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## Public Questions as specified in the Council's Procedure Rules of the Constitution

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<b>Question (A)</b>	Meeting on 05 October 2023
<b>Relevant Officer(s):</b>	Alexandra OConnor

**(A) Question not related to an item of business submitted to the Portfolio Holder for Leader of Council; Executive Portfolio Holder Strategy, Communications and Public Safety by James Matos:**

*“What is the council doing about crime in the Newbury town centre specifically about anti social behaviour”*

**The Portfolio Holder for Leader of Council; Executive Portfolio Holder Strategy, Communications and Public Safety answered:**

West Berkshire Council works in partnership to address crime and anti-social behaviour with a number of agencies.

West Berkshire Council applied for and was granted a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) for Newbury town centre which is initially in place for three years. There are two requirements to the PSPO around anti-social street drinking and anti-social behaviour – there are specifics around both of these requirements, but further details are available on the internet. Police have issued 86 ‘directions to leave’ as a result of enforcing the the PSPO with 5 breaches reported and processed by this council.

A representative from the Councils Building Communities Together Team attends both the fortnightly police tactical and co-ordinating group (TTCG) where current police activity and demands are discussed and a weekly tasking meeting where anti-social behaviour hotspots are discussed. The manager also co-Chairs a monthly multi-agency meeting that looks to address anti-social behaviour cases that require a partnership approach, this also includes those subject to Orders, Injunctions and vulnerabilities i.e., cuckooing, county drugs lines. Several departments within WBC are involved in this meeting including YOT, Housing, PPP, Children’s Services alongside partners: TVP, Housing associations, Berkshire Youth, Two Saints. If there are issues within the town centre, then these are the arenas where they will be discussed and solutions sought.

As with all crime and anti-social behaviour we rely on members of the public reporting issues to the police as and when it is happening, and this can be done via 101 or online. There was a lot of effort from a lot of agencies.

**The Chairman asked:** *“Do you have a supplementary question arising directly out of the answer to your original question. A supplementary should be relevant to the original question and not introduce any new material?”*

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## Public Questions as specified in the Council's Procedure Rules of the Constitution

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**James Matos did not ask a supplementary question.**

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## Public Questions as specified in the Council's Procedure Rules of the Constitution

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<b>Question (B)</b>	Meeting on 05 October 2023
<b>Relevant Officer(s):</b>	katharine Makant Sam Robins

**(B) Question not related to an item of business submitted to the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration Growth and Strategy Development by John Gotelee:**

*“West Berks level 2 SFRA (from JBA consulting) states that 89% of the LRIE is at risk of Fluvial flooding. Have engineers and planners assessed what infrastructure would be needed to mitigate this and prevent floodwater getting into the Thames Water Sewer and illegally flooding property downstream?”*

**The Portfolio Holder for Regeneration Growth and Strategy Development answered:**

Thank you for your question.

No as that is not the purpose of the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment. As the National Planning Policy Framework sets out in paragraphs 159 to 169. Inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding from all sources should be avoided by directing development away from areas at the highest risk and this is what the Local Plan Review does.

If development is proposed, then the rest of the SFRA for LRIE sets out the requirement for SUDs (page 108) and the need for an application site-specific Flood Risk Assessment including modelling and the need for a surface water drainage strategy (page 109).

**The Chairman asked:** *“Do you have a supplementary question arising directly out of the answer to your original question. A supplementary should be relevant to the original question and not introduce any new material?”*

**John Gotelee asked the following supplementary question:**

*“You talked about flood risk assessment on the LRIE so it did not answer the question. Because the Council's water floods their lands should they be intitled to compensation such as Thames Water is finned for discharge of pollution?”*

**The Portfolio Holder for Regeneration Growth and Strategy Development said he would provide a written answer.**

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## Public Questions as specified in the Council's Procedure Rules of the Constitution

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<b>Question (C)</b>	Meeting on 05 October 2023
<b>Relevant Officer(s):</b>	Jon Winstanley

