



Walsall Council

Dear Councillor,

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Council of the Metropolitan Borough of Walsall to be held on **MONDAY the THIRD day of JULY, 2006, at 6.00 p.m.** at the Council House, Walsall.

Dated this 22nd day of June, 2006.

Yours sincerely,

Chief Executive.

The business to be transacted is as follows:-

1. Apologies.
2. To approve as a correct records and sign the minutes of the meetings of the Council held on 22nd and 24th May 2006.
3. Declarations of interest.
4. Mayor's announcements.
5. To receive any petitions.
6. To answer any questions in accordance with Council Procedure Rules:-
 - (a) From the public.
 - (b) From members of the Council.

7. To confirm the following recommendation of the **Cabinet**:

That the Scrutiny performance review improvement plan be approved.

(Note: A report relating to this recommendation is reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting.)

8. Review of Council Constitution - Scrutiny and Performance Panel remits. Report reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting. Council to agree the recommendations set out in the report.

9. Appointments on outside bodies and charities:

(a) West Midlands Regional Assembly Housing Partnership – the Council are asked to nominate to the Housing Partnership politically balanced as follows for the municipal year 2006/2007:

Conservative Group	1 member (4 votes) 1 alternate member
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Labour Group:	1 member (2 votes) 1 alternate member
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Liberal Democrat Group	1 member (1 vote) 1 alternate member
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(b) Charities - Council are asked to nominate a member to be trustees of the following charities for the municipal year 2006/2007:

- (1) Henry Boys Almshouses (current trustee Councillor Bott)
- (2) C.C. Walker
- (3) Harpers, Marsh and Crumps Almshouse

10. To consider the following motion, notice of which has been submitted by Councillor Burley:-

It is noted that on 20th June 1996 the Community Services Committee resolved that the then existing policy of:

- (a) banning circuses using live animals from performing on Council owned parks within the Walsall Borough; and
- (b) preventing live animals being given or offered as a prize at any

funfair stall, entertainment or sideshows on Council owned land be lifted,

but that, in future, all requests for such be submitted to the Committee and each case be considered on its merits.

It is noted that since the passing of that resolution, the Local Government Act, 2000, has been implemented resulting in the cessation of that Committee and making such decisions an executive matter.

Therefore the Council recommends to the Executive that they develop and implement as a matter of urgency a procedure that will allow each such application to be considered on its merits and that such applications will only be approved in exceptional circumstances.

11. To consider the following motion, notice of which has been submitted by Councillor Oliver, Chambers, J. Phillips, Anson and Coughlan:-

This Council welcomes the call by the Cabinet member for Community Safety, Councillor Garry Perry, for a “clean up” of discarded drug users needles in Willenhall and recognises that “it is important that children are made aware of the dangers caused by discarded needles and drug paraphernalia”. (Express & Star 8 June 2006)

However, it is noted that when Councillor Tim Oliver and Sean Coughlan similarly highlighted the dangers of discarded needles in areas where children play in Willenhall they were accused by Conservative Councillors of lies and deception over a press photograph. (Walsall Advertiser 6 April 2006, other source documents available)

We trust that in future when Councillors raise legitimate issues they will not just be accused of lying.

We call for this Council to fully review all policies and procedures in relation to discarded needles, in conjunction with the Police and in its role as the lead agency of the Safer Walsall Borough Partnership. We would also welcome a campaign by our local press to alert and promote the reporting of this danger to our children.

12. To consider the following motion, notice of which has been submitted by Councillor Oliver, Chambers, J. Phillips, Anson and Coughlan:

This Council welcomes the increasing realisation across all parties in Walsall of the importance of a commitment to a wide range of recycling initiatives – although it must be recognised that we still have a long way to go.

It is noted that Cabinet recently approved a re-tendering process for the operation of our household waste and recycling centres at Fryers Road, Leamore and Merchants Way, Aldridge, which is now contracted in partnership with ECT recycling.

It is our view that the decision to reduce the opening hours of the recycling centres, taken as part of the tendering process, was a retrograde step. Residents and press coverage report long queues to legitimately dispose of waste at weekends, whilst these sites are only open during normal working hours on weekdays.

We believe that this is viewed by the public as a disincentive to recycling and is likely to lead to an increase in the already major problem of illegal dumping of household goods. Longer weekday opening hours would increase recycling options for ordinary working families and this Council therefore calls for a review of this aspect of contractual arrangements.



Walsall Council

R E P O R T S

To be presented to the Council at the meeting
to be held on **MONDAY 3RD JULY 2006**

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(1) Scrutiny performance review improvement plan	2 - 27
(2) Review of Council Constitution - Scrutiny and Performance Panel remit	28 - 38

ANNIE SHEPPERD,

Chief Executive,
Walsall.