



Walsall Council

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Council of the Metropolitan Borough of Walsall to be held on **MONDAY the 8TH day of NOVEMBER 2021 at 6.00 p.m.** at the Town Hall, Walsall.

Public access via: <https://youtu.be/lxYOWzI4tMY>

Dated this 29th day of October 2021.

Yours sincerely,

Chief Executive.

The business to be transacted is as follows:

1. To elect a person to preside if the Mayor and Deputy Mayor are not present.
2. Apologies.
3. To approve as a correct record and sign the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 20th September, 2021 (**pages 5 to 16**)
4. Declarations of interest.
5. **Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985 (as amended):**
To agree that the public be excluded from the private session during consideration of the agenda items indicated for the reasons shown on the agenda.
6. Mayor's announcements.

7. Appointment of Deputy Mayor for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2021/2022.
8. To receive any petitions
9. To answer any questions in accordance with Council procedure rules:
 - (a) From the public: None.
 - (b) From members of the Council:

Cllr Worrall:-

In order for Walsall Council to celebrate the Commonwealth Games and provide lasting beneficial legacy to the citizens of Walsall, I and residents that are cyclists and have disabilities are proposing a fully accessible cycling and walking link between Walsall Gallery Square via the Arboretum to the Commonwealth Games site at Perry Barr, to be named "The Commonwealth Way."

We have researched the route in detail: it avoids the dangers and pollution of busy main roads, using instead properly-surfaced canals towpaths and park and green space paths, linked as necessary via lesser-used roads, to provide a healthy, safe, relatively low-cost, link to and from the Games. Details will be circulated to each member of Council, and appropriate Council officers, before the Full Council meeting on 8 November

We have also researched similarly accessible, low-cost, feeder links from Darlaston, Willenhall, Bloxwich and Pelsall into the proposed common route to the Games site.

May I ask the portfolio holders for Regeneration, and Clean & Green: Cllrs. Andrew and Butler, respectively, to say whether they might be minded to support the principle of creating such a commemorative link and, if they do, to ask officers to evaluate options and a timetable for creating it, perhaps using our proposals as a starting point, and linking as appropriate with partners such as our neighbouring authorities at Birmingham and Sandwell and the Canal & River Trust as a major player?

Cllr Smith:-

Given that at the Council Meeting of 20/9/21, this Council voted unanimously to pass the following Notice of Motion:

"This Council notes the widespread public concern, bordering on anger by many residents across the Borough, at what is seen as a deterioration in the services of many GP Practices/Health Centres; Concerns about:

- Difficulty getting through on the phone to many of them.
- Difficulty getting a doctor's appointment within a reasonable time, especially a face to face appointment.

- Extra pressure put on A&E as a result of many patients being unable to obtain satisfactory responses from their GP Practices/Health centres, thus feeling the only alternatives being A&E or the Urgent Care Walk-in Centre, where patients could and often do, have a wait of several hours before being treated.
- Particular problems around inequality that the shift away from face to face meetings and towards more phone appointments and online appointments pose, especially for patients who may be profoundly deaf, unable to speak, have language barrier issues, be visually impaired, have serious mental health issues, have learning difficulties and those without the appropriate skills and/or access to computers and the internet.

and consequently this Council resolves to use the maximum influence that it has to engage with the appropriate organisations and bodies including its own Health and Well Being Board, Healthwatch Walsall, Walsall's Members of Parliament and the Department of Health and Social Care, in order to a) draw attention to this concern and b) call for a massive improvement in what is perceived by many to be an deteriorating and unacceptable service for so many."

Can you tell me, this Council and the public what action has been taken since then by Council Officers to act on this Resolution and in particular, which bodies/organisations/individuals have been contacted, and what responses have been forthcoming as a result?

10. **Portfolio holder briefings.** To receive a 5 minute presentation from the following portfolios:

- (a) Education and Skills – Councillor Towe (**pages 17 – 25**)
- (b) Clean and Green – Councillor Butler (**to follow**)

(Note: A member of the Council may ask the portfolio holder any question and another associated question without notice upon each report. Questioning by members is limited to 10 minutes for each report presented.)

11. To consider the following motion, notice of which has been duly given by **Councillors A. Nawaz, K. Hussain, N. Gultasib, R. Worrall, I. Robertson, S. Nasreen, S. Ditta and H. Bashir.**

This Council accepts and adopts in full, with all examples therein, the All Party Parliamentary Group on British Muslims' definition of Islamophobia, which is:-

'Islamophobia is rooted in racism and is a type of racism that targets expressions of Muslimness or perceived Muslimness'

And further resolves to act and combat robustly all forms of Islamophobia through its internal and external policies.

12. To consider the following motion, notice of which has been duly given by **Councillors Nawaz and Robertson.**

“Council recognises the importance, to all communities and countries, of the Glasgow COP26 conference where Countries are meeting to agree a way forward to combat climate change.

The Council wishes to develop local measures that could be put into place to contribute to this agenda here in Walsall and resolves to establish a cross party working group to engage with a wide range of partners both in the public, private and voluntary sectors to develop a set of recommendations as to how we could make changes to enable and promote a green agenda here in Walsall.”

13. To consider the following motion, notice of which has been duly given by **Councillors Nawaz and K. Hussain.**

“This Council regrets the decision taken to cease the £20 uplift on Universal Credit and acknowledges many Walsall families will be detrimentally impacted upon by this decision.

This Council recognises the cumulative impact of rising utility bills, rising inflation, increase in transport costs, increase in fuel cost and many other rises that have added to the cost of living for our residents and have pushed many into financial hardship facing choices of buying food to feed their children or keeping them warm.

This Council resolves to write to the three Walsall MP’s asking them to publically acknowledge the above and to publically call for the reversal of the decision to cease the £20 UE uplift and to write to the appropriate minister to inform him / her of the impact on our most vulnerable families.”