**(C) Question not related to an item of business submitted to the Portfolio Highways, Housing and Sustainable Travel by Alan Pearce:**

*“My understanding is the Service Director (Environment) currently is organizing a site visit to the London Road Industrial Estate (LRIE) including third-party land downstream for officers and Executive Portfolio holders to better understand the surface water infrastructure in relation to redeveloping the LRIE. Please would the Council give some more information about when this site visit is likely to take place and who will be attending?”*

**The Portfolio Holder for Highways, Housing and Sustainable Travel answered:**

Mr Pearce, thank you for your question. A site visit has been arranged for 12<sup>th</sup> October at 2pm to look at the current issues that have been raised with regards the Northbrook Ditch. You will be invited if you wish to come.

**The Chairman asked:** *“Do you have a supplementary question arising directly out of the answer to your original question. A supplementary should be relevant to the original question and not introduce any new material?”*

**Alan Pearce asked the following supplementary question:**

*“I asked the question as I was concerned that the Portfolio Holder would not understand the drainage issues and wanted to know why the Executive report on the Bond Riverside Review had been delayed”.*

**The Portfolio Holder for Highways, Housing and Sustainable Travel said she would provide a written answer.**

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## Public Questions as specified in the Council's Procedure Rules of the Constitution

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<b>Question (D)</b>	Meeting on 05 October 2023
<b>Relevant Officer(s):</b>	Jon Winstanley Alexandra O Connor

***(D) Question not related to an item of business submitted to the Portfolio Holder for Highways, Housing and Sustainable Travel by James Matos:***

*“What has west Berkshire council done about the petition to remove the phone box outside northbrook street”*

**This question was withdrawn.**

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<b>Question (E)</b>	Meeting on 05 October 2023
<b>Relevant Officer(s):</b>	Sam Robins

**(E) Question not related to an item of business submitted to the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration Growth and Strategy Development by John Gotelee:**

*“Have planners decided where to create the pond required to store and attenuate the 9000 plus cubic metres of water inside the LRIE red line as advised by the Avison Young environmental report”*

**The Portfolio Holder for Regeneration Growth and Strategy Development answered:**

Thank you for your question. I am responding instead of my fellow Portfolio Holder for Planning and Community Engagement because this is a matter for the Council as landowner, not the Council as Planning Authority.

The planners will become involved when development is proposed on plots on Bond Riverside, at which point any necessary flood mitigations measures for that development will be proposed by the applicant and assessed through the planning process.

**The Chairman asked:** *“Do you have a supplementary question arising directly out of the answer to your original question. A supplementary should be relevant to the original question and not introduce any new material?”*

**John Gotelee asked the following supplementary question:**

*“We are the victim of mixed messages as someone has put up a message regarding the bond riverside update at the same time we are told regeneration has been put back. We are told that SUDS works have been completed, can you explain the discrepancy as water needs to be stored now as we are being flooded?”*

**The Portfolio Holder for Regeneration Growth and Strategy Development answered:**

You asked the question at the last Executive and I refer to that answer.

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## Public Questions as specified in the Council's Procedure Rules of the Constitution

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<b>Question (F)</b>	Meeting on 05 October 2023
<b>Relevant Officer(s):</b>	Bryan Lyttle

**(F) Question not related to an item of business submitted to the Portfolio Holder for Planning & Community Engagement by Paula Saunderson:**

*"In the Detail in Local Plan Review 2022-2039 – there is no ESA Policy for the Dedicated Employment Area known as London Road Estates, and Policy CS20 and 7.10 incorrectly refers to it as the London Road Industrial Estates, and states:*

*The Council are currently preparing a comprehensive strategy for the delivery of regeneration on the LRIE site. Due to the timing of this strategy and the site's location within the settlement boundary of Newbury, the site has not been identified as a site allocation, however it does need to be recognised as an area of regeneration for its potential to deliver flexibility to the employment figures over the plan period.*

*Qu. As SP20 is quite vague in respect of detail and there is no ESA Policy for LONDON ROAD ESTATES DEA will there be a Supplementary Planning Document for this whole Area shown as Red Hatched on the LPR 2022-2039 GIS Policy Map or will everything that happens in this Red Hatched Area be subject to a piecemeal and individual approach to Planning?"*

**The Portfolio Holder for Planning & Community Engagement answered:**

Thank you for your question.

