

# Crawley Borough Council

## Agenda for the Full Council

To: The Mayor and Members of the Council

You are summoned to attend a meeting of the **Full Council** which will be held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Crawley, on **Wednesday 26 February 2014 at 7.30 p.m.**

Nightline Telephone No. (01293) 551636



**Head of Legal and Democratic Services**

Please contact Roger Browning (Legal and Democratic Services Division) if you have any queries regarding this agenda.

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**Emergency procedure for meetings will be circulated to Members and visitors attending this meeting. Please familiarise yourself with these procedures and the location of fire exits.**

### **Duration of the Meeting**

If the business of the meeting has not been completed within two and a half hours (normally 10.00 p.m.), then in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 2.2, the Mayor will require the meeting to consider if it wishes to continue for a period not exceeding 30 minutes. A vote will be taken and a simple majority in favour will be necessary for the meeting to continue. (Following the meeting's initial extension, consideration will be given to extending the meeting by further periods not exceeding 30 minutes in each case).

## **Business - Part A**

### **1. Apologies for Absence**

To receive any apologies for absence.

### **2. Members' Disclosures of Interest**

In accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct, members of the Council are reminded that it is a requirement to declare interests where appropriate.

### **3. Communications**

To receive and consider any announcements or communications.

### **4. Petition**

Note by the Petitions Officer (Head of Legal and Democratic Services)

In accordance with the Council's Petition Scheme, the Principal Petitioner for the petition shown below will be given five minutes to present the Petition to the meeting and the petition will then be discussed by Councillors for a maximum of 10 minutes. A maximum of 30 minutes will be allowed at each meeting for considering petitions.

The Council will decide how to respond to the Petition at the meeting. The Council may decide to take the action the Petition requests, not to take the action requested for reasons put forward in the debate, or to commission further investigation into the matter, for example by a relevant committee. Where the issue is one on which the Cabinet is required to make the final decision, the Council will decide whether to make recommendations to inform that decision. The Principal Petitioner will receive written confirmation of this decision. The confirmation will also be published on our website.

The Council is requested to consider the following petition received in accordance with its Petition Scheme:-

#### **"List 117 Ifield Road for Local Importance"**

The Petition contains over 1000 signatures and was received by the Council on 7 February 2014.

The Petition was accepted by the Council's Petitions Officer as reading:-

"Vanessa wants to save the building and locally use it"

The summary below was submitted by the Principal Petitioner together with the petition but it had not been included on the signed petition pages. It is understood that it had not been made available to or read by the signatories to the petition and is recorded here for information purposes.

"We, the undersigned, petition CBC to save "Leacroft" 117 Ifield Road, West Green from destruction. The residents of West Green and Crawley do not want the building to be knocked down and replaced with any new build. We ask that the Council purchase the building for the local residents to use as a community hub for the residents to have a place to meet and have somewhere to use as a community space, access advice and health services which would be beneficial to the wider community of Crawley. We also ask that CBC widen its' conservation area and place the building within it and list the building for local importance. "Leacroft" 117 Ifield Road has many period architectural features that are unique and significant to the residents of Crawley but the building also has important intangible significance to the people of West Green and the wider community of Crawley."

#### **RECOMMENDATION 1**

The Council is recommended to:

- (1) Hear from the Principal Petitioner.
- (2) Determine in accordance with the Council's Petition Scheme any action to be taken in respect of the Petition.

## **5. Recorded Votes at Budget Meetings**

Notification has recently been received from the Government of regulations which will require all Councils at their annual budget meetings to adopt the practice of recorded votes - that is recording in the minutes of the meeting how each member present voted on any decision relating to the Annual Budget and Council Tax. This applies not only to substantive budget motions to agree the budget and setting council taxes, including precepts, but also on any amendments proposed. The regulations came into force on 25 February 2014.

This practice will be required to commence with effect from and including this year's annual budget meetings, which, of course, for this Council is at this 26 February Full Council meeting. This will also require a change to the Council's Constitution.

It will be moved **by Councillor Burke and seconded by Councillor Cheshire:-**

That the Full Council agrees the following amendment to the Constitution:-

Amend paragraph 17.4 of the Council Procedure Rules to read as follows (Additional text is shown in bold):

"17.4. Recorded Vote

If any member present at the meeting demands it, the names for and against the motion or amendments or abstaining from voting will be taken down in writing and entered into the minutes.

**In accordance with The Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014, the Council at its annual budget meetings is required to undertake a recorded vote when voting on any decision relating to the Annual Budget and Council Tax. This includes any amendments proposed at the meeting, substantive budget motions to agree the budget, and setting council taxes, including precepts.”**

## **6. Public Question Time**

To answer public questions under Council Procedure Rule 9. The questions must be on matters which are relevant to the functions of the Council, and should not include statements.

One supplementary question from the questioner will be allowed.

Up to 30 minutes is allocated to Public Question Time.

## **7. Appointment**

### Southgate Conservation Area Advisory Committee

That consideration be given to the nomination of a representative to serve on the Southgate Conservation Area Advisory Committee (SCAAC).

The Committee has recently been established in accordance with English Heritage best practice to oversee the conservation areas within Southgate and has recently agreed a constitution with the Council's Forward Planning Department.

Whilst including a number of key objectives, the constitution also seeks the appointment of a Member of the Council to serve on that Committee. It is recommended that a Southgate Ward Member be appointed to the Committee, with all Members advised that they are welcome to attend meetings of the Committee as and when they see fit.

