

Lewes District Council



Council Agenda

17 October 2012

Lewes House, Lewes
5 October 2012

Jenny Rowlands
Chief Executive

Lewes District Council



Council Meeting

Councillors are kindly requested to switch off their mobile 'phones and other mobile devices prior to the commencement of the meeting.

Note: At the commencement of the meeting the Chair will ask for a period of silence to enable councillors to focus their thoughts on the meeting or to pray silently.

17 October 2012

To: The Members of the Council

You are hereby summoned to attend the meeting of **the Council** on **17 October 2012** at **14:30** in **The Chamber, Pelham House, St Andrew's Lane, Lewes** when it is proposed to transact the following business:

1 Minutes

To confirm and sign the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council dated 19 July 2012 (copy previously circulated).

2 Apologies for Absence

3 Disclosure by councillors of personal interests in matters on the agenda, the nature of any interest and whether the councillor regards the interest as prejudicial under the terms of the Code of Conduct

4 Announcements

To receive any announcements from the Chair of the Council, Leader of the Council, Members of the Cabinet or the Chief Executive.

A list of the Chair of the Council's engagements since the Meeting of the Council on 19 July 2012 is enclosed.

Attached Documents:

[Announcements - Chair's Engagements](#)

5 Questions from Members of the Public

To deal with questions which members of the public may wish to put to members of the Cabinet in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10 (if any).

6 Petitions

To receive petitions from councillors or members of the public in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12 (if any).

7 Written Questions from Councillors

To deal with written questions which councillors may wish to put to the Chair of the Council, a Lead Councillor on the Cabinet or the Chair of any committee or sub-committee in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11 (if any).

8 Questions to the Leader of the Council

To deal with questions (if any) which councillors may wish to put to the Leader of the Council. It will be at the Leader's discretion to re-direct questions to relevant Members of the Cabinet.

A councillor wishing to raise a question must notify the Chair of the Council of the text of the question prior to the commencement of the meeting.

(NB This item is being conducted on a trial basis and will be limited to a maximum of 5 questions, with no more than 1 question being asked per councillor. If a question requires a detailed or technical response, the Leader may decide that a written response is more appropriate).

9 Ward Issues

To deal with ward issues which councillors wish to raise. A councillor wishing to raise a ward issue must notify the Chair of the Council prior to the commencement of the meeting in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11.8 (if any).

10 Urgent Decisions taken by the Cabinet or Cabinet Members

In accordance with Scrutiny Procedure Rule 17, to receive details of any urgent decisions taken by the Cabinet or Cabinet Members since the Meeting of the Council on 19 July 2012.

11 Recommendations from Cabinet

To consider the Recommendations from the meeting of the Cabinet held on

1 October 2012 (Minute Extract to be circulated) (and to receive questions and answers on those Recommendations) and to make resolutions thereon.

Attached Documents:

[Recommendations from Cabinet meeting held on 1 October 2012](#)

12 Recommendations from the Licensing Committee

To consider the Recommendations from the meeting of the Licensing Committee held on 28 August 2012 (Minute Extract herewith) (and to receive questions and answers on those Recommendations) and to make resolutions thereon.

Attached Documents:

[Recommendations from the Licensing Committee - Minute Extract and associated Report](#)

[Recommendations from the Licensing Committee - Appendix to associated Report](#)

13 Notices of Motion

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 13 Councillor Dean has submitted the following Notice of Motion:

“Lewes is the County Town of East Sussex, it houses a number of buildings of historic interest and a high street that still provides tourists and other visitors as well as residents with a variety of independent retailers. It is also in the heart of a predominantly rural area with uneven provision for public transport. Despite the very real concerns about encouraging more traffic through the town there is a need to review existing parking provision and make the very best use of what we have, as well as to provide a modest increase in available car parking spaces.

The issue of parking is an emotive issue, not only in this town, however complaints about the cost and condition of what is seen as inadequate parking facilities that are in some cases unsignposted and hidden from view are often voiced.

The free car parks offered by major supermarket have the inadvertent effect of funnelling visitors to the town to their car parks, given that they are the most obvious, and in many cases, most well kept car parks. This could be seen to unfairly disadvantage the independent retailers/businesses in the high street who rely on public car parks to service their customers. Some of

the public car parks have potholed surfaces, are unlit, have poor surfaces, lack of bay marking and inadequate or non-existent overhead lighting. Customers are still charged for parking. Far from offering a welcome and much-needed facility in the town, these car parks are unwelcoming and consequently detrimental to both local business and local needs.

