

Agenda Item 21:

Motions submitted for debate at the Council meeting on 16 March 2023

(a) The following Motion has been submitted in the name of Councillor Jeff Brook:

Planning Department Processes CIL

This Council continues to receive complaints from residents regarding the way that our Planning Department processes CIL charges within Planning Applications. Residents are often confused and consequently submit incomplete paperwork which has led to charges being made that should not have been made in some cases.

Despite the Council looking into this, cases continue to be referred to Councillors by confused and often distressed residents.

This Council therefore resolves to commission an independent review of the CIL charging process, including all paperwork and workflows, as well as the issuing of charges and their collection.

(b) The following Motion has been submitted in the name of Councillor Carlyne Culver:

2019-2023 Term of Office

This is the final full council of the 2019-2023 term of office.

The four years have seen the residents of West Berkshire and the council rise to many challenges including the covid 19 pandemic, providing homes for people fleeing war in Ukraine, and the cost of living crisis.

This council resolves:

To thank all council officers for their service during this term of office.

To thank all emergency workers and volunteers who have supported people through these challenges.

To pay tribute to those we have lost.

To thank all members for their service to the residents of West Berkshire.

To wish all members who are not seeking re-election all the best for the future.

(c) The following Motion has been submitted in the name of Councillor Adrian Abbs:

20 is Plenty

Overview:-

Council acknowledges that in many areas residents are asking for 20 mph enforcement to be introduced. Safety is the most often sighted reason, but noise reduction also gets mentioned.

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Country wide research has shown over a fifth of drivers exceed the speed limit around schools and on residential streets.

In 2018, 50% of all road casualties occurred on 30mph roads. In an attempt to reduce the number of accidents and injuries on British roads, UK towns and cities have been introducing more and more 20mph zones over the past few years.

In reality there are three primary motivations for implementing 20mph zones; transport related (e.g. casualty reduction), community related (e.g. community concerns about safety and quality of the environment), and health related (e.g. encouraging more active travel such as walking and cycling).

Further to this, the environmental impact “20’s plenty” can have is yet another reason for the progression of the movement. Research has concluded that driving at slower speeds produces lower emissions when compared to driving at higher speeds, thus improving air quality.

Council notes:

- That a 20 mph limit leads to safer outcomes (especially outside schools) and on smaller residential streets and roads
- That 20 mph also contributes to the reduction of road noise and the associated health benefits living with lower noise levels
- That 20 mph can improve air quality locally

In order to help:

At the moment, we have an elongated process which often means a year or more can pass from residents requesting the change and it being implemented by West Berkshire Council.

This motion seeks to commit West Berkshire Council to removing barriers on the implementation by introducing an assumption of saying yes wherever possible.

This Council will introduce a scheme which will begin by focusing on those who cannot afford to undertake basic insulation, or lack the skills, or physical ability to do it.

THE MOTION

This council commits to:

- Having officers develop a workable scheme asap with a target of implementation during 2023 that includes an assumption of saying “yes” should over 50% of a street petition the council for a 20 mph street.
- Changing any relevant parts of the current West Berkshire Council process’s in line with the new scheme developed by officers
- To provide support to residents on
 - How the scheme works

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- With tools so that they can more easily collate the names and signatures that provide the evidence that over 50% of a street is in favour of a 20mph zone