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'Significant pressure' for ambulance crews

South Central warns of tough winter, with handover delays among concerns

South Central Ambulance Service is facing 'significant pressure' as it heads into the crucial winter period, its chief executive officer has warned, writes **Sam Leech**.

Problems at the service (SCAS), an NHS trust running ambulances in Berkshire and Buckinghamshire, see staff battle handover delays at hospitals and high numbers of 999 calls.

Board papers for the trust's November board meeting detail how pressures could put lives at risk during the cold winter months when demand for emergency care is expected to ramp up.

An update from SCAS CEO David Eltringham said: "The sustained high demand for our services is placing considerable pressure on the trust.

"Our frontline crews, call centre, PTS [patient transfer service], and support staff are all working hard and under significant pressure."

One of the key issues identified is handover delays – the sometimes lengthy time it takes to transfer a patient from an ambulance to a hospital's emergency department.

Handover problems can lead to ambulances backing up in a queue outside emergency departments, which a SCAS risk report highlighted as a specific 'risk to patient safety'.

The risk report said if the trust was unable to use ambulances efficiently this could mean delays in getting patients treatment – and be putting lives at risk.

A prevention of future deaths report released last month, found a 71-year-old Berkshire woman died after waiting seven hours for an ambulance despite being identified as a high priority case.

The coroner concluded that issues with handover delays at Wexham Park Hospital in Slough and the Royal Berkshire Hospital in Reading had contributed to her death.

A separate Operational Winter Planning Report, also prepared for the trust's November meeting said: "Service pressures including handover delays present a major risk if they continue at the current recent levels seen."

To counter these issues, SCAS is introducing a maximum 45 minute handover time limit with the NHS trusts that run hospitals across its area of operations.

This includes NHS Frimley Health Foundation Trust which runs Wexham Park Hospital and Ascot's Heatherwood Hospital.

SCAS is also working with Frimley Health and Care Integrated Care System (ICS) – a partnership of councils, community groups and NHS health trusts in Berkshire, Hampshire and Surrey.

In other measures to help cope with demand, SCAS has replaced and bought 53 new ambulances with a further 71 expected to have been delivered by March 2025.

It also makes use of private ambu-



lances to help plug gaps where NHS services alone cannot meet demand.

The winter planning report predicted more than 30,000 hours of ambulance staff working hours – including around 5,000 through private contractors – would be needed during December.

It expects this month to be the most demanding in terms of working hours.

SCAS ambulance crews could be further 'strained' if its resources need to

be shifted to other areas to cope with demand, the report added.

Mr Eltringham's board update said: "We recognise the impact [pressure] is having on the wellbeing of our staff and the training of our student paramedics.

"We are committed to supporting our teams and are actively implementing initiatives to mitigate these pressures and ensure a sustainable working environment."



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(January to December 2023)

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Council still discovering 'skeletons', says finance lead

The council's finance lead said the Royal Borough is still discovering 'skeletons' left by the previous administration as the authority's £16million overspend was discussed on Wednesday, writes **Anaka Nair**.

Cabinet addressed a month seven budget monitoring report showing the expected overspend had ballooned to £16.181million – £5.7million worse off than two months before.

"From when we came in, we set to work to uncover all the skeletons left by the previous Conservative administration," said Cllr Lynne Jones, cabinet member for finance.

"We are still at the discovery stage in some areas, which needs to be completed before the organisation can really progress with recovery actions and fully implement any improvement or transformation.

"It is unfortunate that there has not been the will previously to undo the historical issues created and their impact."

Registered speaker Cllr Sally Coneron, the newly-elected Conservative councillor for Ascot and Sunninghill, said: "I am asking if you can rise to the serious challenges of today that the residents expect and stop hiding in the past.

"That's all I'm hearing is the past, the past, the past.

"In fact, to be honest, I really think it's time to call on you to resign and hand over the reins to those who are able to bring the chaos under control."

But Cllr Jones said not addressing issues is what 'got the council in this situation in the first place'.

"I would just like to draw people's minds to how that overspend has occurred," she said in response.

"We have a lack of systems, we have a lack of data, we have a lack of staff.

"We haven't been left the budget to put those back in place. We are having to do it and that is the overspend.

"Seventy-seven per cent of our budget is on social care so if we didn't have that budget those people would not have anywhere to go, they would not be protected.

"I am very sorry if you think our overspend is spent on things that don't matter.

"That overspend is absolutely neces-



York House in Windsor.

sary to keep our residents safe and cared for."

Areas of deterioration outlined in the report are in adult social care and children's services, as well as temporary accommodation, parking and planning.

The number of households classified as homeless and requiring temporary accommodation is now 305, which is 'unprecedented' and assumes a rise to 350 households by year-end.

Planning costs and fees have deteriorated, including those from planning appeals while income is forecast to be below target due to a low volume of submitted plans.

Parking income is also looking 'increasingly unlikely to recover' to budgeted levels, despite being up by nine per cent on the previous year.

Around £1.97million has resulted from RBWM's work to rectify 'inappropriate' estimates on the lifespan of assets (asset lives) that were 'scored incorrectly' in the past.

Assets were being written off by up to 50 years when they would really only last a fraction of that time, the report said.

Write-off periods have now been shortened to show more realistic assumptions, but this is an additional £1.967million of charges above the budgeted £4.120million.

Addressing cabinet at York House on Wednesday, former Lib Dem councillor John Baldwin said incorrectly scored asset lives 'implies simple error'.

But the discrepancy between a 50-year write-off and assets only lasting 'a fraction of that time' painted a 'truer picture'.

