Full Council Agenda

Tuesday 1st October 2024 7.00 – 9.30pm

Council Chamber, Brooke House

AGENDA

FC65/24 7PM PRESENTATION FROM AUBERGINE

To receive a presentation from Mark from Aubergine to present his ideas for the BTC website

FC66/24 ATTENDANCE

To receive apologies

FC67/24 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

2.1 To receive declarations of interest from Councillors on items on the agenda

2.2 To receive written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests (if any)

2.3 To grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate

FC68/24 MINUTES

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 25th June 2024

FC69/24 MATTER ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

To discuss matters arising from the minutes not discussed elsewhere on the agenda

- Biodiversity Audit Reports
- Following the submission of the AGAR and Internal Auditor's Report, the External Auditor's Report is awaited
- Financial Regulations and Standing Orders
- Local Council Award Scheme

FC70/24 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

To receive an update from the Town Mayor

FC71/24 PLANNING COMMITTEE

Committee Chair to present the minutes of the meetings for approval on the following dates:

- 2nd July 2024
- 23rd July 2024
- 13th August 2024
- 3rd September 2024
- 23rd September 2024

FC72/24 ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Committee Chair to present the minutes of the meetings for approval on the following dates:

- 10th September 2024

- Request to remove Councillor Jeff Gillbe from the Committee
- To note the Jocks Lane Consultation has been reviewed and the play equipment will be ordered following 62% positive feedback

FC73/24 STRATEGY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Committee Chair to present the minutes of the meetings for approval on the following dates:

- 17th September 2024

- Bracknell History Working Group meetings have commenced
- Budget Monitoring Working Group meeting to be booked in November via teams
- The Strategic Plan will be reviewed along with policies
- To discuss organising an event to celebrate 70 years of Bracknell Town Council (Working Group)

FC74/24 STAFFING COMMITTEE

Committee Chair to present the minutes of the meetings for approval from the following dates:

- 10th September 2024

- Committee recommends approval of appointing HR support as detailed in the minutes

FC75/24 COMMITTEE LIST 2024-25

To approve the updated Committee List as attached

FC76/24 BROOKE HOUSE OFFICE LEASE

The item was requested by Environmental Services and Strategy and Finance Committees to discuss saving funds for the construction of an office as the Brooke House lease ends in 18 years.

- Councillors recommended researching the possibility of building an office on The Elms car park site
- To set up a Working Group to focus on this project

FC77/24 WEBSITE

To discuss the website redesign project following the presentation from Aubergine

FC78/24 CIL REPORT

- To note the current CIL report
- Councillors to send new CIL funding ideas to the Town Clerk

FC79/24 BUS SAFETY

To receive a presentation from Councillor Donna Sidebotham

Bus Safety

I have been reading a book that has highlighted some excellent points about safety on buses. It also highlighted some solutions and these solutions can also increase safety for non bus users too.

I believe that fear of buses and bus stops, particularly at night is a main reason why bus use is low and lower at night. The data shows that women are the biggest bus users, but at night that changes to men, with over all bus use lower. If you ask a woman why bus use is low at night, they will answer without hesitation "fear". I know this because since coming across this data, I have asked several woman and the speed of that answer is in itself scary.

As we are trying to put climate at the top of the agenda, a key factor is getting people on public transport. Keeping the young on buses and avoiding them changing to cars at their earliest opportunity, will increase bus use.

I would like to propose the following is trialled in BTC.

Suggestions

1. Panic buttons at every bus stop

    a. This doesn't need to go through to the police but it can have a single central controller that listens and can communicate.

    b. A suggestion is to see if this could be integrated with local care groups as they use panic alarm systems for elderly already. This could be a short term trial option.

        i. Yes this can be abused but I think its unacceptable to put the abuse of the few above the safety of the masses. We know that sexual abuse and voyeurism can be high and the numbers are often not reported due to people believing nothing will be done so I would argue strongly that the safety increase will far outweigh the odd abuse.

        ii. Further safety would be found in that other members of public that might be in trouble, maybe phone stolen etc, would also know they can simply get to a bus stop to make that alert call.

            1. This is even more pertinent as we don't have phone boxes anymore and if you have been mugged then speaking to a stranger to ask for help, is likely to be scary

2. Staggered stops

    a. This means that in the evenings, when less busy, someone can ask to be dropped a little sooner than the stop or a little later.

This would mean they are closer to their destination and therefore safety

3. Increased lighting at bus stops

   1. The new LED lights are far less bright so I would argue that we are only thinking of needing to go back to brighter options at the bus stops so it can not be considered too bright for nearby houses as they were fine before the enforced LED change

4. Open/see through bus stops

   a. I think all in Bracknell are like this but mentioning it incase

All of the above will increase safety and faith in the bus service. Cost may well be involved but I think this would be a leader in safety measures and there could be a net gain if crime is reduced and bus use is increased.

This has been done in other countries, hence how I heard about these solutions, and in them, the bus use has increased.

I would also like to ask that all councillors do go and use a bus at night by themselves to explore how it makes them feel. Please acknowledge that not all routes are equal in safety, particularly if walking to one requires use of an underpass or wooded path. And please do explore that part of that bus journey is the walking to and from it and not getting a lift there. There are already councillors that do use the buses and the safety of all the community is paramount.

This may also increase safety if the bus station is removed and dispersed into smaller lonely stops.

FC80/24 BIN QR CODES

To receive a presentation from Councillor Donna Sidebotham regarding QR codes on bins

FC81/24 BRACKNELL TOWN COUNCIL RISK ASSESSMENT MATRIX

Full Council is asked to approve the attached risk assessment matrix, this has been scrutinised by the Strategy and Finance Committee

FC82/24 RECEIVED INCOME TRANSACTIONS

To note received income transactions as reviewed by the Strategy and Finance Committee for the period 1st May 2024 to 31st July 2024 inclusive (available for inspection via the Town Clerk)

FC83/24 PAID EXPENDITURE TRANSACTIONS

To authorise the Mayor to sign the paid expenditure transactions as reviewed by the Strategy and Finance Committee for the period 1st May 2024 to 31st July 2024 inclusive (available for inspection via the Town Clerk)