



# 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 TENTH day of SEPTEMBER, 2007, at 6.00 p.m.** at the Council House, Walsall.

Dated this 31st day of August, 2007.

Yours sincerely,

Interim Chief Executive.

The business to be transacted is as follows:-

1. Apologies.
2. To elect a person to preside if the Mayor and Deputy Mayor are not present.
3. To approve as correct records and sign the minutes of the meetings of the Council held on 2nd and 23rd July, 2007.
4. Declarations of interest.
5. Mayor's announcements.
6. To receive any petitions.

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

(a) From the public.

(b) From members of the Council.

(i) Councillor Smith

(1) Replacement wheelie bins (to Councillor Walker)

Will you agree with me that when a 77 year old housebound resident from Darlaston, an 84 year old widower from Blakenall, a stroke victim from Ryecroft and an 84 year old amputee from the Pleck independently contact a Councillor within a very short space of time (which has happened recently) and express their outrage and anger at having had their wheelie bins stolen only to be told by Walsall Council to pay £18.50 for a replacement bin, that it really is time to reconsider the Council's policy on this issue in order to minimise the damage being done to the Council's image and to avoid bringing this Council into further disrepute?

(2) Weekly bin collection policy (to Councillor Walker)

Would the portfolio holder for the Environment care to explain to Council and the general public why the Council and its spokespersons misled the public before and after the local elections in May 2007 on the issue of the weekly bin collection policy, giving the distinct impression as late as June 2007 that the present policy would not be changed only to carry out a sham of a consultation exercise the next month which was seen by many as an excuse to justify the introduction of a fortnightly collection service of household rubbish in place of the present weekly service?

(3) Waste and recycling collection services questionnaire (to Councillor Walker)

Would the portfolio holder for the Environment do her best, in future to prevent Street Pride from inadvertently insulting the intelligence of the people of Walsall again as it had done recently by the amateurishly worded questionnaire on "changes to the waste and recycling collection services" to which she put her signature and which not only contained leading questions (bad practice in a truly unbiased questionnaire as an average GCSE candidate would confirm) but which then proceeded to propose two completely unacceptable options?

- (4) Cost of waste and recycling collection service questionnaire (to Councillor Walker)

Would the portfolio holder for Environment tell the Council and the public what she estimates to be the cost to the taxpayers of the questionnaire "Changes to the waste and recycling collection services"?

- (5) Social landlord rented properties in the borough (to Councillor McCracken)

Can the portfolio holder for Regeneration tell the Council and the public, the total number of social landlord rented properties in the borough of Walsall that have been demolished in the last 5 years and are planned to be demolished in the next 5 years compared to the total number of social landlord rented properties in the borough of Walsall that have been built in the last 5 years or are planned to be built in the next 5 years?

- (6) Aids and adaptations to homes (to Councillor McCracken)

Can the portfolio holder for Social Care, Health and Housing give this Council and the public a ward by ward breakdown of the number of residents in the borough of Walsall that are currently awaiting aids and adaptations to their homes as at estimated cost of: (a) up to £1,000 and (b) from £1,000 upwards?

(ii) Councillor Robertson

- (1) Future wheelie bin collections (to Councillor Walker)

If either of the two options for future bin collections is implemented, do you accept that many households especially with children will fill a large bin every week and so what options will then be available to these homes including what cost of having to pay privately for extra collections?

- (2) Anti-Poverty Unit – financing of reorganisation proposals (to Councillor Griffiths)

Do you accept that the latest re-organisation proposals of the anti-poverty unit will threaten the future finances of this Council and so risk higher rises in Council Tax?

- (3) Dartmouth neighbourhood forum – withdrawal of possible neighbourhood renewal funding (to Councillor McCracken)

Why is the future support to over 400 elderly residents in my ward provided by the Dartmouth neighbourhood forum at serious risk by withdrawal of possible neighbourhood renewal funding, when the advice to the Walsall Borough Strategic Partnership by health professionals is that this service is crucial support to help these elderly residents?

