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Hinckley & Bosworth
Borough Council

Bill Cullen MBA (ISM), BA(Hons) MRTPI
Chief Executive

Date: 14 January 2020

To: **All Members of Council**

Copy to all other Members of the Council

(other recipients for information)

Dear Councillor,

Please see overleaf a Supplementary Agenda for the meeting of the **COUNCIL** on **TUESDAY, 14 JANUARY 2020** at **6.30 pm**.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R Owen'.

Rebecca Owen
Democratic Services Manager

COUNCIL - 14 JANUARY 2020

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

1. **APOLOGIES**

2. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 5 November.

3. **ADDITIONAL URGENT BUSINESS BY REASON OF SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES**

To be advised of any additional items of business which the Mayor decides by reason of special circumstances shall be taken as matters of urgency at this meeting. Items will be considered at the end of the agenda.

4. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

To receive verbally from Members any disclosures which they are required to make in accordance with the Council's code of conduct or in pursuance of Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992. This is in addition to the need for such disclosure to be also given when the relevant matter is reached on the Agenda.

5. **MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS**

To receive such communications as the Mayor may decide to lay before the Council.

6. **QUESTIONS**

To deal with questions under Council Procedure Rule number 14.

7. **PETITIONS**

Petition from Cllr Lay on behalf of residents of Stanton Under Bardon submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 15:

“Protect Stanton Under Bardon. STOP THE BARDON 2 EXPANSION

In May 2019, Luxembourg based Mountpark Logistics EU Sarl requested a Screening and Scoping Opinion from Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council. Mountpark are considering a large extension to the existing Bardon Distribution Park along Stanton Lane to within barely a mile of our village. If successful, the proposal will result in the extensive loss of agricultural land and wildlife habitat as well as noise and traffic disruption for the local community.

We the undersigned call upon Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council to refuse planning permission for any application to extend the existing Bardon Distribution Park to the west of the A585 onto greenfield land located within The National Forest and the parish of Stanton Under Bardon.”

8. **LEADER OF THE COUNCIL'S POSITION STATEMENT** (Pages 1 - 4)

To receive the Leader of the Council's Position Statement.

9. **MINUTES OF THE SCRUTINY COMMISSION**

To receive for information only the minutes of the Scrutiny Commission meeting held on 19 December 2019.

10. PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER

To seek endorsement of a new Public Space Protection Order.

The Scrutiny Commission gave consideration to this at its meeting on 19 December. An extract from the minutes of that meeting is attached.

11. MOTIONS RECEIVED IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 17

(a) Motion from Cllr Cartwright, seconded by Cllr Mullaney

We all know how it is practically impossible these days to do anything without being subjected to health & safety risk assessment.

Yet despite this it is still legal to sell explosives, purchase explosives (so long as you are over 18 years of age), ignite explosives just so long as they are called fireworks.

Fireworks are used by people throughout the year to mark different events. While they can bring much enjoyment to some people, they can cause significant problems and fear for other people and animals.

They can be a source of fear and distress for many animals (including our pet animals, farm livestock and wildlife). Animals affected, not only suffer psychological distress but can also cause themselves injuries – sometimes very serious ones – as they attempt to run away or hide from the noise created which has a far larger impact on their hearing than our own.

The unpredictable, loud and high intensity noises that many fireworks make can cause fear.

For example, studies have found fireworks to be the most common cause for fear responses in dogs, and it is estimated that 45 percent of dogs show signs of fear when they hear fireworks.

Many cats are also terrified of the sudden noise caused by fireworks.

With Diwali, bonfire night, October and November is a nightmare for animals and their owners, as you never know exactly when a firework is going to be set off. New Years Eve and endless reasons for parties using fireworks over the winter months. Limiting the number of events to which fireworks can be set off, will much improve the situation, as you can try to be prepared.

Debris produced by fireworks, if found on the ground, can also pose a hazard to animals, such as horses and farm livestock.

Although there is limited direct evidence, it is also likely that fireworks and their debris will cause disturbance to wildlife, and are likely to cause suffering or distress, depending on the distance from the explosive and the noise level.

The short-lived nature of firework noise can make it difficult for the police or local authority's officers to pinpoint locations and take action.

The RSPCA believes that a licensing system would help with better enforcement of the law by allowing enforcement bodies to know where licensed events are being held.