In 2008 a timely and prudent commission by the previous administration was made for a report from Mott MacDonald to review the existing stock of off-street parking by the previous administration. Two stakeholder consultation events and consultations in Sept. and November 2008 and a briefing session on the progress of the study were carried out in February 2010. The final report from Mott MacDonald was received in August 2010.

A number of different resolutions to the off-street parking problems were offered. Overall, the consultants recommended a strategy of "slight expansion" to current off-street parking provision by 10% from 1250 to 1375 spaces. This report took into account the environmental impact of the additional parking provision.

Since that report was produced, Lewes's existing off-street parking provision has unfortunately decreased due to the development of the Police Station and the Aldi Supermarket, and the recommendation to increase parking from the 2010 level was not acted upon. So the number of off-street car parking spaces is not only inadequate in terms of the 2010 report when there were two areas of car parking available then that now no longer exist, it is doubly inadequate due to both the loss of existing spaces and the lack of additional car parking spaces that the report recommended at the time.

The motion I would like to put to the council for its consideration is that;

- a. In addition to acting upon the advice given by Mott MacDonald in 2010 to increase the existing parking provision by 10%, a comprehensive review of the fee structure and the current condition of off-street car parks is

undertaken, with a view to standardizing the fee structure and costing necessary improvements to off street car parks, including planting around the car parks, (particularly those that are in scenic parts on the town) and overhead lighting.

b. A review of the fees and consequent standardization of the fee structure could result in a higher return without increasing the overall cost to users and would go some way toward paying for the necessary improvements to local car parking facilities. In addition, clarification of the fee structure should include easier methods of payment, (currently the lack of change for meters has meant that local businesses are reluctant to part with change and even local banks have been known to refuse to provide change) such as a card.

c. That provision for additional parking space be considered and specifically, the possibility of the council leasing the car park from the owner of the magistrates court currently for sale on a short/long term, in a similar manner to the arrangement that was made to lease the car park on the Aldi site, until another suitable long term site can be found and the off street parking be increased up to an extra 1,000 car parking spaces.

d. That an electric charge point be situated in one of the car parks.

e. That research into the possibility of all car parks in Lewes being assigned a postcode (or nearest possible) so that anyone visiting Lewes could locate with ease on a GPS or mobile phone the location of those car parks. (The Maltings and Cockshut Lane for example).

f. That a clear diagrammatic map showing the location and code of all car parks be put on a separate page of the District Councils website, with a key, illustrating the tariffs and fines.

g. That we ask that the County place effective, informative and decorative signs indicating the presence of all car parks to be erected in clearly visible locations.

h. That the percentage of the fees and fines charged from car parking that goes toward local transport improvements be clarified and that it is seen to be put to this use.

i. That additional funding to improve the car parking surfaces where necessary, mark out bays, provide effective signage, plant and tidy up the surrounding areas etc. be sought from the sustainable transport grant, given that efficient use of existing as well as additional car parking off the high street would contribute greatly to an improvement to air quality within the town and ease congestion.

j. That the possibility of a competition to design a banner to be inserted above all these signs be considered that will convey the character and beauty of the town and its environment as well as a welcome to visitors to the largest town in any national park in the country.

k. That Lewes District Council use their good officers to ask ESCC to ask Biffa not to collect waste at lunchtime outside Bills restaurant. The stench of rotting vegetation and waste products being thrown into the back of the waste truck within feet of people eating seems uncivilized if not unhygienic. That is general collections and deliveries to business in the Cliffe area by large trucks be requested to take place either before 9.00am or after 5.00pm.”

14 Scrutiny at Lewes District Council – Annual Report 2011/2012

To consider the Report of the Chair of the Scrutiny Committee,
Councillor S Osborne.

Attached Documents:

[Scrutiny at Lewes District Council – Annual Report 2011/2012](#)

15 Timing of Full Council and Cabinet Meetings From 2013/2014

To consider the Report of the Corporate Head – Legal and Democratic Services.

Attached Documents:

[Timing of Full Council and Cabinet Meetings From 2013/2014](#)

16 Reporting Back on Meetings of Outside Bodies

To receive feedback from the Council’s representatives who serve on outside bodies in respect of meetings they have attended (if any). A councillor wishing to provide feedback must notify the Chair of the Council prior to the commencement of the meeting.

Jenny Rowlands
Chief Executive

For further information about items appearing on this Agenda, please contact Catherine Knight at Lewes House, 32 High Street, Lewes, East Sussex, BN7 2LX. Telephone: 01273 484118.