- (iii) Councillor Oliver –Drug problems in Intown Row (to Councillor Perry)

Did the Cabinet Member for Communities and Partnerships – and the Council's Press and Publicity Unit – read the Walsall Advertiser full front page story dated 19.04.07 with regard to the town centre drugs 'shooting gallery' in Intown Row?

- (iv) Councillor Smith:

- (1) Provision of brown bins (to Councillor Walker)

When will all the Council tax paying households in the Blakenall ward with a garden and presently without a brown bin such as those households in Alderley Crescent, Ashfield Close, Awlmaker Grove, Bloxwich Road, Brewer Street, Cannon Street, Cannon Street North, Cartridge Crescent, Cartridge Walk, Chaucer Road, Church View Close, Coalpool Place, Dalby Road, Dartmouth Close, Dartmouth Place, Deans Place, Derby Street, Dryden Road, Epping Close, Essex Street, Forest Lane, Forest Place, Goldsmith Road, Goscote Close, Goscote Lodge Crescent, Goscote Place, Halford Crescent, Henley Close, Hereford Street, Hildicks Crescent, Holden Crescent, Holden Place, Hunter Crescent, Jubilee Close, Keats Road, Kent Close, Kent Street, Leckie Road, Marlow Street, Masefield Road, Mill Place, Mill Street, New Forest Road, North Street, Oswin Place, Oswin Road, Pinfold, Portland Street, Proffitt Close, Proffitt Street, Raymond Close, Roberts Road, Rose Bank Drive, Rutland Street, St. Peters Terrace, St. Thomas Close, Stag Crescent, Wareham Close, Webster Road, Whateley Place and Whateley Road, be treated equally and fairly and issued with a brown bin?

- (2) Housing and Council Tax benefits payments to homeless people (to Councillor Griffiths)

How much money has been claimed by Walsall MBC, year by year, in each of the last 3 financial years regarding Housing and Council Tax benefit payments with respect to homeless people for whom Walsall MBC has had a responsibility?

8. Designation of Statutory Officer posts. Report reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting. Council to agree the recommendations set out in the report.

9. Changes to Constitution with regard to Neighbourhoods. Report reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting. Council to agree the recommendations set out in the report.

10. Changes to Constitution with regard to control of parks and open spaces. Report reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting. Council to agree the recommendations set out in the report.

11. Fostering Panel. Appointment of one member to the panel for the municipal year 2007/2008.

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

This Council recognises the valuable work done throughout the Borough by the domestic violence forum.

Although funding for Walsall Domestic Violence Forum for this financial year has now been agreed; we are critically aware that the new financial year will soon be upon us. With the evidence of numbers of victims and families that are supported every year by the professionals and volunteers associated with this forum; Council requests that an urgent meeting of all partners is called to discuss future funding bids and co-ordinate support for their longer term future.

13. To consider the following motion, notice of which has been duly given by Councillors J.D. Phillips, Oliver, Coughlan, Wilkes, Sarohi and Creaney:

This Council recognises the excellent work which has been implemented by Walsall's Integrated Learning Disability Service and the major challenges that lie ahead.

This Council therefore:

- re-affirms its commitment to the strategy for learning disability in the 21st century as outlined in the "Valuing People" white paper, including the principle of independent and supported living within the community.

- recognises our civic leadership responsibilities and duty under disability equality legislation to promote active and valued citizenship.
- condemns any approaches which seek or have the effect of “demonising” people with a learning disability.

(Note: Report reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting.)

14. To consider the following motion, notice of which has been duly given by Councillors Oliver, Wilkes, Sarohi and Creaney:

This Council recognises the excellent and innovative contributions made by the Walsall Art Gallery to the cultural life and reputation of the Borough, and also supports the work and commitment of local artists, including the Walsall Society of Artists.

We would therefore support the Society in their call for their annual exhibition to be restored to the main third floor display area of the New Art Gallery – as an important part within the varied and exciting programme of activities based in the gallery throughout the year.