"How can overstating assets lives so egregiously be anything other than a deliberate attempt to falsify and minimise MRP (minimum revenue provision) charges?" he added.

Mr Baldwin said 'bemoaning its financial inheritance' and calling for an apology from the Conservative leader was 'no longer necessary'.

"You have several historical examples of clear malpractice," he said.

"You know the names of the officers who processed these entries. You know the names of the lead members with the relevant portfolio responsibility at a time these deceptions were [enacted]."

He asked whether the council had begun an inquiry 'beyond financial adjustments' and into liability, questioning whether there was an 'agreed strategy between elected members and the paid service'.

Council leader Simon Werner thanked Mr Baldwin and said they would take the comments on board.

In Memoriam

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Volunteers raise fears for community orchard

By Adrian Williams
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A Windsor community is fighting to protect a large community orchard – tended by volunteers over ‘hundreds’ of hours – under threat from the Sawyers Close redevelopment.

Plans are in motion to demolish and replace the existing eight-storey blocks of flats in Sawyers Close and replace them with nine new apartment buildings with 413 affordable homes.

Housing provider Abri and construction partner The Hill Group have said building is set to commence on site in early 2025, with the first new homes expected in 2026.

A few years ago, a ‘fantastic community orchard’ of 19 trees was painstakingly put together by volunteers, co-funded by the council.

It is ‘very rare’ for its size and purpose – the idea was that everybody could enjoy the fruits of the volunteers’ hard work.

The group that organised this, Green Earth Plan CIC, say that when the Sawyers redevelopment first came to light, they were ‘assured and assured’ by Abri that the entire orchard would be carefully relocated and incorporated into the new landscaping.

But the group is seeing ‘no evidence’ of this plan in action.

A few days ago, Martin Gibbons, who carefully watered the trees through their first two summers alongside his children, noticed they were in danger.

Hefty building materials had been placed right up against the young trees, threatening their survival – and a large construction vehicle had clearly driven ‘right through’ the orchard, he said.

“It’s a miracle the trees weren’t smashed down,” said Martin. “There are huge tyre tracks.

“The orchard hasn’t been protected at all. Their assurances were hollow,” he said.

That is despite the fact that large hoardings have been erected, protecting other parts of the area, he says – such as the new playground.

“We have spent hundreds and hundreds of laborious hours establishing this beautiful orchard,” said Martin.

“A large number of people in the community planted these trees on a voluntary basis – no money – and watered them over two very hot summers to keep them alive.

“The construction industry sees these as just some little trees – an irrelevance – and doesn’t place any value on them.

“But if you paid someone to [plant this orchard], it would cost thousands of pounds. It’s a community effort worth thousands of pounds.”

Martin is worried that there will be ‘buck passing’ and neither Abri nor any others will take responsibility to solve this.

“We feel let down,” he said. “Urgent action is needed this week to protect these trees.”

The volunteers want the trees to

be initially protected from any more such instructions – then they want to arrange for the trees to be moved within the next 12 weeks.

This is because this covers the winter dormant period where the trees do not grow, thus, the better time to transport them without harm coming to them.

After that, the orchard needs to be protected in its new location.

Residents and members of the Sawyers Close Windsor Facebook page also took to social media to register their shock and concern.

A spokesperson for Abri said, in response to concerns expressed online about trees being removed, these ‘are not part of the community orchard and their removal has always been within the planning consent for the site’.

They reiterated assurances that the 19 trees in the orchard ‘will be protected’ and will be relocated to a new location within the site.

“We understand the building works may cause some disruption for our customers and neighbours, and we are working with our construction partner Hill to do everything possible to minimise this,” the spokesperson said.



Ref:136645-5

Jailed for drug offences

A man from Ealing has been jailed for 10 years for drug offences in Slough and Oxford.

Joseph Katende, 20, of Cotton Avenue in Ealing was handed the sentence following a hearing at Oxford Crown Court on Monday, November 18.

At the same court on May 13, Katende pleaded guilty to four counts of possession with intent to supply class A drugs, namely heroin and cocaine, and one count each of possession of cannabis, possession of a prohibited firearm and possession of ammunition without a firearms certificate.

The charges relate to incidents on July 21, 2023 in Slough and March 12 this year in Oxford where Katende was found to be in possession of drugs.

When Katende was

stopped in Oxford, he was also found in possession of a firearm.

Katende was arrested on March 12 and charged with all offences the following day.

Investigating officer Detective Sergeant Chris Bennett, said: “We will never tolerate drug dealing in our communities, which often harm the most vulnerable people.

“We will continue to proactively target and prosecute offenders, like Katende, and we will be visible and covert in our efforts to disrupt and pursue offenders who are involved in the supply of drugs.

“The information from the public around the drug supply offences plays an important role in developing intelligence into a proactive investigation.”