Fireworks cause harm to people.

Just one accident to any child or adult by a firework could be prevented without the use of fireworks.

Professional organised displays significantly reduce the risk of harm to humans.

Carbon impact – climate change

My other concern is the carbon that is released by fireworks and bonfires over this period and also the use of fireworks to celebrate other occasions such as New Years, concerts etc.

The world has a carbon budget. Can we really justify spending part of that budget on entertainment, which already causes a great deal of distress and have such a far ranging impact on the carbon impact and overall climate change impact.

Imagine the amount of fireworks and unnecessary carbon footprint that are wasted worldwide in a year!

The RSPCA believes there is a real need to raise awareness amongst owners of animals about fireworks phobia.

This phobia can be treated (in dogs at least, not always successfully) in the long term but owners need to prepare themselves and their pets sooner, rather than just before the fireworks are let off. There is a need to raise awareness about the impact of fireworks on animals to the wider public to encourage them to be more considerate of those with pets, horses and livestock as well as wildlife.

The RSPCA believes the law is failing as it does not prevent or sufficiently reduce the risk of fireworks causing distress, injury or anxiety to people, as well as death, injury or distress to animals.

We believe that further research is needed to properly understand the impact of noise on animals and a number of things can be done to improve the situation for animals and people by:

- Introducing a limit on the public use of fireworks on or close to specific dates and times
- Tightening restrictions on the sale of fireworks in the run up to bonfire night
- Reducing the maximum noise level of fireworks sold to the public, ensuring they are labelled accurately
- Licensing all public firework displays – and ensuring displays are better advertised to the public, especially those who have animals that could be affected.

Council resolves:

- (i) To require all public firework displays within the local authority boundaries to be advertised in advance of the event, allowing residents to take precautions for their animals and vulnerable people
- (ii) To actively promote a public awareness campaign about the impact of fireworks on animal welfare and vulnerable people – including the precautions that can be taken to mitigate risks
- (iii) To actively promote a public awareness campaign about the impact of fireworks on the declared climate emergency in Hinckley & Bosworth
- (iv) To encourage local suppliers of fireworks to stock 'quieter' fireworks for public display

- (v) To write to the UK Government urging them to introduce legislation to limit the maximum noise level of fireworks to 90dB for those sold to the public for private displays
- (vi) To lobby government to limit the number of days and events to which fireworks can be set off.

Some further information about silent fireworks is attached.

(b) Motion from Cllr Cartwright, seconded by Cllr Webber-Jones

Council resolves that Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council

- (i) Acknowledges the efforts that this Council has made and continues to make to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote renewable energy
- (ii) Recognises that councils can play a central role in creating sustainable communities, particularly through the provision of locally generated renewable electricity
- (iii) Further recognises
 - That very large financial setup and running costs involved in selling locally generated renewable electricity is a barrier to local customers resulting in it being impossible for local renewable electricity generators to do so
 - That making these financial costs proportionate to the scale of a renewable electricity supplier's operation would create significant opportunities for councils to be the providers of locally generated renewable electricity directly to local people, businesses and organisations and
 - That revenues received by councils that became local renewable energy providers could be used to help fund local greenhouse gas emissions reduction measures and to help improve local services and facilities.
- (iv) Accordingly resolves to support the Local Electricity Bill, currently supported by a cross-party group of MPs, and which, if made law, would make the setup and running costs of selling renewable electricity to local customers proportionate by establishing a Right to Local Supply; and
- (v) Further resolves to
 - Inform the local media of the Borough Councils decision
 - Write to local MPs, asking them to support the Bill, and
 - Write to the organisers of the campaign for the Bill, Power for People, expressing its support.

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Leaders Statement

January 2020

Welcome to my first Leader's Statement of 2020. Can I take the opportunity to wish you all a happy and prosperous New Year.

With Christmas now over it is a good time to reflect on the positive community events that have taken place and to look forward to the year ahead.

Christmas Events

In the lead up to Christmas it was great to see over 200 people of all ages take part in the annual town centre festive run with the "Swag Box" winning the best dressed Christmas shop window competition held by the Hinckley BID. Once again our annual Christmas lights switch on in Hinckley and Market Bosworth and many other villages were a great success and well supported. The Christmas lights switch on is one of the most popular events of the year and the turnout was tremendous. I hope everyone enjoyed the fireworks which, as ever, were magnificent. This year saw over 14,000 people attending the event in Hinckley. The family of Isla Tansey switched on the lights and were able to announce "hot off the press" the record breaking Guinness World Record for most painted stones in one place.

