

Open Forum

These notes are provided to assist members of the public who might wish to speak at the Open Forum which forms part of the agenda at every meeting of Streatley Parish Council. All meetings commence at 7.45 pm and are held on the second Monday of each month (except August)

The Open Forum commences after Preliminaries and Apologies for Absence, and lasts for a maximum of 30 minutes.

Members of the public (from both within and outside the Parish of Streatley) are entitled to speak at the Open Forum about any matter which they wish to bring to the attention of the Parish Council, although the Chairman reserves the right to interrupt the speaker if it is felt that it is not an appropriate subject for the Parish Council.

Each person is permitted to speak for up to 5 minutes but members of the public may attend simply to listen to comments made by others, i.e. there is no obligation to speak.

If another person has already made a comment which you wish to support, there is no need to repeat what has been said; you should simply confirm that you agree with an earlier comment.

You can provide documents and/or photos to show members of the Council if you wish, but this should not include items such as petitions.

It is not a forum for members of the public to pose/answer questions to/from one another or to heckle/interrupt other speakers.

Once the Chairman has declared that the Open Forum is closed, members of the public are not allowed to speak or interrupt, even if they believe that the Councillors make a factual mistake during their discussions.

After the Open Forum has closed, members of the public are allowed to speak only if a member of the Parish Council asks them a question.

As a general rule, the Chairman will rearrange the agenda in order to discuss the matters which are raised in the Open Forum as soon as it has ended (provided that such matters are on the agenda), so that members of the public can listen to the discussion and then depart if they do not wish to attend the remainder of the meeting.

The Parish Council is not permitted to discuss any subject which is not on the agenda, although it can decide to add a subject to the agenda of a subsequent meeting if it is felt appropriate to do so.

There is a second Open Forum at the end of the meeting, but this is likely to be 90+ minutes later. The procedure for the first Open Forum also applies to the second Open Forum, but decisions taken by the Parish Council during the meeting cannot be reversed.

Planning applications

Please refer to a separate document on the website which offers guidance on what are generally considered to be valid objections to a planning application.

The Parish Council has no authority to accept or reject planning applications and does not comment on whether previous issues have been addressed.

The Parish Council must stick to planning regulations and cannot discuss individual neighbours' opinions.