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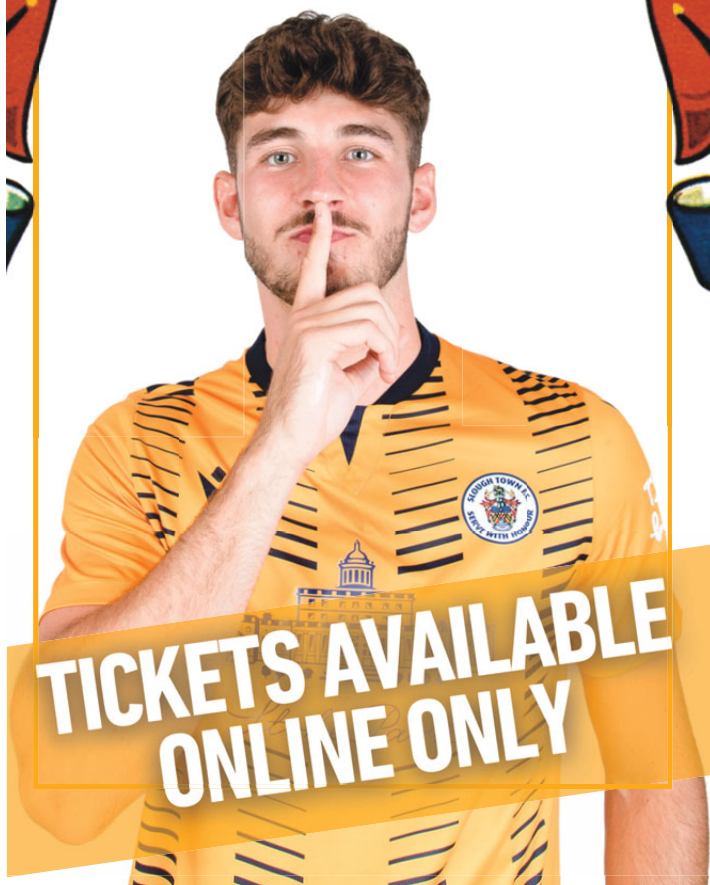
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First operator to be nationalised

By Sam Leech
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South Western Railway is set to become the first train operator in the UK to be brought into public ownership under the new Labour government.

The operator, which runs trains from Windsor & Eton Riverside station to London Waterloo, will be steered by the Department for Transport from May 2025.

Two more rail operators are also set to be nationalised next year in a move the government claims will deliver £150 million in savings and drastically improve services.

Department for Transport (DfT) secretary Heidi Alexander said: "For too long, the British public has had to put up with rail services that simply don't work.

"A complex system of private train operators has too often failed its users.

"Starting with journeys on South Western Railway, we're switching tracks by bringing services back under public control to create a reliable rail network that puts customers first.

"Our broken railways are finally on the fast track to repairing and rebuilding a

system that the British public can trust and be proud of again."

A spokesperson for South Western Railway said: "SWR already works incredibly closely with colleagues in the DfT and Network Rail to deliver for our customers and we're looking forward to developing that joined up approach even further in the future."

SWR also operates trains from Ascot and Sunningdale stations in the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead. It is operated as a joint venture between First Group and MTR Corporation – the latter also running Elizabeth line services till its contract expires next year.

There had been a call from trade union bosses to nationalise this line too, but Transport for London (TfL) opted to run with a private company.

When First Group and MTR's contract for SWR expires, services will be taken over by DfT Operated Limited – formerly known as DfT Operator of Last Resort Holdings Limited.

London and Essex train operator c2c is expected to join the public ownership portfolio in July, with Greater Anglia on board in

autumn.

DfT said nationalisation will come into effect during a 'phased approach', with all contracts it will run finalised over the next three years.

DfT Operated Limited is anticipated to become part of Great British Railways – a future state-owned train company which the government plans to oversee UK rail operations.

The move comes after the government passed the Passenger Railway Services (Public Ownership) Act 2024, which it said 'paves the way for a shake-up of Britain's railways.'

Railway Industry Association (RIA) Chief Executive, Darren Caplan, said the announcement was 'an important milestone on the journey to a restructured railway.'

RIA has more than 400 businesses as members and lobbies government for railway improvements that it says would benefit the economy.

He added: "The UK supply chain will work with and support the government's plans to deliver improved rail performance and reliability, as we together develop world-class rail, both track and train."

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MP still hopeful over Heathrow rail link

By David Lee
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Slough MP Tan Dhesi is leading calls to resurrect the long-awaited Western Rail Link to Heathrow project.

Network Rail's plans for a 6.5km rail link, connecting the Great Western Main Line and Heathrow Airport, have stalled since the coronavirus pandemic.

The proposed rail connection was meant to leave the Main Line between Langley and Iwer before linking with Heathrow Terminal 5 via a new 5km tunnel.

This would provide a quicker option for passengers travelling to Heathrow from the South West, South Wales and West Midlands.

The current options for these passengers are either to travel into London Paddington to catch a Heathrow Express train or change at Hayes and Harlington to pick up an Eliza-

beth line service to the airport. Slough's Labour MP told the Express: "This is the number one infrastructure priority for the region because it would have a transformational effect for businesses, for work and decongesting our roads."

"When you compare it to things like HS2 or Northern Powerhouse Rail it's dwarfed because it's less than one-and-a-half billion pounds."

"But for our area, not just Slough but the Thames Valley, this would mean 20 per cent of the UK's population would be within one interchange of our country's main airport."

The estimated cost of the project is £1.3billion but Mr Dhesi said significant funding from the private sector will be required to get the scheme up and running.

He added: "The Government are saying we want the private sector to raise hundreds of millions of pounds and then we will commit to it."

"We've got to get that in-

terest – whether that's from businesses on the SEGRO trading estate, in Reading or perhaps even a sovereign wealth fund."

"A lot of the sovereign wealth funds from around the globe invest in certain infrastructure projects if they can get a return as well."

"There's lots of different ways they can gain benefit but they've got to feel they can get that return."

Network Rail's plans for the Western Rail Link to Heathrow project were originally expected to be submitted to the Department for Transport in 2020.

But progress stalled upon the arrival of the coronavirus pandemic which led to a huge decline in passenger numbers and an impasse over Heathrow's third runway plans.

A spokesperson for Network Rail said: "The Western Rail Link to Heathrow project is not currently active."



Tan Dhesi.

