

To all members of Planning & Highways Committee

Notice is hereby given and you are summoned to attend a meeting of the Planning and Highways Committee on Wednesday 10th June 2026, at the School Green Centre, RG2 9EH, commencing 19:30.



Bruce Winton
Chief Executive and Clerk to the Parish
Council
5th June 2026

Members: Cllrs Boyer, Hoyle, Jahromi, James, Masseron, Peer (Chair) and Pollock H

Agenda

55. Election of Chair of the Planning and Highways Committee

- 55.1 To **RECEIVE** and **CONSIDER** nominations for the election of Chair of the Committee for 2026/27
- 55.2 To **ELECT** the Chair for 2026/27
- 55.3 To **SIGN A DECLARATION** of acceptance of office as Chair of the Planning and Highways Committee

56. Election of Vice-Chair of the Planning and Highways Committee

- 56.1 To **RECEIVE** and **CONSIDER** nominations for the election of Vice-Chair of the Committee for 2026/27
- 56.2 To **ELECT** the Vice-Chair for 2026/27
- 56.3 To **SIGN A DECLARATION** of acceptance of office as Vice-Chair of the Planning and Highways Committee

57. Public Questions

- 57.1 To **RECEIVE** and **CONSIDER** public questions

58. Apologies and declaration of members' interests

- 58.1 To **RECEIVE** and **CONSIDER** approval of apologies for absence
- 58.2 To **RECEIVE** members' declarations of interest, and any related person interest in respect of the agenda

59. Minutes of the previous meeting

- 59.1 To **RECEIVE** and **APPROVE** the minutes of the Planning and Highways Committee held on 13th May 2026 as a correct record of the meeting and to authorise the Chair to sign the same*
- 59.2 To **CONSIDER** matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 13th May 2026

60. Schedule of Deposited Plans

- 60.1 Planning applications are being reviewed weekly. Plans deposited following the most recent Thursday planning email which require urgent attention will be forwarded as received

61. Appeals

- 61.1 To **RECEIVE** and **CONSIDER** planning inspectorate appeals relating to Shinfield Parish*

62. Enforcement Notices

- 62.1 To **RECEIVE** and **NOTE** the Closed Enforcements tables for May 2026* (for information only)
- 62.2 To **RECEIVE** and **NOTE** the Outstanding Enforcements tables for May 2026* (for information only)

63. Highways, Street Lighting and Footpath Matters

- 63.1 To **RECEIVE** and **CONSIDER** an update on footpaths (including footpath 12) and to **NOTE** the report by the Shinfield Volunteers Group*
- 63.2 To **RECEIVE** and **CONSIDER** a verbal update on traffic matters
- 63.3 To **RECEIVE** and **CONSIDER** a verbal report on any other Highways, Street Lighting and Footpath Matters

64. Renewal of Neighbourhood Development Plan

- 64.1 To **RECEIVE** and **CONSIDER** the next steps regarding the Neighbourhood Plan Renewal Working Party
- 64.2 To **RECEIVE** and **CONSIDER** any update on registering Assets of Community Value

65. Correspondence

- 65.1 To **RECEIVE** and **NOTE** the consultation on the submitted Lambourn Neighbourhood Development Plan*
- 65.2 To **RECEIVE** and **CONSIDER** a concern raised by a local resident regarding the 20mph School Warning sign on Hyde End Road not working
- 65.3 To **RECEIVE** and **NOTE** a news release from Wokingham Borough council regarding plans for solar-powered electric vehicle (EV) charging facilities at MereOak Park and Ride*

66. Future Meetings

- 66.1 To **NOTE** the next meeting of the Planning & Highways Committee meeting is Wednesday, 8th July 2026

* indicates papers attached

** indicates papers to follow

Minutes of a meeting of
Planning & Highways Committee
Held on Wednesday 13th May 2026
At School Green Centre commencing at 19:30

Present: Cllrs Boyer, Hoyle and Peer (Chair)

Attending: B Winton (Clerk)
S Herring (Deputy Clerk)
Cllr H Pollock
1 Member of the Public

26/PC/45

Public Questions

45.1 To receive and consider any public question.

There were no public questions.