The current Local Development Schedule does not include a Supplementary Planning Document for the area that is red hatched on the LPR 2022-2039 GIS Policy Map. Therefore, under planning policy as it stands redevelopment could be piecemeal as you suggest. However, SPDs are due to be replaced by legislation with supplementary plans which will carry the same weight as local plans. So if we developed London Road Industrial Estate there would be no time to introduce a SPD, consult and introduce it. LRIE and Riverside as mention in the preamble are not he same, this administration has removed the football pitch from development to be retained. LRIE is in the Local Plan as a protected industrial area and will be dependent on other areas for access. The future of the LRIE will be dealt with via the Local Plan review.

**The Chairman asked:** *"Do you have a supplementary question arising directly out of the answer to your original question. A supplementary should be relevant to the original question and not introduce any new material?"*



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**Paula Saunderson asked the following supplementary question:**

*“Every other DEA has another ESA , my concern is the London Road Estate not having a ESA means it does not include the need to do a flood risk assessment that would include appropriate flood measures such as surface water assessments. Can some explain how all the flood risks in the DEA would be accounted for. ”*

**The Portfolio Holder for Planning & Community Engagement answered:**

The DEA we are looking at are carried forward from the current Local Plan, they will be dealt with via the new local Plan.

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## Public Questions as specified in the Council's Procedure Rules of the Constitution

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<b>Question (G)</b>	Meeting on 05 October 2023
<b>Relevant Officer(s):</b>	Bill Bagnell / Sam Robins

**(G) Question not related to an item of business submitted to the Portfolio Holder for Highways, Housing and Sustainable Travel by John Gotelee:**

*“Regarding the recent groundwater depth survey (2022/23) carried out on the LRIE what was the minimum and maximum levels on the football pitch and outside the pumping station?”*

**The Portfolio Holder for Highways, Housing and Sustainable Travel**

Football Ground: Minimum 1.5ms, Maximum 2ms  
Thames Water Pumping Station: Consistent at 1.3ms

**The Chairman asked:** *“Do you have a supplementary question arising directly out of the answer to your original question. A supplementary should be relevant to the original question and not introduce any new material?”*

**John Gotelee asked the following supplementary question:**

*“9,000 Cubic Metres is needed to be stored on the site in a pond that can not b done if you do not have the depth. How will this problem be overcome?”*

**The Portfolio Holder for Highways, Housing and Sustainable Travel answered:**

Consultants SUDS report, as part of the Place Making Strategy, will be published shortly.

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<b>Question (H)</b>	Meeting on 05 October 2023
<b>Relevant Officer(s):</b>	Bryan Lyttle

***(H) Question not related to an item of business submitted to the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration Growth and Strategy Development by Paula Saunderson:***

*“As per my first question, the Bond Riverside Redevelopment Lands are included in the London Road Estates DEA and ,as previously announced, there WILL be a Supplementary Planning Document for everything within the Red Lines for those lands (previously known as LRIE and NEW 1), so how is that progressing, when will it be delivered, and how will it fit in with the rest of the lands within the London Road Estates DEA which are not subject to ESA Policy?”*

**The Portfolio Holder for Regeneration Growth and Strategy Development answered:**

Thank you for your question. I am responding instead of my fellow Portfolio Holder for Planning and Community Engagement because this is a matter for the Council as landowner, not the Council as Planning Authority.

As my colleague said earlier, the Local Development Schedule currently does not propose a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). However, the Council's Executive did commit to bringing forward an SPD as part of the refreshed Bond Riverside Delivery Strategy approved by the Council's Executive in June 2022. We are currently reviewing the Delivery Strategy to align with the new administration's commitment to re-introducing football at the Faraday Road Ground. Further information will be provided when the report comes forward to Executive later this year.