"For administrative reasons it is marked as 'closed', however it could be reopened again and become active if a satisfactory business case and funding agreement, including an appropriate contribution from the Heathrow aviation industry, is confirmed and progress is resumed towards submitting a development consent

order application."

A Heathrow spokesperson said: "Increasing use of public transport will help reduce emissions and congestion on local roads."

"We continue to explore how we can support new projects, including Western Rail, to reduce the number of cars driving to Heathrow."

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By Anaka Nair
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Humanitarian charity Khalsa Aid says rising intolerance is the biggest challenge for aid workers as it reflects on its 25-year history.

Ravinder 'Ravi' Singh Sidhu founded the Slough-based NGO in April 1999, during the Kosovo War, when a small group drove two trucks to the Albanian border for its first emergency provision.

Since then, Khalsa Aid has become an internationally supported charity with tens of thousands of volunteers across several global chapters including Canada, Australia, India and the USA.

"We haven't looked back – it's been a journey," CEO Ravi told the Express.

He described starting the charity as a 'massive' leap of faith.

"We've covered almost every disaster and war in the last 25 years and we're always proud to say we started from Slough."

Since founding the charity at age 29, Ravi said the 'passion' and ethos – to recognise the whole human race as one – remains the same on its 25th anniversary.

"A lot of people think we only help Sikhs but we're anything but," said Ravi.

"I can't believe as a founder, how far we've got, where we ended up and how we ended up here. It's been amazing."

Ravi moved to Chalvey from Punjab, India in 1981, and set up the organisation's offices in Whitby Road in 1999.

That year, a reporter asked him whether the organisation would grow like The Red Cross, and Ravi was convinced it would.

"I said yes, we will. We became the first-ever Sikh humanitarian organisation – it was something I believed would grow," he said.

Ravi reflected on the generosity of local gurdwaras during the miners' strike whilst growing up in Slough during the eighties.

"In our faith, there is the saying 'Sarbat da Bhalla' or the wellbeing of all, so we are a very generous community – we don't mind who

comes to the gurdwara," he added.

"We don't mind anyone eating with us in the langar hall. It's open to anybody. That instilled in me that our faith has shown us the path, why don't we do something for those who need it more?"

"Now we're spending millions [globally], and it's all from the Sikh community. We don't get any grants or funding. Our community is very generous and that makes me very proud."

The 'immense' paperwork has posed an unexpected challenge since expanding operations, but the charity – which currently operates out of an office in Taplow – hopes to relocate its headquarters back to Slough.

"Slough is where we started so it will always be our spiritual home," said Ravi, who says the charity is part of the town's 'fabric'.

"From the Middle East to Asia, there's so much love for Khalsa Aid across the world. We try to live up to our name [and] deliver as fast as we can in an emergency."

Ravi believes today's challenges are 'more difficult' than 25 years ago due to social media and rising intolerance.

He also said there is more 'fatigue' and 'hatred towards refugees' since the war in Syria began in 2011.

"We judge people without knowing their plight. Instead of jumping to conclusions, we need to be more understanding of their situation rather than their identity," he added.

Ravi said 'identity' has

been both a positive and a challenge to Khalsa Aid as an organisation too.

"Our identity is very distinct – the turbans, the beards," he said.

"People perceive you to be a religious missionary organisation. We're not.

"We don't even talk about who we are – we get stuck in."

He added: "Being a faith organisation, especially Sikhs, where the identity is big for us, the spiritual side gives us strength, and the physical appearance has become such a great symbol of hope in many places.

"We stand out for a reason – that is our image – so people can approach us for any help.

"Khalsa Aid has become synonymous with Sikhism and that identity is very positive for us."

Speaking about the challenges of providing aid to Gaza, Ravi said the situation has 'deteriorated'.

"You start out thinking everything is easy – you just take the aid – and then you realise the complexities of delivering aid in different border areas," he added.

"It's sad – politics is stopping a lot of the aid. It makes it difficult for us who are deeply passion-driven."

"We're still learning some of the ropes but it's all about compassion.

"It's amazing how [volunteers] kept my faith alive in humanity. Without our community's generosity, we couldn't do anything.

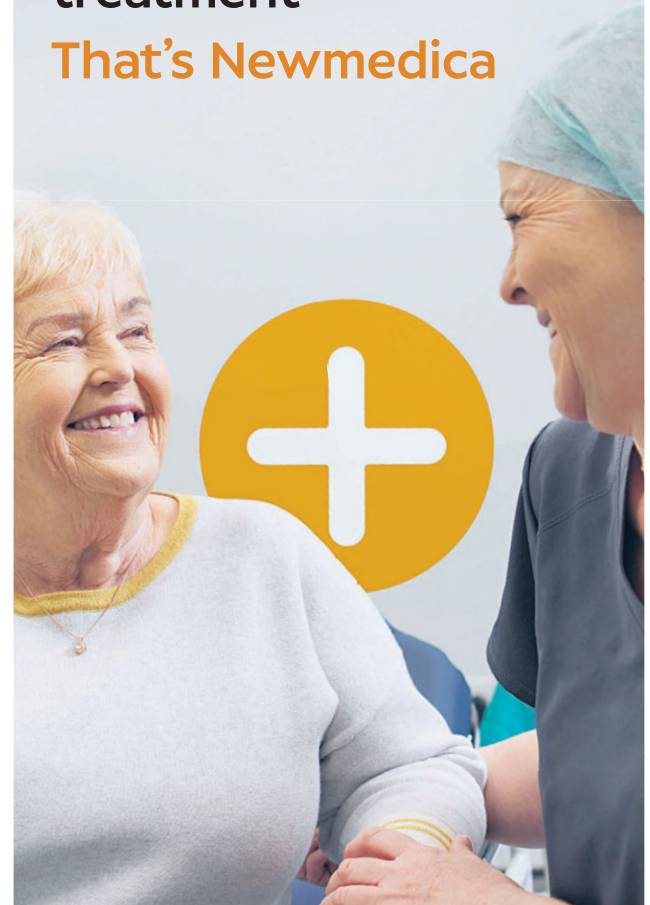
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Commons Sense

By Windsor MP Jack Rankin

My job as your Member of Parliament is to fight for you when bad decisions are taken that impact your lives.

