

Public Document Pack

EAST HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a meeting of East Hertfordshire District Council will be held in the Council Chamber - County Hall, Hertford, SG13 8DQ on Wednesday 15th December, 2021 at 7.00 pm, for the purpose of transacting the business set out in the Agenda below, and you are hereby summoned to attend.

13 December 2021

James Ellis
Head of Legal and
Democratic Services

Note: Prayers will be said before the meeting commences. Those Members who do not wish to participate will be invited to enter the Chamber at their conclusion

AGENDA

6. Public Questions (Pages 5 - 6)

To receive any public questions.

7. Members' questions (Pages 7 - 10)

To receive any Members' questions.

DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

1. A Member, present at a meeting of the Authority, or any committee, sub-committee, joint committee or joint sub-committee of the Authority, with a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI) in any matter to be considered or being considered at a meeting:
 - must not participate in any discussion of the matter at the meeting;
 - must not participate in any vote taken on the matter at the meeting;
 - must disclose the interest to the meeting, whether registered or not, subject to the provisions of section 32 of the Localism Act 2011;
 - if the interest is not registered and is not the subject of a pending notification, must notify the Monitoring Officer of the interest within 28 days;
 - must leave the room while any discussion or voting takes place.
2. A DPI is an interest of a Member or their partner (which means spouse or civil partner, a person with whom they are living as husband or wife, or a person with whom they are living as if they were civil partners) within the descriptions as defined in the Localism Act 2011.
3. The Authority may grant a Member dispensation, but only in limited circumstances, to enable him/her to participate and vote on a matter in which they have a DPI.
4. It is a criminal offence to:

- fail to disclose a disclosable pecuniary interest at a meeting if it is not on the register;
- fail to notify the Monitoring Officer, within 28 days, of a DPI that is not on the register that a Member disclosed to a meeting;
- participate in any discussion or vote on a matter in which a Member has a DPI;
- knowingly or recklessly provide information that is false or misleading in notifying the Monitoring Officer of a DPI or in disclosing such interest to a meeting.

(Note: The criminal penalties available to a court are to impose a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale and disqualification from being a councillor for up to 5 years.)

Public Attendance

East Herts Council provides for public attendance at its virtual meetings and will livestream and record this meeting. The livestream will be available during the meeting on the East Herts District YouTube channel (available from YouTube and then searching for the channel) or at this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/EastHertsDistrict/live>.

If you would like further information, email democratic.services@eastherts.gov.uk or call the Council on 01279 655261 and ask to speak to Democratic Services.

Accessing the Agenda Pack

To obtain a copy of the agenda, please note the Council does not generally print agendas, as it now has a paperless policy for meetings. You can view the public version of the agenda for this meeting on the Council's website in the section relating to meetings of Committees. You can also use the ModGov app to access the agenda pack on a mobile device. The app can be downloaded from your usual app store.

Implementing paperless meetings will save East Herts Council approximately £50,000 each year in printing and distribution costs of agenda packs for Councillors and Officers.

You can use the mod.gov app to access, annotate and keep all committee paperwork on your mobile device.

Visit <https://www.eastherts.gov.uk/article/35542/Political-Structure> for details.

