



Worcester
CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL

AGENDA

Date: Tuesday, 9th July, 2024

Time: 7.00 pm

Venue: The Guildhall, High Street,
Worcester WR1 2EY

COUNCIL

Information for Members of the Public

Access to the Guildhall is via the front entrance in the High Street. For evening meetings, please use the accessible entrance door on the right side of the forecourt. The nearest car park is Copenhagen Street (pay and display). The nearest bike stand for cyclists is in Copenhagen Street, opposite The Kiln.

If you are a wheelchair user or have restricted mobility, access to the Guildhall can be gained through the accessible entrance door on the forecourt. There is dedicated accessible parking at the rear (access via Copenhagen Street). Most meetings are held on the ground floor, which can be reached by using a lift.

Part I of the Agenda includes items for discussion in public. You have the right to inspect copies of Minutes and reports on this part of the Agenda as well as background documents used in the preparation of these reports. Details of the background papers appear at the foot of each report. Part II of the Agenda (if applicable) deals with items of 'Exempt Information' for which it is anticipated that the public may be excluded from the meeting and neither reports nor background papers are open to public inspection.

Please note that this is a public meeting and members of the public and press are permitted to report on the proceedings. "Reporting" includes filming, photographing, making an audio recording and providing commentary on proceedings. Any communicative method can be used to report on the proceedings, including the internet, to publish, post or share the proceedings. Accordingly, the attendance of members of the public at this meeting may be recorded and broadcast. By choosing to attend this public meeting you are deemed to have given your consent to being filmed or recorded and for any footage to be broadcast or published.

Please note the Council records and live streams many of its meetings. These recordings are published on the relevant meeting pages of the Council's website. A notice to this effect will be posted in the meeting room. If a member of the public chooses to speak at a meeting of the City Council he/she will be deemed to have given their consent to being recorded and audio being published live to the Council's website. The Chair of the meeting, can at their discretion, terminate or suspend recording, if in their opinion, continuing to do so would prejudice the proceedings of the meeting or if they consider that continued recording might infringe the rights of any individual, or breach any statutory provision.

At the start of the meeting under the item 'Public Participation' up to fifteen minutes in total is allowed for members of the public to present a petition, ask a question or comment on any matter on the Agenda. Participants need to indicate that they wish to speak by 12 noon on the last working day before the meeting by writing, telephoning or E-Mailing the officer mentioned below.

Agendas and minutes relating to all City Council Committees and Council Meetings are also available electronically, click on the option "Committee Minutes and Documents", Website Address: worchester.gov.uk

If you have any queries about this Agenda, require any details of background papers, or wish to discuss the arrangements for public participation please contact **Claire Chaplin, Democratic and Civic Services Manager, Democratic Services, Guildhall, Worcester WR1 2EY. Telephone: 01905 722005 (direct line); E-Mail Address: committeeadministration@worchester.gov.uk**

This agenda can be made available in large print, braille, on PC disk, tape or in a number of ethnic minority languages. Please contact the above-named officer for further information.

Council
Tuesday, 9 July 2024

Members of the Council:-

Chair: The Mayor

Councillor Patricia Agar (LCo)
Councillor Basharat Ali (L)
Councillor Mel Allcott (LD)
Councillor Alan Amos (C)
Councillor Jenny Barnes (LCo)
Councillor Steve Cockeram (G)
Councillor Katie Collier (G)
Councillor Zoe Cookson (L)
Councillor Hannah Cooper (G)
Councillor Andrew Cross (G)
Councillor Lynn Denham (L)
Councillor Jill Desayrah (L)
Councillor Adrian Gregson (L)
Councillor Naz Hussain (L)
Councillor Jessie Jagger (LD)
Councillor Ed Kimberley (L)
Councillor Alex Kinnersley (G)
Councillor Matthew Lamb (L)