The potential closure of Windsor Post Office and the misuse of The Manor Hotel in Datchet are two issues I am working hard to put right.

Last month, it was announced that a swathe of Post Office branches are at risk. I was dismayed to hear that this includes the busy Peascod Street branch in central Windsor.

It is an ever-dependable feature of our town centre, providing a range of mail, travel, driving, identity and money services for residents.

This is not to mention its pivotal role in helping Windsor's local businesses thrive, with two in every five visits seeing money spent in neighbouring shops.

Windsor Post Office is under threat and I am fighting to keep it open.

You can join me and over 900 residents who have backed my petition by adding your name at: www.jackrankin.org.uk/tell-post-office-save-windsor-post-office.

Residents in Datchet will

remember that The Manor Hotel at the very heart of the village was used to house migrant families from 2022 until earlier this year, when the previous Conservative government moved these people out and allowed it to reopen to the public.

We all assumed that Datchet had done its bit.

The Labour government clearly does not agree, as with just 24 hours' notice, they began housing 'single adult male' migrants at the hotel.

Residents and businesses have shared their concerns with me about safety, antisocial behaviour, the proximity to schools and impact on local services.

Despite standing up twice in the House of Commons to express these, I still haven't had a straight answer from Labour on how long the hotel will be misused for.

I will keep on pushing for answers.



Owners appeal demolition order

By Nick Clark, local democracy reporter
news@baylismedia.co.uk
@ExpressSeries

The owners of a controversial town centre block of flats built without planning permission are fighting a council order to demolish it.

Slough Borough Council demanded last month that the half-constructed building in Wexham Road, opposite the Royal Mail office, be demolished.

But the owners have appealed to the Planning Inspectorate to have the order overturned.

Slough Borough Council told the Local Democracy Reporting Scheme (LDRS) it is confident the appeal will fail.

A spokesperson said: "The council is very confident that it is able to defend its decision, both in terms of the enforcement notice and refusal of the planning application."

The appeal comes after a year of twists and turns over whether the flats, which at six storeys high tower over neighbouring houses, should be allowed to be built.

Councillors on Slough's planning committee initially gave approval to the towering 27-home development in July last year.

The vote meant formal planning permission would

be granted once all necessary legal agreements were signed.

That was against the advice of the council's own planning officers, who said it would create 'an overwhelming sense of enclosure and overlooking' towards neighbouring houses.

Conservative councillor Adil Iftakhar – who was chairman of the planning committee at the time – dismissed officers' objections as 'outdated' and a 'generic reason for refusal'.

He voted to approve the extension along with other Conservative councillors Nadeem Khawar, Gurchuran Manku and Zafar Satti.

Only three others voted against – Labour councillors Martin Carter, Harjinder Gahir and Pavitar Kaur Mann. Liberal Democrat councillor Asim Naveed abstained.

Yet formal planning permission wasn't granted as Wexham Construction Ltd failed to sign an agreement to contribute to the costs of new infrastructure to support the development within a six month time frame.

Such agreements are a normal part of the planning process and have to be signed for formal permission to be granted.

With the deadline passed, planning officers brought the application back to the planning committee in May this year – again recommending that it be refused.

By that time, all the councillors who previously voted to approve it had been replaced on the committee. This time the committee voted to reject the application – meaning it never had planning permission.

But by this point construction work was already underway. In the enforcement notice the council says the building should either be demolished or made to fit with plans for a smaller block of flats of up to four storeys that was granted planning permission in 2022.

The notice was due to come into force on November 7, but Wexham Construction lodged an appeal against it. The firm's director, solicitor Raman-deep Purewall also lodged an appeal, as did Gian Purewall, Amrita Purewall and Mandeep Ajula.

That means a Government planning inspector will have the final say after a hearing set to take place next year.

The LDRS attempted to contact Raman-deep Purewall at the Harrow-based solicitors firm Aston Brooke where he is also a director, but received no response.

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sloughexpress.co.uk windsorexpress.co.uk

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News

01753 825111

Coroner calls for NHS trust action

By Adrian Williams
adrianw@baylismedia.co.uk
@AdrianW_BM

A coroner has said action must be taken to prevent future deaths in the wake of the suicide of a 36-year-old GP from Burnham.

Dr Jaipreet Panesar died in April 2023 after about a year of attempts to get help.

She had sought support from and been referred to multiple mental health teams during that time.

In an inquest last month, the sad circumstances of Jai's life leading up to her death were detailed by her family and various health professionals.

She had been suffering greatly after an unsuccessful jaw surgery that left her in chronic pain, alongside the breakdown of her marriage and other unfortunate personal matters.

Jai was said to have started pulling away from her family, who at times did not know her whereabouts and became increasingly worried.

Attempts to help Jai by her fellow GPs were frustrated by 'cracks in the system', the inquest found.

In particular, there were communications and record-keeping problems which remain to this day – and must be addressed, the coroner has said.

Heidi Connor, senior coroner for Berkshire, mapped the timeline of the most significant events leading up to Jai's passing in a Prevention of Future Deaths report:

June 21, 2022: Jai referred herself to the Crisis Response and Home Treatment Team (known as 'the crisis team'). She attended three appointments in June and July.