**The Chairman asked:** *“Do you have a supplementary question arising directly out of the answer to your original question. A supplementary should be relevant to the original question and not introduce any new material?”*

**Paula Saunderson asked the following supplementary question:**

*“Will you consider having an EAS which would include a flood risk assessment, that will include sustainable water surface drainage system within the red hatch area of the CEA”.*

**The Portfolio Holder for Regeneration Growth and Strategy Development answered:**

This will come back as part of the Bond Riverside Delivery Strategy.

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<b>Question (I)</b>	Meeting on 05 October 2023
<b>Relevant Officer(s):</b>	Jon Winstanley

**(I) Question not related to an item of business submitted to the Portfolio Holder for Highways, Housing and Sustainable Travel by Paula Saunderson:**

*“The Newbury North Brook – which was an ancient Chalk Stream but is now called a Drainage Ditch – is increasingly subject to Flood Risk & Pollution & Silt & Debris Build-up: from Upstream Surface Water Drainage Outfalls – Black Pollution, from Groundwater Saturation, and an increase in Out of Bank Flooding Incidents, Qu: Within the LPR 2022-2039 IDP -Infrastructure Development Plan – there is no funding identified for Northbrook Improvement Project(s) so how will Finance be provided to Mitigate these increasing problems, and by whom?”*

**The Portfolio Holder for Highways, Housing and Sustainable Travel answered:**

Ms Saunderson, thank you for your question. The Northbrook ditch rises to the west of Newbury Town Centre near Goldwell park and is culverted in a Thames Water surface water sewer for much of its length through the town centre and emerges from the sewer to the east the London Road Industrial Estate. The surface water catchment for this sewer covers much of Newbury Town Centre (approx. 70 hectares or 100 football pitches). Where it is an open ditch, it is classed as an ordinary watercourse and is subject to land drainage law. Maintenance and upkeep of the ditch therefore falls to the adjacent landowners, known as ‘riparian’ owners. It is likely that the build-up of silt and the increased frequency of flooding are connected, I will therefore ask colleagues in the Council’s Drainage and Flood Risk Team to visit the site and contact landowners if maintenance or clearance is needed.

**The Chairman asked:** *“Do you have a supplementary question arising directly out of the answer to your original question. A supplementary should be relevant to the original question and not introduce any new material?”*

**Paula Saunderson asked the following supplementary question:**

*“Could you contact all of the nine owners as this is rising on their land and they have no control”*

**The Portfolio Holder for Highways, Housing and Sustainable Travel answered:**

Once the assessment has been done if it is required we will do so.

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<b>Question (J)</b>	Meeting on 05 October 2023
<b>Relevant Officer(s):</b>	Jon Winstanley

**(J) Question not related to an item of business submitted to the Portfolio Holder for Highways, Housing and Sustainable Travel by Paula Saunderson:**

*“The Newbury Northbrook is now a Surface & Groundwater Drainage System with increasing Problems and Risks to Humans and Wildlife, so which Departments in WBC have a role in addressing these issues and how are they going about mitigating them please?”*

**The Portfolio Holder for Highways, Housing and Sustainable Travel answered:**

Ms Saunderson, thank you for your question. Any pollution in watercourses is obviously a concern, however this falls within the remit of the Environment Agency and not West Berkshire Council. I believe the Environment Agency are aware of this issue. With regards the flood risk, as per my previous answer, I will ask colleagues from the Council's Drainage and Flood Risk team to visit site and assess if any clearance work is needed by adjacent 'riparian' landowners.

**The Chairman asked:** *“Do you have a supplementary question arising directly out of the answer to your original question. A supplementary should be relevant to the original question and not introduce any new material?”*

**Paula Saunderson asked the following supplementary question:**

*“Will you visit the ten sites as they are individual with individual circumstances.”*

**The Portfolio Holder for Highways, Housing and Sustainable Travel answered:**

We will visit each ten sites.

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