COUNCIL – 15 DECEMBER 2021

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

<p>Question 1</p>	<p>Beryl Wrangles to ask Cllr Graham McAndrew, Executive Member for Environmental Sustainability:</p>
<p>To ask the executive member for Environmental Sustainability when parking policy will be changed to accommodate RPZs deemed necessary for the granting of planning permission to mitigate the impact of infill development and prevent the deterioration of quality of life for existing residents? I of course am specifically interested in Tamworth Road, Hertford where I have lived for over 30 years, but would appreciate that residents in other areas of the district are potentially similarly affected.</p>	
<p>Question 2</p>	<p>Ann Forbes to ask Cllr Graham McAndrew, Executive Member for Environmental Sustainability</p>
<p>You will be aware that we had a very successful COP 26 Community Climate Gathering in Bishops Stortford over the weekend of 6/7 November; we are grateful for the Council’s financial support towards the cost of the event. We had to move to a bigger venue to accommodate the high level of interest! Over 100 people of all ages attended over the two days with the express aim of discussing positive ways to improve our quality of life in our town. We were delighted to be joined by the few councillors who attended but disappointed that there weren’t more who were interested in joining us to listen to ideas from the Bishops Stortford community about improving our town.</p> <p>Ten working groups are now established as a result of the Gathering, all under the umbrella of the Bishops Stortford Climate Group, working on a range of topics including Solar advice, Vegan offers in the town, waste and recycling, an Eco directory, Community orchard, Community vegetable growing and improved walking and cycling safety.</p>	

In what ways will EHDC further support us in this exciting, community led initiative?

COUNCIL – 15 DECEMBER 2021

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

<p>Question 1</p>	<p>Cllr Ben Crystall to ask Cllr Graham McAndrew, Executive Member for Environmental Sustainability:</p>
<p>The recent cancellation of the Hertford Hydro scheme is regrettable but given the delay and challenges that the project faced, it is understandable.</p> <p>However this does mean that EHC has now missed an opportunity to harness clean renewable energy to generate income that could be used to cross-subsidise further activities to cut the district's carbon emissions.</p> <p>Every month that goes by is a further month of opportunity lost in our urgent transition towards zero emissions, meaning we must squeeze more and more action into the diminishing time that remains.</p> <p>So will EHC use the capital originally earmarked for the hydro scheme to fund new projects that can both cut carbon emissions and generate an income to cross-subsidise further carbon reduction measures?</p>	
<p>Question 2</p>	<p>Cllr Ben Crystall to ask Cllr Graham McAndrew, Executive Member for Environmental Sustainability:</p>
<p>The rapid rise in electric vehicle numbers is already helping East Herts Council tackle problems with damaging air pollution. Despite this benefit, the district council seems to lack enthusiasm for providing residents with on-street chargers. Already we are hearing reports of residents who lack driveways running charging cables across pavements and though these cables are often hidden under rubber mats, there are reports of accidents as people trip over them. By delaying the provision of on-street chargers, we are in danger of</p>	

letting events run away from us, as more people start to resort to these measures. To help prevent that, and reassure our residents that we are acting, would EHC consider a small scale trial of lamp-post based chargers, at spots with suitable cabling and where lampposts are close to the kerb edge to avoid such trip hazards? These are already being trialled in Watford and there is no clear reason why this can't happen in East Herts too.

Question 3	Cllr Norma Symonds to ask Cllr Peter Boylan, Executive Member for Neighbourhoods:
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We are all very aware of the significant impact Covid-19 has had upon individuals and families across the world. Can the Executive Member for Neighbourhoods please explain how the pandemic has impacted on the numbers turning to the council for help with housing and how our performance compares with other councils in Hertfordshire?

Question 4	Cllr Chris Wilson to ask Cllr Graham McAndrew, Executive Member for Environmental Sustainability:
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The Demand Responsive Transport bus service, Herts Lynx, launched on the 19th September. It has, thus far, been more successful and popular than expected and represents one of the few ways rural public transport can be made more viable for our residents.

Can you please update the council with respect to its progress, and advise what measures East Herts can take to promote it further? And are there any plans to extend it to more villages and destinations in our council area?

Question 5	Cllr Chris Wilson to ask Cllr Graham McAndrew, Executive Member for Environmental Sustainability:
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Since the last lockdown, it has been clear to anyone living near or passing through Hockerill Junction in Bishop's Stortford that congestion and pollution are returning to pre-pandemic levels.

Are any figures yet available for the levels of pollution present at this

site for 2021, and do you agree it is time we had live monitoring of this site so that we could spread awareness of the issue further and encourage a change in behaviour whenever possible?

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