26/PC/46

Apologies and declarations of Members' Interest

46.1 Receive and consider approval of apologies for absence

Apologies had been provided by Cllrs Jahromi, James and Masseron

46.2 Declarations of Interests

There were no declarations of members' pecuniary interests.
There were no declarations of related person interest in respect of the agenda.

Cllr Hoyle declared that he was related to BCllr Glover
Cllr H Pollock declared that she was involved in the Campaign for Fairer Housing

- 47.1 The minutes of the Planning and Highways Committee held on 8th April 2026 were approved and signed as such by Cllr Peer.

Proposed: Cllr Boyer
Seconded: Cllr Hoyle
Approved: Unanimously

- 47.2 Actions and Matters Arising from the meeting held on 8th April 2026

- 26/PC/34.1.2 Write to the Highways Dept, Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) to ask if the junction at Beke Avenue/Westall Street had been reassessed following the decision to remove the bus gate from the original planning application.

This had been raised with WBC who had indicated that currently they do not make provision for reviewing initial assessments that may have been made many years previously.

- 26/PC/34.1.3 Ask if the local Speedwatch could gather some evidence on the Shinfield Meadows estate.

A request had been made to the Speedwatch team. They had been on site and not noticed any significant speeding concerns.

- 26/PC/29.1 Ensure that signage is put up to inform the public that CCTV was in operation at Ryeish Green Pavilion.

This had been done.

- 26/PC/40.1 Request an update from Andy Glencross, WBC on Footpath 12.

The Clerk and Cllr Clarke had arranged to meet Andy Glencross on 27th May on various matters and would add Footpath 12 to the list for consideration.

- 26/PC/40.2 Inform members of the Traffic Working Party of the date of the next meeting.

No date had been set for the next meeting.

- 26/PC/40.2 Add a standing item to the agenda of the Planning and Highways Committee in the form of a spreadsheet detailing the progress of requests from SPC to WBC to enable these to be monitored on a monthly basis.

This was on the agenda – see minute 26/PC/51.2

26/PC/41.1 Ask the ONH Consultant for the anticipated date of her report.

This was on the agenda – see minutes 16/PC/52.1

26/PC/41.1 Clerk to set the date of the next meeting of the Neighbourhood Plan Renewal Working Party once he had received a response from the Consultant.

The meeting had been set for Thursday 21st May on Teams at 7.30pm

26/PC/41.2 Report back to committee when a decision had been made on the Assets of Community Value submissions.

No further update.

26/PC/42.1 Ask BCIr Gray to check with WBC on the proposals for the use of the S106 money that would be attached to the developments East and West of Hyde End Road.

No response had been received to date.

26/PC/48

Schedule of Deposited Plans

48.1 Planning applications were circulated to members weekly. Plans deposited following the most recent Thursday planning email which require urgent attention will be forwarded as received.

There were no applications that required consideration.

26/PC/49

Appeals

49.1 Planning inspectorate appeals relating to Shinfield Parish

There were no new or ongoing cases relating to Shinfield Parish.

26/PC/50

Enforcement Notices

50.1 Closed Enforcements tables for May 2026

This month there were

3 cases deemed no breach

2 cases were deemed not expedient

1 case was identified as other

Members **NOTED** the Closed Enforcement Tables

- 50.2 Outstanding Enforcements tables for May 2026

There were 8 new enforcement notices since the last meeting.

Members **NOTED** the outstanding Enforcement tables

26/PC/51

Highways, Street Lighting and Footpath Matters

- 51.1 A verbal report on Highways, Street Lighting and Footpath matters

Footpath 12

Countryside had cleared the footpath of vegetation resulting in the widening of the path. The last section was still in a bad state.

The Shinfield Volunteer Group Footpath Report – April 2026 had been published in the May 2026 SPC electronic Newsletter.