## **8. Minutes**

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Full Council held on 18 December 2013. (The minutes are on pages 1 to 38 in the Book of Minutes Report, which Members will have before them).

## **9. Items for debate (Reserved Items)**

Prior to the introduction of the Reports of the Cabinet, Overview and Scrutiny Commission and Committees (as contained in the Book of Minutes),

Members will be given the opportunity to indicate on which items they wish to speak.

These Reserved Items will then be the only matters to be the subject of a debate.

## **10. Reports of the Cabinet, Overview and Scrutiny Commission and Committees**

- (1) To receive the following reports of the meetings of the Cabinet, Overview and Scrutiny Commission and Committees.
  - (a) Development Control Committee – 9 December 2013.
  - (b) Audit and Governance Committee – 10 December 2013.
  - (c) Development Control Committee – 6 January 2014.
  - (d) Licensing Committee – 9 January 2014.
  - (e) Cabinet – 15 January 2014.
  - (f) Development Control Committee – 27 January 2014.
  - (g) General Purposes Committee – 28 January 2014.  
Including Recommendation 2 relating to Changes to the Constitution (Executive) Decision Making Redesign: Update.
  - (h) Overview and Scrutiny Commission – 10 February 2014.
  - (i) Cabinet – 12 February 2014.  
Including Recommendations 3, 4, 5 and 6 relating to the Treasury Management Strategy 2014 / 2015, the 2014 / 2015 Budget and Council Tax and the Notice of Precept (circulated separately) and 2013 / 2014 Budget Monitoring – Quarter 3.
- (2) To adopt the recommendations to full Council, which have not been reserved for debate.

## **11. Reserved Items**

To deal with items reserved for debate including any recommendations, which have been identified by Members under Agenda Item 9.

Councillors who have reserved items for debate, may speak on an item for no more than 5 minutes.

## **12. Notices of Motion**

- (a) To consider, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12, the following Notice of Motion to be moved by Councillor Lloyd and seconded by Councillor P C Smith:-

“The heavy rainfall of the period late December 2013 to February 2014 has highlighted once again some weaknesses in Crawley’s flood defences. Taking note of this and of the serious problems caused for many Crawley residents and travellers from Gatwick airport, Crawley Borough Council resolves to:

1. Establish the causes of flood problems at various locations, such as west of Ifield, where once again vulnerable elderly residents of the Gables Nursing home suffered serious disruption, Three Bridges and Langley Green and at other places identified by councillors, residents and officers of the council. Where necessary this will be done in conjunction with partner organisations such as West Sussex County Council and the Environment Agency.
2. Report these problems to the bodies responsible for dealing with them within a period of a maximum of one month from now.
3. Advocate on behalf of the people we represent the urgent completion of all necessary remedial work in accordance with publicly available time scales.
4. In particular to make strong representations to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) to permit the Environment Agency to re-instate the full work programme for flood protection at the River Mole in order to protect Ifield residents, given the recent serious flood disruption caused to residents there.”

**(b)** To consider, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12, the following Notice of Motion to be moved by Councillor Ward and seconded by Councillor B A Smith:-

“In 2011, the old Leacroft surgery shut its doors for the last time, leaving West Green as the only neighbourhood in the town without a local surgery.

West Green has one of the highest populations aged over 85 in the town and people are rightly concerned about the sick, disabled and elderly who are now forced to commute a considerable distance to visit their GP; a situation made worse by the lack of direct public transport provision between West Green and the surgery in Langley Green.

Storm damage to the new surgery has complicated matters and left almost 10,000 patients from across the town with uncertain access to their GP. While doctors are working hard to get things up and running again, everyone must now do what they can to ensure those residents affected by the surgery’s temporary closure are not left to suffer.

For those living near the old surgery site, 117 Ifield Road has long held communal value and the closure of the surgery has resulted in concerns over the future of the building and the potential impact on the special character of the local area. Local residents’ strength of feeling is clearly shown in their petition on the site to the council.

The closure of the surgery in West Green has caused difficulty and uncertainty for many residents in the neighbourhood and beyond and as a council we should act as necessary for the good of our local communities. With that in mind, the council resolves:

- 1) To support Leacroft Medical Practice and the Crawley Clinical Commissioning Group in whatever way is needed to ensure a continuity of medical provision for patients and the return to full use of Langley House as a surgery site as soon as possible.

- 2) Once services are resumed at the practice, to work with the Crawley Clinical Commissioning Group to find a way to restore access for patients to a GP in West Green.
- 3) Until access to a GP in West Green is restored, to work with Metrobus to improve public transport for West Green residents trying to access the surgery site in Langley Green.
- 4) To award Local Listing status to 117 Ifield Road on the grounds of communal value.
- 5) To investigate the potential of designating Ifield Road, in part or whole, as an Area of Special Local Character.”

### **13. Members’ Written Questions**

To answer Members’ written questions under Council Procedure Rule 10.3.

### **14. Announcements by Cabinet Members**

An opportunity for Cabinet Members to report verbally (if necessary) on issues relating to their Portfolio not covered elsewhere on the agenda and deal with questions relating to these issues.

### **15. Questions to Cabinet Members**

To answer questions to Cabinet Members under Council Procedure Rule 10.1.

Up to 15 minutes is allocated for questions to Cabinet Members.

### **16. Questions to Committee Chairs**

To answer questions to Committee Chairs.

Up to 15 minutes is allocated for questions to Committee Chairs.

### **17. Supplemental Agenda**

Any urgent item(s) complying with Section 100(B) of the Local Government Act 1972.

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