Councillor Neil Laurenson (G)
Councillor Karen Lawrance (LD)
Councillor Karen Lewing (G)
Councillor Alex Mace (G)
Councillor Sarah Murray (LD)
Councillor Robyn Norfolk (L)
Councillor Tor Pingree (G)
Councillor Jabbar Riaz (L)
Councillor Elena Round (G)
Councillor John Rudge (LD)
Councillor Atif Sadiq (L)
Councillor Adam Scott (L)
Councillor Sue Smith (L)
Councillor Paul Sobczyk (G)
Councillor Louis Stephen (G)
Councillor Richard Udall (L)
Councillor Elaine Willmore (L)

C = Conservative G = Green L = Labour LCo = Labour and Co-operative
LD = Liberal Democrat

You are hereby summoned to attend the meeting of the Worcester City Council to be held at The Guildhall, High Street, Worcester WR1 2EY on Tuesday, 9th July, 2024 at 7.00 pm at which meeting the following business is proposed to be transacted.

AGENDA

Part 1
(ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND DECISION IN PUBLIC)

1. **Apologies for Absence**
2. **Declarations of Interest**
To receive any declarations of interest.
3. **Minutes**
Page(s): 1 - 18
Of the meetings held on 14th May 2024 to be approved and signed.
4. **Mayor's Communications**
To receive any communications the Mayor may wish to make.

5. **Public Participation**

Up to a total of fifteen minutes can be allowed, each speaker being allocated a maximum of five minutes, for members of the public to present a petition, ask a question or comment on any matter on the Agenda or within the remit of the Council in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10.

6. **Questions**

The Leader of the Council, or the Chair of any Committee or Sub-Committee, to take any questions that may be submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 9.

7. **Notice of Motion**

To consider any Notices of Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 8.

Worcestershire County Cricket Club

Given the recent unprecedented record volume of flooding at New Road, and the increasing regularity of flooding, the Board of Worcestershire County Cricket Club understands the very real issues regarding the sustainability of the Club.

This Council must explore every option, and lobby central government for funding to address this issue to ensure the long-term future of Worcestershire County Cricket Club. Council believes keeping WCCC at New Road is vital for the future of a successful city.

This Council resolves to:

- a. Note with grave concern the statement from the Board of Worcestershire County Cricket Club (WCCC) on 15th April 2024.
- b. Instruct the Managing Director to continue working with the board of WCCC and the Chief Executive of Worcestershire Council to ensure the vital long-term sustainability of WCCC in the City of Worcester.
- c. Instruct the Managing Director to write our newly elected MP after the General Election expressing this Council's wishes for this matter to be raised in Parliament.
- d. Instruct the Managing Director to write to the Chief Executive of The Environment Agency asking for their support in exploring flood management options to alleviate flooding in the club and the surrounding areas.

Proposed By: Councillor Rudge

Powick Bridge

Council is concerned about the future of the historic Powick Bridge, which was the location of both the first and last battle of the English Civil War. It's of significant national and local historical importance and its continued closure after a partial collapse is very disturbing. The collapsed part of the bridge is located in Malvern Hills District but it is right on the boundary with Worcester and this whole site is prized in Worcester as part of our cultural heritage.

Council requests the Managing Director to organise a coalition of partners, inviting the local councillors, Malvern Hills District Council, the County Council,

The Environment Agency, local landowners, The Battle of Worcester Society, Historic England, local Members of Parliament and any other relevant body or individual, to come together to discuss the future of the bridge, to explore how it can be restored and how the area can become a visitor attraction for future generations.

Council calls upon the Managing Director to explore ways in which the City Council can co-ordinate and support the restoration and to explore the future use of the site and to bring a report back to the Place and Economic Development Committee.

Proposed By: Councillors Udall, Smith, Barnes and Amos

Astro Turf

The European Union has enacted a ban on the sale of products that contain intentionally added microplastics, as well as those that release microplastics over time, including crumb rubber artificial turf infill. Leading scientists are advocating for similar regulations to be adopted worldwide. They stress the importance of such measures to address the growing problem of microplastic pollution.

According to the European Chemicals Agency, each year around 42 000 tonnes of microplastics end up in the environment when products containing them are used. The largest single source of pollution is the granular infill material used on artificial turf pitches, with releases of up to 16 000 tonnes. ¹

The European ban is a significant step forward as it is one of the first major regulations to specifically target artificial turf infill, a substantial source of microplastic pollution. Crumb rubber artificial turf infill, which is made from shredded tires, contains hundreds of potentially harmful chemicals. Alternatives such as natural coconut fibre and sand are suggested as safer replacements.