- 51.2 Traffic Working Party

The Clerk explained the action items outstanding with Wokingham Borough Council relating to traffic issues in the Parish.

- 51.3 A verbal report on any other Highways, Street Lighting and Footpath matters

There was nothing further to report.

16/PC/52

Renewal of Neighbourhood Development Plan (SPNDP)

- 52.1 A verbal update from the Neighbourhood Plan Renewal Working Party

O'Neill Homer (ONH), Chartered Town Planners, had provided their draft report and this was circulated to members on 20th April.

The next meeting was scheduled for 21st May at 7.30 p.m. on Teams.

- 52.2 A verbal update on registering Assets of Community Value (ACV)

The Clerk had not received any further communication from WBC regarding the ACV that had been submitted.

ACTION - Clerk to report back to committee when a decision had been made on the Assets of Community Value submissions

26/PC/53

Correspondence

- 53.1 To receive and note any correspondence received

The Clerk advised that the Annual Council Meeting on 27th May would, amongst other things, include setting the meeting schedule for 27/28 and asked if members would consider switching to bi-monthly meetings from June 2027 given that the major developments within the parish were mostly

completed. This would see meetings in the odd numbered months (Jan, Mar, May etc.)

The Terms of Reference currently state that the committee will normally meet monthly and have at least ten meetings a year. The ToRs are due to be reviewed in June 2026 so could be amended appropriately.

The Committee felt that there should be scheduled meetings, however, if there was nothing to discuss the meeting could be cancelled.

53.2 Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire (now Thames Valley) Integrated Care Board meeting on 5th May 2026

Cllr Boyer and the Clerk had a Teams meeting with Jeffrey Ng from the ICB to understand the process for decision-making in relation to General Practice surgeries.

Mr Ng explained the background including:

- There had been difficulties working with the two primary care networks that cover Shinfield, each having separate contracts with surgeries
- The ICB cannot force patient choice
- Arborfield were experiencing the same issues. The Swallowfield practice had closed their Arborfield building
- The ICB were doing a whole review of provision in the area
- The Shinfield practice is currently only on a short-term lease, and they cannot make real investment until they are able to move to a long term
- In terms of the proposed Loddon Garden Village, or other developments, they are not at this stage directing where money on medical services has to go but are instead just “keeping it on the table” by saying the funding needs to go to “a practice serving the development”
- ICB has started engaging with WBC more and Mr Ng is the ICB representative on the Local Plan Update BUT
- He is the only person responsible for 13 unitary authorities so does not engage except where there are new build developments
- Dentistry is commissioned separately

ACTION – Clerk to arrange a Land Registry search to ascertain who owns the freehold of the Shinfield Medical Practice

53.3 Meeting with the University of Reading regarding Loddon Garden Village

The Clerk advised that the University of Reading had requested a meeting to discuss the technical details of the comments made in the council’s submission relating to Loddon Garden Village. He was arranging a date and proposed that Cllrs Boyer and Peer attended and if possible, representatives from ET Planning and the traffic consultant. The date of the meeting was planned for 1st July.

- 53.4 Cllr Peer reported that she had attended the NALC training course on Planning Infrastructure.
- 7% less housing was being built due to rising costs and lack of land.
 - The CPRE was present and were interested in any energy efficient projects that local councils were looking at.
 - More control was expected for planning officers with less going to committees. The Senior Planning Officers and Chair of Committee would make decisions on essential application.
 - NPPF – weight would be given to Neighbourhood Plans (NHP). Concern expressed over the cost of NHPs.
 - More emphasis on modern design codes in the future.

- 53.5 Land at the Glebe, Shinfield owned by the Diocese of Oxford.

Likely to be built on. Lots of trees need protection.

