

Berkshire Association of Local Councils



Address: BALC, Wyvols Court, Basingstoke Road, Swallowfield, Reading, Berkshire RG7 1WY
Tel: 01189 880226

Ms Catherine Meek,
Slough Borough Council

November 27th2018,

Dear Ms Meek,

I was dismayed to read that it is proposed to abolish Wexham Court Parish Council, firstly, against the wishes of the local electorate, secondly, before the target dates for improvements in the action plan, (the majority of which are for May 2019) and thirdly, in the light of the fact that improvements have already been made and are continuing to be made.

Through BALC a review of HR has taken place. Job descriptions have been drawn up and contracts for employees prepared for approval at a forthcoming Parish Council meeting. Three councillors have recently undertaken Councillor and Code of conduct training organised by BALC. The Parish Clerk has recently attended "What you need to know training" arranged by Hampshire ALC and is currently undertaking CiLCA training run by BALC. Wexham Court Parish Council is working to complete the action plan drawn up earlier this month. I will be recommending to the next executive meeting on December 5th that BALC offers mentoring to the council to assist in its endeavours.

The National Association of Local Councils (NALC) is concerned that decisions like these can be taken against local opinion and without any recourse to independent appeal. The government has agreed to look into the CGR process and this provides further evidence in support of a major overhaul.

Yours sincerely,

Ms Ruth Cottingham,
Chair BALC.