July 29, 2022: Jai was discharged from the crisis team to Buckinghamshire Talking Therapies (BTT). Whilst under this team, Jai disclosed that she had made previous suicide attempts.

August 2022 onwards: The mental health support that Jai received was from teams other than BTT.

These teams used a different electronic records system, Rio.

Despite being part of the same NHS body (Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust), it was not possible

for clinicians to access both systems.

August 31, 2022: There was an attempt to refer Jai to the crisis team again by her GP. After this, she was given an appointment with the community mental health team for September 8.

Jai attended A&E after being encouraged to do so by friends and her GP.

She was admitted as a voluntary inpatient to a psychiatric ward.

September 7, 2022: Jai was discharged from this ward and was under the care of the crisis team for around 10 days.

After that no medium- or long-term plan was put in place and she was discharged back to the care of her GP.

April 27, 2023: Jai was found deceased in a hotel in Maidenhead.

At the time of her death, Jai was not under secondary mental health services – ie, those that meet the needs of people with longer term or complex mental health conditions.

Mrs Connor highlighted two matters of concern.

One, that Oxford NHS

Trust's own investigation found no care co-ordinator or key worker was provided to Jai after her discharge from hospital on September 7, 2022.

The Trust's plan was to review this by June 2024. This has been pushed back to January 2025 – almost two years after Jai's death.

The second concern is that 'it is still not possible' for teams using Rio and the BTT systems to access each other's clinical notes.

This coroner's report is being sent to Oxford NHS Trust, with the note: "In my opinion action should be taken to prevent future deaths and I believe you have the power to take such action."

The Trust has a duty to respond by January 20, 2025.

Its response must contain details of action taken or proposed, setting out the timetable for this – otherwise, the Trust must explain why it is not taking any action.

A spokesperson for the Trust said it has received the report and will be responding directly to the coroner.



Dr Jaipreet Panesar.

4G coverage on Elizabeth line

Elizabeth line passengers will now have access to high-speed mobile coverage across the breadth of its rail network after a 4G rollout was completed.

All underground and over-ground sections of the Elizabeth line now have 4G connectivity which Transport for London (TfL) hopes will put an end to areas that have suffered from patchy data coverage.

London mayor Sadiq Khan, who heads TfL said: "Bringing mobile coverage to the Underground network is a key commitment of mine, so I'm delighted that the entire Elizabeth line network now has 4G connectivity."

"This is yet another step towards ensuring Londoners and visitors can stay connected on our transport network and means customers can access the latest travel information, keep in touch with colleagues, friends and family throughout their journey on the Elizabeth line."

Work, undertaken in partnership with TfL and Boldyn Networks, is ongoing to deliver 4G and 5G coverage across all Tube, Docklands Light Railway (DLR) and Elizabeth line networks.

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24th November 2024

What is life for?

"Seek first the kingdom of God" Mat 6:33

8th December 2024

The Truth about Death

"For dust you are, and to dust you shall return" Gen 3:19

22nd December 2024

The Resurrection

"The Gift of God is Eternal Life" Rom 6:23

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Public Notices - Traffic

THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF WINDSOR & MAIDENHEAD MONTAGUE ROAD (PART), DATCHET (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) ORDER 2024

The Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead has made an Order, the effect of which will be to:

Prohibit any vehicle from proceeding along this part of Montague Road from southern boundary of No 99 Montague Road to southern boundary of No 93 Montague Road.

There is no alternative route available.

The purpose of the Order is to facilitate works in the highway, namely fibre optic ducting works and as a result there is the likelihood of danger to the public.

The Order shall be in operation daily between 09:30 hours and 15:30 hours from Tuesday 10 December until Friday 13 December 2024. There will be a prohibition of driving when signs as prescribed by the Traffic Sign Regulations and General Directions 2016 are in place to indicate the said restrictions.

If you wish to have more information, please contact **Sunbelt Rentals** working on behalf of **Openreach** on **03700 500 792**

Dated: 6 December 2024

Alyse Strachan, Traffic Manager, Town Hall, St. Ives Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 1RF

Public Notices - Traffic

Department for Transport
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990

The Secretary of State Hereby gives notice of the proposal to make an Order under section 247 of the above Act to authorise the stopping up of a length of Blackthorne Crescent at Poyle, in the Borough of Slough.

If the Order is made, the stopping up will be authorised only in order to enable development as permitted by Slough Borough Council. The Secretary of State gives notice of the draft Order under Section 255 (1) of the Act.

Copies of the draft order and relevant plan will be available for inspection during normal opening hours at Langley Library, Trelawney Avenue, Langley, Slough, SL3 7UF in the 28 days commencing on 6 December 2024, and may be obtained, free of charge, from the Secretary of State quoting NATTRAN/SE/S247/5903 at the address stated below.

Any person may object to the making of the proposed order by stating their reasons in writing to the Secretary of State at nationalcasework@dft.gov.uk or National Transport Casework Team, Tyneside House, Skinnerburn Road, Newcastle upon Tyne NE4 7AR, quoting the above reference. Objections should be received by midnight on **3 January 2025**. You are advised that your personal data and correspondence will be passed to the applicant/agent to enable your objection to be considered. If you do not wish your personal data to be forwarded, please state your reasons when submitting your objection.

N Crass, Casework Manager

Road closure for fibre optic work

All areas: Stretch of Park Lane to be closed to vehicles



By Anaka Nair
AnakaN@baylismedia.co.uk
[@AnakaN_BM](https://www.baylismedia.co.uk)

This week's public notices feature planning permission applications from Heathrow Airport and the Frimley Health NHS Foundation Trust.