ACTION –

- Clerk to contact Elaine Butler to request TPO requests for trees on land at the Glebe
- Clerk to add to the agenda of the next meeting

25/PC/54

Date of the next meeting

- 54.1 The date of the next meeting will be Wednesday, 10th June 2026

The meeting ended at 20:25

List of actions

Minute	Action	Responsibility
16/PC/52.2	Clerk to report back to committee when a decision had been made on the Assets of Community Value	Clerk
16/PC/53.2	Clerk to arrange a Land Registry search to ascertain who owns the freehold of the Shinfield Medical Practice	Clerk
16/PC/53.5	Clerk to contact Elaine Butler to request TPO requests for trees on land at the Glebe	Clerk
16/PC/53.5	Clerk to add land owned by the Diocese of Oxford to the next agenda	Clerk

Planning Inspectorate Appeals for RG2 & RG7 within Shinfield Parish as at :-

5th June 2026

Item 61.1

Case Reference	Site Address	Post Code	Case Type	Linked	PA	Status	Decision Date	Comments
APP/X0360/C/25/3374730	Land at Gravelley Bridge Farm	RG7 1LG	Enforcement Notice Appeal		N/A	3	10/03/2026	The appeal is dismissed, the enforcement notice is upheld and planning permission is refused on the application deemed to have been made under section 177(5) of the 1990 Act as amended.
APP/X0360/W/23/3329586	Land adjacent to 176 Hyde End Road	RG2 9ER	Planning (W)		231229 223646	3	22/05/2024	WBC refused PA. Developers Appeal to PI was dismissed
APP/X0360/D/24/3337926	253 Shinfield Road	RG2 8HF	Householder (HAS)		232141	3	05/04/2024	WBC refused PA. Developers Appeal to PI was dismissed
APP/X0360/W/23/3326997	Belamie Gables, 210 Hyde End Road	RG7 1DG	Planning (W)		223802	3	08/02/2024	WBC refused PA. Appeal to PI was dismissed
APP/X0360/C/23/3314060	Uplands, Basingstoke Road READING	RG7 1AP	Enforcement Notice	L2	222052	3	17/11/2023	WBC refused PA. Developers Appeal to PI succeeded in part. WBC Enforcement Notice modified to allow for wall to be reduced in height
APP/X0360/W/22/3309384	Uplands Basingstoke Road READING	RG7 1AP	Planning (W)	L2	222052	3	17/11/2023	WBC refused PA. Developers Appeal to PI was dismissed
APP/X0360/W/22/3311543	Parkside House Lambs Lane READING	RG7 1JE	Planning (W)		222478	4	23/05/2023	WBC refused PA. Developers Appeal was upheld. Change of use of land to residential and erection of detached building to house domestic garaging and ancillary storage with first floor games room

KEY	
1 =	New case not previously report
2 =	Case in progress
3 =	Complete - WBC original decision upheld
4 =	Complete - WBC original decision overturned
5 =	Complete - Appeal withdrawn
Lx =	Linked cases
xxxx	Indicates changed since previous report

Reference	Address	Case Detail	Closed Date	Closure Reason
RFS/2026/091304	19 Salmond Road, Shinfield, Reading, RG2 8QN	Building materials and digging near protected trees	19 May 2026	No breach
RFS/2026/091346	5 Anson Crescent, Shinfield, Wokingham, RG2 8JT	Compliance check with Condition 4 of permission 231640	12 May 2026	No breach
RFS/2026/091376	Bell And Bottle Inn, 37 School Green, Shinfield, RG2 9EE	Change of use of room within pub	18 May 2026	No breach
RFS/2026/091384	36 Deardon Way, Shinfield, Wokingham, RG2 9HF	Building work being undertaken on communal land adjacent to property,	18 May 2026	No breach
RFS/2026/091400	5 Anson Crescent, Shinfield, Wokingham, RG2 8JT	Property turned into HMO	29 May 2026	No breach
RFS/2026/091358/01	10 Railton Close, Shinfield, Wokingham, RG2 8TB	PCN Served	21 May 2026	Notice served

Wokingham Borough Council – Previous month's closed Enforcement Cases for Shinfield Ward - June 26

For further information about a case, please contact planning.enforcement@wokingham.gov.uk, quoting the reference number

