



Cabinet agenda

Date: Tuesday 11 October 2022

Time: 10.00 am

Venue: The Oculus, Buckinghamshire Council, Gatehouse Road, Aylesbury HP19 8FF

Membership:

M Tett (Leader), Cllr A Macpherson (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing), G Williams (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Environment), S Bowles (Cabinet Member for Communities), S Broadbent (Cabinet Member for Transport), J Chilver (Cabinet Member for Accessible Housing and Resources), A Cranmer (Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services), C Harriss (Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure), P Strachan (Cabinet Member for Planning and Regeneration) and M Winn (Cabinet Member for Homelessness and Regulatory Services)

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5 Question Time
Question from Councillor Stuart Wilson to Councillor Peter Strachan,
Cabinet Member for Planning and Regeneration
Little Marlow Lakes Country Park

"I understand from the Head of Planning that all Cabinet Members have received my detailed response to the draft report on Little Marlow Lakes Country Park, so I do not need to repeat the many failings and misleading statements of the report now in front of you. It is important that Cabinet Members understand the powers of the Countryside Act 1968 sections 6 and 7, as well as the obligations of Buckinghamshire Council in implementing the full intent of Policy RUR4 of the Wycombe Local Plan and the prior 2002 Supplementary Planning Guidance.

Buckinghamshire Council has a Corporate Plan that, at its very heart, it is to be *Customer-Focused*. The delivery of Little Marlow Lakes Country Park in full as envisaged by the Wycombe Local Plan is not only a planning obligation, but also a moral contract with all residents and our natural environment in the south-west of the county. It provides extensive recreational space to offset housing development in the area

and protects this beautiful Green Belt setting between the Thames and AONB land. Natural England said to me in an email, *"We would love to secure the future of Little Marlow as a Country Park"*. Residents and other stakeholders were promised the whole area, not a fraction. This report may present a convenient and lowest cost solution for the Council, but it misses the expectations of our communities by a country mile. It is Council-Focused, not Customer-Focused.

What communication has the Council had with all stakeholders, including landowners and prospective developers, as well as all local bodies and representatives regarding the provision of Little Marlow Lakes Country Park in compiling this report; and has the Council completed a thorough investigation of all options with all such stakeholders, or has it rather relied on supposition and assumptions about deliverability and cost without detailed consultation; and how can the opportunity for Little Marlow Lakes Country Park be quickly re-framed in detailed consultation with all such stakeholders following a decision to defer today so that it truly delivers in a customer-centred manner for residents in line with national and local planning policy, all the powers of the Countryside Act 1968 and the extensive funding already identified?"

**Question from Councillor David Watson to Councillor Peter Strachan,
Cabinet Member for Planning and Regeneration
Little Marlow Lakes Country Park**

"To my mind the complexity of this report raises as many questions as it attempts to answer. It includes a range of misleading statements and inaccuracies and some confusing use of terminology, such as the term "designation". That term does not appear in the relevant sections of the 1968 Act. The paper makes it clear that there are a number of potential options for moving forward. The practicalities of those options need further detailed consideration by a suitably constituted Project Board. A second legal opinion should then be sought to ensure the principal options are compatible with the 1968 Act.

Can the Cabinet therefore please confirm that any further action to formalise the provision of the Country Park, in accordance with the 1968 Act, is delayed until a suitably constituted Project Board has considered in detail a number of the most practical options and reported back to the Cabinet that their practicability has been confirmed by Counsel's opinion as being compatible with the 1968 Act ?

It is assumed that the scope and requirements of Local Plan Policy RUR4 will remain extant until such time as they may be changed following a formal Local Plan review process."

**Written Question from Councillor Robin Stuchbury to Councillor Peter Strachan, Cabinet Member for Planning and Regeneration
West End Farm, Brackley, Buckingham**

Further to my written question to the Cabinet meeting on 13 September, 2021, can the Cabinet Member please provide an update on this matter? Is the Council or partners any closer to discovering who and how these people came to be buried on the outskirts of the town of Buckingham. I look forward to your verbal and written response on the progress made on this important archaeological site that will enable the facts to be known and the history to be understood.

If you would like to attend a meeting, but need extra help to do so, for example because of a disability, please contact us as early as possible, so that we can try to put the right support in place.

For further information please contact: Ian Hunt on 01296 382343, email democracy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk.

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