Road closures:

No cars will be allowed along Park Lane, Horton, from its junction with Dawn Redwood Close to the southern boundary of Lakeside Cottage.

The road closure is to facilitate fibre optic ducting works and no alternative route is available.

It will be in operation daily from Monday to Friday between 8am and 6pm from Monday, December 9 until Friday, December 20.

Part of Montague Road, Slough, will be closed later this month for highway works. The road closure is from the southern boundary of No 99 to the southern boundary of No 93 Montague Road.

No alternative route is available. The road closure is daily between 9.30am to 3.30pm from Tuesday, December 10 until Friday, December 13.

No traffic will be permitted through Uxbridge Road from number 1 to number 27 next April.

The road closure will start at 12.01am on Monday, April 7 until 11.59pm on Friday, April 18 2025.

Planning:

A proposal has been submitted to authorise the stopping up of part of Blackthorne Crescent at Poyle,

and if approved, will be authorised to enable development permitted by Slough Borough Council.

Copies of the plans will be available for inspection during normal opening hours at Langley Library for four weeks commencing on December 6 and may be obtained for free from the Secretary of State quoting NAT-TRAN/SE/S247/5903.

Objections can be submitted to the Secretary of State at nationalcasework@dft.gov.uk quoting the reference by midnight on January 3 2025.

Heathrow Airport Limited is applying for planning permission for works to allow the implementation of full runway alternation during easterly operations at Heathrow Airport.

This includes creating a new 'hold area' at the western end of the northern runway, the construction of new access and exit taxiways, the construction of an acoustic noise barrier to the south of Longford Village and temporary construction compounds.

Members of the public may inspect copies of the plans on the council's website at: www.hillingdon.gov.uk/planning-search

Representations can be submitted using the same link as above.

Traffic:

RBWM is looking to implement a 20mph speed limit along the following roads in Windsor (all distances are approximate)

■ Barry Avenue from its junction with Stovell Road

to a point 125 metres east of the junction with Vansittart Road,

■ Duke Street for its entire length

■ Stovell Road from a point 80 metres north and westwards from its junction with Maidenhead Road to its junction with Barry Avenue

■ Vansittart Road from a point 20 metres north of its junction with Maidenhead Road to its junction with Barry Avenue

Copies of the proposals can be inspected at Windsor Library on Monday, Thursday, and Friday from 9.30am to 5.30pm, Tuesday 2pm – 7pm, Wednesday 1.30pm – 5.30pm, Saturday 10am – 4pm, and Sunday 11am – 2pm.

Meanwhile, Frimley Health NHS Foundation Trust has applied to the Environment Agency for a full licence to abstract water from underground strata known as the South-West Chilterns Chalk at Wexham Park Hospital at National Grid Reference SU 98866 82441.

The application is to abstract water for 22 cubic metres an hour, 528 cubic metres a day and 120,000 cubic metres a year.

The water will be treated and stored as potable water for hospital use.

To see the application documents or for representations, quote the name of the applicant and reference number NPS/WR/040150 to the Environment Agency, at: PSC-WaterResources@environment-agency.gov.uk by January 3 2025.

Public Notices - Traffic

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL Section 14(1)(a) the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 ('RTRA 1984') and Regulation 3 of the Road Traffic (Temporary Restrictions) Procedure Regulations 1992.
SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL (Uxbridge Road) ORDER 2024 ('Proposed Order')

1. SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL gives notice that it proposes to make an order under section 14(1)(a) of the RTRA 1984 and any other enabling powers.
2. If made, the Proposed Order will prohibit any traffic passing through Uxbridge Road, Slough SL1, from number 1 Uxbridge Road, Slough SL1 to number 27 Uxbridge Road, Slough SL1.
3. The Proposed Order is needed because works are or are proposed to be carried out on or near the road.
4. If made, the Proposed Order shall come into operation at 00:01 hours on Monday 7th April 2025 for a period of 18 months, or until the works have been completed whichever is sooner. All works are expected to be completed by 23:59 hours on Friday 18th April 2025.
5. An alternative route will be available for use while the Proposed Order is in force with a local diversion sign at the location. Advanced warning notices will be at the locations advising of the dates the works will be carried out. Access will be maintained for all local residents and businesses.
6. A copy of the Proposed Order and a plan showing the parts of the highway affected may be inspected at the site where the closure will take place or on the Slough Borough Council website at <https://www.slough.gov.uk/trto>.
7. If you have any queries regarding the proposed work or alternative route please contact: Service Lead - Planning & Transport, Slough Borough Council, Observatory House, 25 Windsor Road, Slough SL1 2EL; or by email to street.works@slough.gov.uk; or by phone 01753 475111.

Dated: Friday 6th December 2024

LONDON BOROUGH OF HILLINGDON APPLICATIONS FOR PLANNING PERMISSION
CATEGORY A – Applications for Planning Permission under Article 15 of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 and Notice under Article 19 of the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017

Ref: 41573/APP/2024/2838 Proposed development at: **Heathrow Airport**. I give notice that Heathrow Airport Limited is applying for Planning Permission for: Enabling works to allow implementation of full runway alternation during easterly operations at Heathrow Airport including the creation of a new 'hold area' at the western end of the northern runway, the construction of new access and exit taxiways, the construction of an acoustic noise barrier to the south of Longford Village and temporary construction compounds.

The proposed development is subject to an Environment Impact Assessment (Notice under Article 19 of the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017). Members of the public may inspect copies of the application, the plans, the Environmental Statement and other documents associated with it online at www.hillingdon.gov.uk/planning-search.

