



EPPING FOREST LOCAL COUNCILS' LIAISON COMMITTEE

NOTICE OF MEETING

Place: Council Chamber - Civic Offices **Date:** Tuesday, 28th March, 2023
Room: Council Chamber **Time:** 7.00 pm
Democratic Services Officer: R. Perrin
Tel: (01992) 564243 Email: democraticservices@eppingforestdc.gov.uk

Members:

District Council Representatives:

Councillors M Sartin, H Kane, J Lea, R Morgan, D Sunger and J H Whitehouse

Local Council Representatives:

Clerks and Chairmen/Members of Parish and Town Councils

County Council Representatives:

Members for the following divisions:

North Weald and Nazeing:	Councillor C Whitbread
Loughton Central:	Councillor C C Pond
Ongar and Rural:	Councillor J McIvor
Epping and Theydon Bois:	Councillor H Whitbread
Buckhurst Hill and Loughton South:	Councillor M Vance
Chigwell and Loughton Broadway:	Councillor L Scott
Waltham Abbey:	Councillor S Kane

PLEASE NOTE THE START TIME OF THE MEETING

1. WEBCASTING INTRODUCTION

The Chairman will read the following announcement:

"I would like to remind everyone present that this meeting will be broadcast live to the internet (or filmed) and will be capable of repeated viewing (or another use by such third parties).

Therefore by participating in this meeting, you are consenting to being filmed and to the possible use of those images and sound recordings for webcasting and/or training purposes. If members of the public do not wish to have their image captured they should ensure that their video setting throughout the virtual meeting is turned off and set to audio only

Please also be aware that if technical difficulties interrupt the meeting that cannot be overcome, I may need to adjourn the meeting.”

Members are reminded to activate their microphones before speaking.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

EFDC Councillors - Please use the Members Portal webpage to report non-attendance at meetings https://eppingforestdc-self.achieveservice.com/service/Member_Contact to ensure your query is properly logged.

Alternatively, you can access the Members portal from the front page of the Council's website, at the bottom under 'Contact Us' <https://www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/your-council/members-portal/>

Members, county councillors, and town/parish council representatives are reminded to sign the attendance register, in order to ensure that the minutes of the meeting accurately reflect attendance.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Pages 5 - 10)

To confirm the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 29 November 2022 and any matters arising therefrom.

4. ECC CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAYS MAINTENANCE AND SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT, CLLR LEE SCOTT

(Cllr Lee Scott, ECC Cabinet Member for Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport)

To provide an update on his plans for the future of Highways in the County, and to address any areas of general concern that Parish and Town Councils may have, including:

- The efficacy of the Local Highways Panel and the adequacy of budgets provided to them.
- The prime remit of Local Highway Panels
- What (if any) options are available for introducing traffic calming measures on rural country roads
- The contract with Ringway Jacobs, how long this is in place for, when it is due for renewal, and whether or not they offer value for taxpayers money.
- Why are many of the roads across the district in such a poor state, with poor surface dressing and a shocking number of potholes. Potholes are always a hot topic, however the number and prevalence of them at this current time is highly concerning.
- Road Signs and Highway Fingerposts around many villages, especially those rural in nature, are in a dire state, or missing altogether. What plans are there to remedy this, and/or could funds be made available to parishes to address their own signage defects.
- Why is it the case that Parish Councils have no direct access in to ECC Highways, and no dedicated contact points. We feel completely

disempowered. What is the process for if a Parish / Town Council wishes to escalate a matter with ECC Highways.

5. ISSUES RAISED BY LOCAL COUNCILS

To discuss the following matters raised by the local councils:

Code of Conduct

How do EFDC monitor the conduct of EFDC Councillors at meetings. There have been a number of complaints from local residents watching webcasts which show Councillors actively arguing with each other, giving a poor impression of local government.

(Response from Monitoring Officer, N. Boateng) The Monitoring Officer will investigate complaints report to her about the conduct of Councillors. If the Monitoring Officer directly witness a Code of Conduct issue at a meeting, this would be raised with the Councillor concerned. The next Code of Conduct training will be held on 12 May 2023 and can be booked by contacting K. Partridge (kpartridge@eppingforestdc.gov.uk)

Training for Local Councillors

What training is available for Local Councillors, and when.

(Response from Members Support) Our Town and Parish partners (Councillors and Officers) are encouraged to join EFDC Councillors at the following sessions on 12 May 2023;

- *Code of Conduct / Constitution*
- *Planning Enforcement*
- *Planning*
- *Data Protection*

If they are unable to attend or prefer more bespoke session, the following services provide an extensive list of training opportunities for our Town and Parish colleagues Essex Association of Local Council [EALC Training – The Essex Association of Local Councils](#)

If you wish to book onto any of these sessions, please email K. Partridge (kpartridge@eppingforestdc.gov.uk)

Planning

- What changes / improvements have been made to the new online planning system following the numerous suggestions / issues that were sent directly to the planning department late last year.
- At the November meeting, Parish and Town Councils requested training on the new system. Will this be forthcoming, and when.

- With regard to Planning Enforcement, what is the current situation in terms of staff numbers and the approach to dealing with enforcement matters.

6. EPPING FOREST DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN - PROGRESS

(Epping Forest District Council) To report to the Committee on the current position of the new Local Plan for the Epping Forest District.

Local Councils raised the following issue:

Following adoption of the Local Plan, can the Council advise as to the publication and promulgation of the newly adopted plan, and confirm that colour hard copies of both parts 1 and 2 will be provided to Parish and Town Councils.

7. SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT

Sustainable Transport Officer (S Lloyd-Jones) will be in attendance to discuss

1. EV charging funding opportunity for parish council car parks, village halls
 2. Potential grants scheme for energy generation/insulation improvements at village halls, parish offices, rural community and sports halls etc
 3. The *Epping Forest Community Transport* and other rural transport options
- SB09 – Abridge-Epping-Loughton – Monday and Wednesdays
 - Dart 7 covering – Moreton, Toot Hill, Epping – Monday and Thursdays – Provided with financial support from Essex County Council
 - HSBO1 covering – Toot Hill, Moreton, Old Harlow, Harlow – Monday, Wednesday & Friday – Demand Responsive (Dart) is an alternative – Provided with financial support from Essex County Council
 - Dart 87 – covering – Debden, Theydon Bois, Epping Green, Harlow Monday-Saturday – Funded by Epping Forest District Council
 - SB07 – The Elms – Loughton - Mondays
 - 347 – Barnfields, Hatfield Broad Oak, Lower Sheering to Harlow Bus Station – Tuesdays and Thursdays
 - C392 – Hoddesdon – Harlow Bus Station – Monday to Friday (reduced timetable due to the closure of Broxbourne Bridge).

8. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

To be confirmed.