Reference	Address	Case Detail	Case Status
RFS/2025/090264	Bismillah House, Brookers Hill, Shinfield, Wokingham, RG2 9BX	Tree works application 223088 replanting not undertaken.	Investigation ongoing
RFS/2025/090266	Bismillah House (formerly Foxglade), Brookers Hill, Shinfield, Wokingham, RG2 9BX	Construction of extended area of hardstanding.	Investigation ongoing
RFS/2025/090858	Land North of Church Lane, Church Lane, Three Mile Cross	Non-compliance with conditions on 250435	Investigation ongoing
RFS/2025/090896	Bismillah House (formerly Foxglade), Brookers Hill, Shinfield, Wokingham, RG2 9BX	Storage of vehicles and containers	Investigation ongoing
RFS/2025/090984	Bismillah House, Brookers Hill, Shinfield, Wokingham, RG2 9BX	Unauthorised workshop	Investigation ongoing
RFS/2026/091036	Land North of Church Lane, Church Lane, Three Mile Cross	Erection of poles with lighting and cameras	Investigation ongoing
RFS/2026/091040	Bismillah House, Brookers Hill, Shinfield, Wokingham, RG2 9BX	refusal of 252320	Investigation ongoing
RFS/2026/091137	Bismillah House, Brookers Hill, Shinfield, Wokingham, RG2 9BX	TPO removal to facilitate hardstanding at the rear	Investigation ongoing

Wokingham Borough Council – Live Enforcement Cases for Shinfield Ward - June 26

For further information about a case, please contact planning.enforcement@wokingham.gov.uk quoting the reference number

Reference	Address	Case Detail	Case Status
RFS/2026/091138	Bismillah House, Brookers Hill, Shinfield, Wokingham, RG2 9BX	unauthorised siting of portakabins	Investigation ongoing
RFS/2026/091170	Bismillah House, Brookers Hill, Shinfield, Wokingham, RG2 9BX	Unauthorised fencing	Investigation ongoing
RFS/2026/091195	Bismillah House, Brookers Hill, Shinfield, Wokingham, RG2 9BX	Extensions to existing outbuilding	Investigation ongoing
RFS/2026/091283	Shire Hall, Shinfield Park, Shinfield, Reading, RG2 9XY	Site vibrations	New case
RFS/2026/091305	12 Coningham Road, Shinfield, Wokingham, RG2 8QP	installed a large plastic waste storage tank - 1m from boundary	Investigation ongoing
RFS/2026/091350	1 Ilbury Close, Shinfield, Wokingham, RG2 9DE	Looks like seriously large construction been put up	Investigation ongoing
RFS/2026/091358	10 Railton Close, Shinfield, Wokingham, RG2 8TB	Dog breeding	Site visit pending
RFS/2026/091415	Shinfield Road, RG2 9GY	Estate advertising boards	Investigation ongoing
RFS/2026/091428	87 Garrett Drive, Shinfield, RG2 9LD	Fence higher than 2m & garage converted with no PP	New case

Wokingham Borough Council – Live Enforcement Cases for Shinfield Ward - June 26

For further information about a case, please contact planning.enforcement@wokingham.gov.uk quoting the reference number

Confidential: Information that needs to be handled with care to avoid loss, damage or inappropriate access. Information which incorrectly disseminated could cause some distress to a limited number of individuals.

SVG Footpath Report – May 2026

May went by in a flash and here we are with another bulletin.

Shinfield Footpath 3.

As mentioned last time it was noted that some of the trees in the grounds of Shinfield Grange are hanging over and above this footpath and in some cases touching the chain link fence. This has been raised with the College of Estate Management and we are expecting some activity soon. Whilst monitoring this it was noted the side foliage was taking hold so we will be trimming that back.

Shinfield Footpath 4.

We also surveyed the section of this footpath that goes past the Grange. This may not be used as much these days because of the tarmac track that runs parallel but we have had cause to report Giant Hogweed to WBC in the past. The nasty weed can be seen growing in the Grange but I am pleased to say none is present on the right of way.

Shinfield Footpath 7.

