- Of Christ Central's Christmas Carol Service that would take place on Sunday 15 December 2019 at Royal Alexandra and Albert School.

The Mayor concluded by giving thanks to those who had donated items to the Mayor's charities, Loveworks and Stripey Stork. It was noted that all donations had been gratefully received. Information was also provided on Stripey Stork's Christmas campaign #SantaStork2019.

The Meeting closed at 8.38 pm