



# 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 18TH day of SEPTEMBER, 2017 at 6.00 p.m.** at the Council House, Walsall.

Dated this 8th day of September, 2017.

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 correct records and sign the minutes of the meetings of the Council held on 10th July and 7th August 2017.
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. To receive any petitions.

8. To answer any questions in accordance with Council procedure rules:

(a) From the public:

**Mr. P.E. Smith – Brown bin service**

“Given that most sensible and rational people would consider it economic and political madness to try to remove the popular garden waste Brown Bin service, presently paid for by Council tax contributions, from 94,000 households, resulting in a situation where up to 80% of the 14,000 tons garden waste collected annually (11,200 tons) could well remain uncollected if charges are introduced, are you prepared to admit publicly that this was never a really serious proposition and that Cabinet is likely to “bin” this hare-brained proposal, using the so called “consultation” exercise and the old chestnut “listening to the people” as justification for doing so?”

(b) From members of the Council:

**Councillor Bird - Grass cutting and Lyme disease:**

‘Will the Portfolio Holder for Clean and Green please advise the members of this Council what risk assessment has been conducted to limit the amount of tics in the long grass that is now the policy of the current Administration to remain uncut. Can the Portfolio Holder also advise us if any consultations were taken with Public Health with regard to any increase in Lymes disease that could occur by increasing the habitat for these dangerous insects’.

9. **Annual Scrutiny report 2016/17.** Report reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting.

10. **Portfolio holder briefings.** To receive 5 minute presentations from the following portfolio holders:

- Regeneration
- Social care

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

11. **Appointments to outside bodies and charities:**

(a) **Visionary Investment Enhancing Walsall Ltd (VIEW) Board: Appointment of members.** Report reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting.

- (b) **Blanch Woollaston Charity.** To report that the term office of Councillors Harrison and Hicken has expired. To appoint two trustees for a period of 3 years expiring on 13th September 2020.

12. To consider the following motion, notice of which has been duly given by **Councillors Jeavons, Jones, Chambers, Ward, D. Coughlan and Shires:**

This council recognises the concerns of Walsall residents in relation to crime and the fear of crime. This council expresses concern at recent crimes and notes the recent attack on a “good Samaritan, with a brick” in Darlaston, thefts from a disabled centre in Goscote, arson in relation to Pelsall Villa football club and particularly in relation to recent crimes in the Aldridge area, where there have been three crimes at banking premises and a violent stabbing, resulting in the sad death of resident, Mr James Brindley.

This council notes that:

- There has been a recorded increase in crime, particularly violent crime across the West Midlands within the last year
- That in the calendar year there was a 2% decrease in the number of officers available to West Midlands Police and a decrease in numbers by 2000 officers since 2010, following a £140m budget cut from central govt
- That budget cuts in terms of revenue support grant have hampered the ability of Walsall MBC to deploy CCTV to assist the police

This council resolves to:

- Write to the Home Secretary and the Secretary of State for Local government, expressing its concerns with regard to austerity measures and their effects on community safety
- Invite our three elected MP’s to join this campaign, by asking them to also write to the government on this issue
- Invite our MP’s to campaign against austerity, which affects the cohesiveness of our local communities.