We know that there are natural, biodegradable materials that can be used instead of synthetic microplastic to provide the same quality of play. As more communities choose to find alternatives to rubber crumb, a growing range of alternative infills are coming on the market.

However, choosing an infill can be tricky as each material has different advantages and disadvantages. Alternative organic infills can be more expensive per tonne than rubber from old tyres, although you may be able to use less of it, meaning the total cost might actually be lower. Some alternative infills marketed as 'environmentally friendly' are still microplastics, or blends between organic and synthetic materials, that won't biodegrade in the environment.

The UK has passed legislation addressing microplastics, these laws have largely been limited to personal care products, which only account for a small proportion microplastic pollution.

In light of the recent installation of an artificial pitch at Perdiswell Leisure Centre, we ask the Council to take steps to ensure future projects have considered all alternatives.

¹ <https://echa.europa.eu/hot-topics/microplastics>

This Council resolves to:

- a) Refer the question of artificial Astro turf infill to the Environment Committee asking for a report which identifies the current and emerging best practice elsewhere, offering practical and affordable alternatives to artificial turf infill with the view of discouraging its use in Worcester in future projects.
- b) Require that any future Council project which proposes the use of artificial Astro turf to seek approval from the Environment Committee and, as part of this process, to consider an environmental impact assessment and a cost benefit of analysis on up-to-date alternatives to artificial turf infill.

Proposed By: Councillor Lawrance

8. **Report from the Relevant Committee on Matters which are Referred to Council for Decision**

To consider motions to adopt reports on matters which by law or in accordance with the Constitution are referred to Council.

8.1 Referral Report from Policy and Resources Committee 21st May 2024 - Astwood Crematorium - Replacement of Cremators

Page(s): 19 - 44

Ward(s): St. Stephen

Contact Officer: Lloyd Griffiths, Corporate Director, Operations, Homes and Communities
Tel: 01905 722314

That the Council agrees an adjustment to the Capital Programme of up to £5,500,000 (as set out at Appendix 2 to the Policy and Resources Committee report) to cover the full costs of electric cremator replacement, and necessary fees and surveys to progress the project to the end of RIBA Stage 3.

8.2 Referral Report from Licensing and Environmental Health Committee 22nd May 2024 - Licensing Act 2003 - Review of Statement of Licensing Policy

Page(s): 45 - 106

Ward(s): All Wards

Contact Officer: Niall McMenamin, Senior Practitioner - Licensing
Tel: 01905 822799

That the Council approves the revised Statement of Licensing Policy 2024–2029.

9. **Terms of Reference for Review of the Council's Governance Arrangements**

Page(s): 107 - 130

Ward(s): All Wards

Contact Officer: Sian Stroud, Corporate Director, Planning and Governance
Tel: 01905 722017

That the Council agrees to the terms of reference for the Governance Review, set out in Appendix 1.

10. **Productivity Plan**

Page(s): 131 - 150

Ward(s): All Wards

Contact Officer: Shane Flynn, Corporate Director, Finance and Resources
Tel: 01905 722536

That the Council approves the Productivity Plan for submission to DLUHC.

11. **Report of Member Champion for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion**

Page(s): 151 - 156

To receive the report of the Member Champion for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion.

12. **Appointment of Member Champions**

Page(s): 157 - 162

Ward(s): All Wards

Contact Officer: Sian Stroud, Corporate Director, Planning and Governance
Tel: 01905 722017

That the Council agrees the appointment of Member Champions for:

- Armed Forces
- Heritage
- Children and Young People
- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion
- Personal Safety and Civility.

13. **Report from the Leader of the Council on Any Matters Which They Are of the Opinion Require Urgent Consideration by the Council**

To receive a report, if necessary.

14. **Any Exempt Issues**

To consider any exempt matters which might arise.

David Blake
Managing Director
Guildhall
Worcester WR1 2EY
Date: 1st July 2024