I think it is fair to say that 70% of this footpath between Oatlands Road and Cutbush Lane is unusable during the growing season. Pedestrians are choosing to stay on the hard surface so no feet suppressing the foliage. The one cut done by WBC is not sufficient and we choose to use our efforts on footpaths where there is no other option.

Shinfield Footpath 31A, 31B, 32A and Wokefield byway 14.

Having reported last month how well these footpaths are doing I received a ping on my WhatsApp to say that 31A from Grazeley School to Pump Lane has become difficult due to the foliage. I will be taking photos and reporting the situation to WBC. Apparently the crossfield path from 31A to Pump Lane is also difficult due to surface cracks. I am afraid that will be put down to Mother Nature so no action will be taken.

Pearman's Copse.

The Loddon Valley Ramblers finished clearing the brambles at the top end of the Copse. I am now pleased to be leading working parties to waymark the path under the banner of the Green Corridor Trail. The work done earlier to save this part of the Copse for the Shinfield Parish Walk number 6 is now paying dividends because the section of this walk parallel to Lower Earley Way is also the Green Corridor Trail.

Speaking of the Parish Walks I have been advised by other Shinfield Volunteer Group members that walk number two has been upgraded and will appear on the Parish Website in due course.

If on your travels you encounter an issue with the footpaths, please let us know because we may not be aware of it. I can be contacted by email at ramblerray@gmail.com or you could advise Elaine Butler or the parish office and they will pass on your report.

Ray Sharp.

Email received from **Planning Policy Team**, Development and Housing | West Berkshire Council | Market Street | Newbury | Berkshire | RG14 5LD on 18th May 2026

Consultation on the submitted Lambourn Neighbourhood Development Plan (Regulation 16 Consultation)

Lambourn Parish Council, assisted by community volunteers, has prepared a neighbourhood development plan (NDP), which was submitted to West Berkshire District Council (WBDC) in February 2026. Following submission, responsibility for progressing the plan to the next stages lies with the local planning authority.

NDPs are statutory planning documents prepared by town and parish councils (or neighbourhood forums in unparished areas) in consultation with their local communities. They enable local people to shape the future of the areas in which they live and include planning policies relating to the development and use of land.

WBDC is carrying out a consultation on the submitted Lambourn NDP between **Monday 18 May and 11:59pm on Tuesday 30 June 2026**. This consultation is also known as the 'Regulation 16 Consultation'. We invite your comments on the submitted plan and its supporting documents.

How to view the consultation documents and comment on the Lambourn NDP:

The submitted Lambourn NDP and its supporting documents can be viewed:

- Online:

<https://www.westberks.gov.uk/lambourn-np-reg-16-consultation>

- In person at:

- West Berkshire District Council Offices, Market Street, Newbury, RG14 5LD. The offices are open Monday to Thursday 8:30am to 5pm, and on Fridays 8:30am to 4:30pm.
- Lambourn Library, High Street, Lambourn, RG17 8XL. The library is open Tuesday's 2:00pm to 5:30pm, Wednesday's 10:00am to 1:00pm, Thursday's 3:30pm to 5:30pm, Friday's 10:00am to 5:00pm, and Saturday's 10:00am to 12:30pm.
- Lambourn Parish Council Office, The Memorial Hall, Oxford Street, Lambourn, RG17 8XP. The office is open Monday and Thursday between 9:00am and 12:00pm.

- St James the Greater Church, Church Street, Eastbury, RG17 7JL. The church is open daily between 10:00am and 4:00pm.
- Woodlands St. Mary Village Hall and Bar, School Lane, Woodlands St Mary, RG17 7SL. The social club is open Thursday's, Friday's, and Saturday's 07:00pm to 11:00pm, and Sundays 12:30pm to 4:00pm.

Representations must be made using the representation form, available to download from: <https://www.westberks.gov.uk/lambourn-np-reg-16-consultation>.