Other festive events in December included Carols around the Tree, (the joint BID event) Festive Fun Run, Christmas Lights Car Trail and Festive Feast, Hinckley's Christmas market. The lure of the special Christmas market encouraged record breaking numbers of Sunday shoppers to brave the cold weather and come out to shop in the town, with around 10,000 people visiting the town during the event, the second largest footfall figures for a Sunday in 2019 and second only to Hinckley BID's Motorshow in September. My thanks to the Cultural Services Team for their hard work in organising these popular annual events and for our Streetscene Services for keeping the town clean and tidy during and after the events.

Against a national context of significant high street closures, the vacancy rate in Hinckley has shown a reduction to around 6% compared to 10.3% UK average.

Tourism Awards

Feast Hinckley event received a Highly Commended award at the recent Leicestershire Tourism Awards.

Visitor Events Guides

Working alongside Hinckley's BID, the second edition of the Essential Visitors Guide has been produced and 5,000 copies will be distributed and a borough-wide visitor events guide is under preparation for the borough as a whole. Look out for the up and coming events from February half term and Easter and there will be a comprehensive range of events planned over the summer with Proms in the Park returning to Hinckley in August.

Crime and Disorder Survey

Members of the public are being asked for their views on what they think are the most important types of crime for the Community Safety Partnership to focus on in the next three years.

Residents' views, alongside actual crime and disorder data, will help to determine priorities for the partnership for the next year, while the results of the survey will also be used to inform the Crime and Community Safety Priorities for the Hinckley & Bosworth and Blaby areas until 2023.

Residents of both areas can get involved by completing the survey on line at www.hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk/communitysafetysurvey2020. Paper copies can be picked up from the Hinckley Hub and will also be available from a number of community buildings including the community houses in Earl Shilton, Barwell and Wykin. The consultation closes on 3 February 2020.

Leisure Centre

Hinckley Leisure Centre is reporting significant increase in attendees. There has been a 33% increase in footfall from the old centre to the new facility from 450,000 visitors in 2016 to over 808,000 in 2019.

Barwell SUE

Members will be aware of the recent press coverage on issues raised by LCC over their changed requirements for developer contributions. I must say I am surprised at the approach taken by the County on this matter in reporting this direct to its Cabinet and issuing a press release without proper dialogue or input by the borough council, particularly as we are the local planning authority. I understand senior officer meetings are taking place this week between HBBC and LCC with a view to securing an early meeting with the developer to resolve these new and late requests by LCC. I have committed to meet with the Leader of LCC to ensure we can help accelerate the sign off of the Agreement so that the developer can be in a position to commence delivery of the development in 2021 and deliver the comprehensive package of community infrastructure requirements like new health facilities, school improvements, affordable housing, public realm and transport enhancements.

PCC Safer Communities Awards

I am pleased to announce that the Council has been shortlisted in this year's annual PCC Safer Communities Awards and I will ask officers to update you when we have further news.

Free Parking in Hinckley

I am pleased to confirm we are currently out to consultation on the car parking orders to introduce free parking after 3pm in a number of our key town centre car parks in Hinckley. Subject to feedback received we expect to be in apposition to implement this before the end of February.

Dorothy Goodman School

Today marked the official opening of the Dorothy Goodman Secondary School in Barwell Lane, which was supported by the Mayor, local Members and some of my Executive colleagues. This multi-million pound facility is a special school for pupils aged up to 19 years old who have learning difficulties. It also hosts the very first special Cruyff Courts in the UK which is an accessible facility enabling children and young people to practice all kinds of sport and physical activities. I would also like to congratulate the Head Teacher and Trustee Board of the school for their magnificent achievement in delivering this state of the art school, which recently won an award at the prestigious Leicester Procon awards.

Financial Position

Given the almost unprecedented calling of the General Election in December it is clear that we will not be receiving our full financial settlement for the next three or four years before December this year. We are expecting a one year settlement to be received in the early part of this year. As a result this will have implications on the timing of our publication of the MTFS. We do, however, expect to be reporting and setting our annual budget as normal in February of this year.

Stuart Bray
Leader of the Council
14 January 2020

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