



Additional Supplement for:

COUNCIL – WEDNESDAY 13 MARCH 2024

Agenda No. Item

6. **Questions by Members.**

Written responses to questions raised by Members, are included within the supplement.

Members are entitled to ask a supplementary question at the meeting if desired, which must arise directly out of the original question or the response to it.

10. **Motion A: Supporting Our Farmers in West Oxfordshire – Proposed by Councillor Liam Walker, Seconded by Councillor Alex Wilson.**

The supplement contains a tabled amendment to the original motion, proposed by Councillor Rosie Pearson and seconded by Councillor Lidia Arciszewska.

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Members Questions & Responses for Council – 13 March 2024

Question	Raised By	Executive Member / Lead Officer	Response
Question 1 – Can you please update Council on the Motion passed for improving mobile signal in West Oxfordshire?	Councillor Liam Walker – Conservative, Hailey, Leafield and Minster Lovell.	Councillor Andy Graham – Leader of the Council. Phil Martin – Assistant Director, Business Services.	Gareth Elliott, Director of Policy and Communications at Mobile UK, has been invited to attend the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting on 10 April 2024 to give a presentation on the current situation regarding the mobile phone industry, coverage, capacity, and future plans to improve the overall network.
Question 2 – Can you please update Council as to the letter sent to the Cabinet Member for Highways and any further response received about junction safety improvements at Barnard Gate after the Motion to full Council was passed?	Councillor Liam Walker – Conservative, Hailey, Leafield and Minster Lovell.	Councillor Andy Graham – Leader of the Council. Giles Hughes – Chief Executive.	Officers have written to Councillor Andrew Gant (OCC Cabinet Member for Transport Management) on my behalf, to make him aware of the debate Council had regarding the A40 at Barnard Gate, and the resolutions that were agreed. I have also offered to meet with the Councillor Gant to discuss the issue. Councillor Gant has been made aware that Council meets on 13 March 2024 and has been asked for an update before the meeting.
Question 3 – Can you tell us please how many bookings have been received for the hire of the newly refurbished Council Chamber?	Councillor Michele Mead – Conservative, Carterton South.	Councillor Andy Graham – Leader of the Council.	A small officer group led by Councillor Tim Sumner, who has Executive responsibility for the Agile Working Project, has been set up to work through the logistical and other associated issues involved with formally hiring

		Phil Martin – Assistant Director, Business Services.	<p>out the newly refurbished Council Chamber, prior to the space being actively marketed.</p> <p>The Chamber has already been used successfully to host a Town and Parish Forum and Planning Appeal Hearings with the Planning Inspectorate.</p> <p>The Council has already been approached by a number of organisations who are interested in using the facility.</p>
<p>Question 4 - The Swift Brick Motion was brought to the Council months ago, and it was put to be scrutinised, however this has not gone to Scrutiny and has not returned to this chamber.</p> <p>Please could the Executive clarify why this has not gone further and if there are any other motions that have been brought to this Council and not actioned?</p>	Councillor Alex Wilson – Conservative, Kingham, Enstone and Gt. Rollright.	<p>Councillor Andy Graham – Leader of the Council.</p> <p>Andrew Brown – Business Manager, Democratic Services.</p>	<p>The Swift Brick Motion was considered by the Climate and Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 23 March 2023. The Committee agreed a recommendation to the Executive that officers include within the current review of the Local Plan specific policies in respect of Swift nesting sites, as per the motion.</p> <p>The Executive responded to the recommendation on 21 June 2023, with the following comment: “The Local Plan review will consider a range of policy options relating to nature recovery and biodiversity net gain including the use of measures such as swift bricks to encourage a reversal in their well-documented population decline.”</p>

Agenda Item 10

Amendment to Motion A: Supporting Our Farmers in West Oxfordshire, (Proposed by Councillor Rosie Pearson, Seconded by Councillor Lidia Arciszewska)

Amendment with changes shown:

- Words added are in *red text*;
- Words removed are in ~~strikethrough text~~

West Oxfordshire District Council is committed to supporting local farmers and food producers across our district. ~~Britain has some of the highest animal welfare standards in the world, and~~ WODC **will continue to** ~~should~~ engage and work in partnership with poultry, arable and livestock farmers, and **with horticulturalists and agroecologists**, to ensure they can continue to enhance our countryside, ~~and~~ contribute to our nation's food security, **protect and enhance biodiversity and improve our soils.**

Council Resolves to:

1. **Continue to w**~~Work~~ to support local farmers by **developing policies which are** ~~being~~ sympathetic to diversification opportunities and by promoting local produce during the Back British Farming campaign week;
2. **Be a voice of reason in the national conversation around diet, recognising that the National Food Strategy recommends a 30% reduction in meat consumption, but also recognising the role that non-intensive livestock can play in restoring soils and providing part of a balanced diet.** ~~Be vocal in opposing attempts to diminish the role our meat, dairy, and arable farmers play in our rural way of life;~~
3. Provide food at Council events, where practical, which is sourced from local suppliers, including **food suitable for those who have chosen a plant-based diet, as well as good quality meat, fish, dairy, fruit, and vegetables, and suitable for individual dietary requirements;**
4. **Continue to work with Good Food Oxfordshire, and implement our West Oxfordshire Food Action Plan, so that local food is affordable to all, reducing the food miles on our plate and supporting our producers;** ~~Work to raise awareness of the importance of shopping locally, wherever possible, taking advantage of home-grown, affordable, and nutritious food, especially through our farm shops, reducing the "food miles" on our plates and supporting our producers.~~
5. **Call on our MP to support the Get Fair about Farming campaign which demands regulations ensuring supermarkets stick to fair buying agreements.**

If the amendment was passed, the amended motion would read as follows:

West Oxfordshire District Council is committed to supporting local farmers and food producers across our district. WODC will continue to engage and work in partnership with poultry, arable and livestock farmers, and with horticulturalists and agroecologists, to ensure they can continue to enhance our countryside, contribute to our nation's food security, protect and enhance biodiversity and improve our soils.

Council Resolves to:

1. Continue to work to support local farmers by developing policies which are sympathetic to diversification opportunities and by promoting local produce during the Back British Farming campaign week;
2. Be a voice of reason in the national conversation around diet, recognising that the National Food Strategy recommends a 30% reduction in meat consumption, but also recognising the role that non-intensive livestock can play in restoring soils and providing part of a balanced diet;
3. Provide food at Council events, where practical, which is sourced from local suppliers, including food suitable for those who have chosen a plant-based diet, as well as good quality meat, fish, dairy, fruit, and vegetables, and suitable for individual dietary requirements;
4. Continue to work with Good Food Oxfordshire, and implement our West Oxfordshire Food Action Plan, so that local food is affordable to all, reducing the food miles on our plate and supporting our producers;
5. Call on our MP to support the Get Fair about Farming campaign which demands regulations ensuring supermarkets stick to fair buying agreements.