Paper copies of the representation form are also available at [West Berkshire District Council Offices in Newbury](#), [Lambourn Library](#), [Lambourn Parish Council Office](#), [St James the Greater Church in Eastbury](#), and [Woodlands St. Mary Village Hall and Bar in Lambourn Woodlands](#).

Completed representation forms can be submitted in the following ways:

- **Email:** planningpolicy@westberks.gov.uk or
- **Post:** Planning Policy Team, Development and Housing, West Berkshire District Council, Market Street, Newbury, RG14 5LD.

All representations must be received by **11:59pm on Tuesday 30 June 2026**.

What happens next?

Once the consultation ends, the Lambourn NDP will undergo independent examination. The responses received to the consultation will be forwarded to an appointed examiner.

The opportunity for further comments at this stage would only be at the specific request of the examiner.

Following the examination, the examiner will issue a report, which could include some recommended changes to the draft plan to meet a set of tests known as 'Basic Conditions'. If this part of the process is successful, the next stage would be to proceed to a Referendum.

If the Lambourn NDP is successful at Referendum, then it will form part of the [statutory development plan](#), and will form the basis for determining planning applications in Lambourn Parish.

NEWS RELEASE



**WOKINGHAM
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Date: 29 May 2026
Issued by: James Burton

Issue No: 038/26
Version: 1.0

SOLAR EV CHARGING SCHEME CLEARS NEXT MILESTONE

Plans for solar-powered electric vehicle (EV) charging facilities at MereOak Park and Ride are progressing as part of the council's ongoing efforts to provide greener infrastructure.

The scheme, located just off the A33 to the south of Reading, will offer a mix of rapid and standard charging options, helping to meet rising EV ownership across Wokingham Borough.

The proposed development includes:

- 12 rapid chargers and 20 standard chargers, built in phases over six years
- Solar canopies generating clean electricity on-site
- Battery storage so energy is used efficiently throughout the day

The project is forecast to generate at least £400,000 net income annually over 25 years, which will be reinvested into essential council services. This will enable greener growth and improve the council's financial resilience as it, like all local authorities, faces unprecedented long-term challenges.

To keep costs as low as possible, the council intends to seek external funding sources like grants. Subject to final approval, executive councillors agreed to progress construction at a meeting last night (Thursday, 28 May).

Benefits for everyone, however they travel

Cllr Imogen Shepherd-DuBey, executive member for finance and governance, said: "This scheme represents a win-win for the borough and its residents, whether they use the proposed chargers or experience the broader benefits.

“It will meet a growing need for EV infrastructure while providing a reliable, environmentally sustainable source of revenue, making best use of our assets to support frontline services we all rely on.”

Cllr Adrian Betteridge, executive member for active travel, transport and highways, added: “Encouraging EV ownership will assist in our efforts to address the climate emergency as part of a comprehensive action plan.

“Alongside increased opportunities for walking, cycling and using public transport, which we’re also pursuing, the transition to an electric future reduces air pollution and improves everyone’s health as a result.”

Laying the foundations for a greener future

Demand for EV charging is set to massively increase, with more than 40,000 EVs expected in the borough by 2030 - more than 30 per cent of all vehicles, progressing to near-universal adoption by 2050.

To support this, the council has agreed an ambitious charging strategy, aiming to provide one charge point for every 22 EVs.

Mereoak Park and Ride has been chosen due to its suitability for both short- and long-stay parking, making it ideal for a mix of charging speeds. It offers around 600 parking spaces and is owned by Wokingham Borough Council, and managed day-to-day by Reading Borough Council.

The authorities are working together on this proposal and Reading are exploring opportunities to improve the site further as part of a long-term transport strategy.

With planning permission secured and a grid connection agreed, the next step is to appoint a contractor to build the scheme. The panels would generate about 1.2 million kilowatt-hours per year, equivalent to 150,000 EV charges or the electricity consumption of about 440 homes.

- ENDS -

Further information:

- 1. For more, contact Cllr Imogen Shepherd-DuBey, executive member for finance and governance, at imogen.shepherd-dubey@wokingham.gov.uk**