Anyone who wishes to make representations about this application should enter their comment on the Council's website www.hillingdon.gov.uk/planning-search, or write to Development Management, Planning and Sustainable Growth, Hillingdon Council, 3 North Civic Centre, Uxbridge, UB8 1UW.

Representations should be made by 20th January 2025.

Julia Johnson, Director of Planning and Sustainable Growth **Date: 6th December 2024**

THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF WINDSOR & MAIDENHEAD (VARIOUS ROADS, WINDSOR) (20MPH SPEED LIMIT) ORDER 2024

The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, in exercise of its powers under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (the Act) and all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the Chief Officer of Police made the above Order on 03 December 2024, the effect of which will be to: Implement a 20mph speed limit along the following roads in Windsor:

Barry Avenue: from its junction with Stovell Road to a point 125 metres east of the junction with Vansittart Road, Duke Street: for its entire length, Stovell Road: From a point 80 metres north and westwards from its junction with Maidenhead Road to its junction with Barry Avenue, Vansittart Road: from a point 20 metres north of its junction with Maidenhead Road to its junction with Barry Avenue.

All distances are approximate.

Copies of the documents detailing the proposals can be inspected at Windsor Library, Bachelors Acre, Windsor, SL4 1ER, at the following times: Monday, Thursday, and Friday - 9:30am-5:30pm, Tuesday 2pm - 7pm, Wednesday 1.30pm-5.30pm, Saturday 10am-4pm, and Sunday 11am-2pm.

Any person who wishes to question the validity of the Order or any provision contained therein, on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, or on the grounds that a requirement of that Act or of any relevant Regulation made under it, has not been complied with, may, within six weeks from 03 December 2024 make application for the purpose to the High Court.

Dated: 6 December 2024

Stephen Evans, Chief Executive, Town Hall, St Ives Road, Maidenhead, SL6 1RF

Plan to extend Islamic centre



Manor Park Pavilion. Photo: Google.

By Anaka Nair
 anakan@baylismedia.co.uk
 @Anaka_NM

A proposal to extend a mosque and Islamic education centre in Slough has been submitted to the council.

Manor Park Pavilion is currently home to the Ujala Foundation, and these plans are for two single-storey side extensions of the existing building.

The charity began its services at Manor Park Community Centre in 2011 before relocating to its current venue in 2018.

It has leased the 1,040sqm site on Villers Road from the council for six years and recently extended it as a base for another 20 years.

In addition to daily prayers, some activities include an elderly lunch club, a 'ladie' coffee morning and health and fitness class, the Ujala Walk Group, a youth club, a weekend school, Quran classes and a ladies' Tajweed class.

The charity has been 'extremely successful' in providing services and helping people 'integrate [into] English society, cul-

ture and education', the applicant added.

Furthermore, this centre has 'reduced the burden' on other community centres in Slough.

The applicant said in a statement: "The centre has become useful in helping and advising the Muslim youth in integrating with the British society as well as having respect for the laws of the land."

The original building was extended more than 15 years ago but has been 'outgrown' by members, making this proposed extension 'vital' for its continued use.

"One of our key aims of Ujala Foundation is to build bridges of peace and unity across our multicultural society," the applicant said.

"The proposal is for an Islamic Culture and Education Community Centre to provide Islamic education to Muslims and non-Muslims alike, as well as understanding about the Islamic religion."

The site lies within a commercial and residential area, and the scale of development matches those of a similar design in the retail units next to the site.

The site is also accessible as the applicant believes 99 per cent of visitors will walk as they are largely based in close proximity to the centre.

Car parking has never been an issue', the applicant added with resident permit parking on neighbouring Wellesley Road and one-hour free parking for guests.

During prayer times, the centre can expect approximately 30 to 40 people daily and between 20 and 30 attendees to programmes such as learning English language and culture.

Staff at the centre relay information and provide help to those who may encounter domestic, financial, housing or legal problems 'where language and culture may be a hindrance', says the applicant.

Noise-generating activities during construction will be identified sensitively with work proposed to take place between Monday and Friday from 8am until 6pm, and Saturday from 8.30am to 12pm.

For more details use the reference P/20714/000 in the Slough Borough Council planning portal.

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Public Notices - Goods Vehicle

Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence
 Mr Terry Hine trading as Thames Water Ltd of Fleet Services, Clearwater Court, Vastern Rd, Reading RG1 8DB is applying for a licence to use Slough D.C Lanes Group, Slough SL1 4AV as an operating centre for 6 goods vehicles and 1 trailer.
 Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Office of the Traffic Commissioner, Quarry House, Quarry Hill, Leeds, LS2 7UE stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representatives must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office.

Public Notices - Probate

JUNE ANN AYRES Deceased
 Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 anyone having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the deceased, late of 11 Copper Beech Close, Windsor, Berkshire, SL4 5RS, who died on 22/03/2024, must send written particulars to the address below by 07/02/2025, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests notified.
 Shailja Angra
 c/o Charles Coleman, Beaumont House, 28-30 Beaumont Road, Windsor, SL4 1JP. Ref: SA/7443

Public Notices - Traffic

THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF WINDSOR & MAIDENHEAD PARK LANE (PART), HORTON (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) ORDER 2024

The Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead has made an Order, the effect of which will be to: Prohibit any vehicle from proceeding along this part of Park Lane from its junction with Dawn Redwood Close to southern boundary of property known as "Lakeside Cottage". There is no alternative route available. The purpose of the Order is to facilitate works in the highway, namely fibre optic ducting works and as a result there is the likelihood of danger to the public. The proposed shall be in operation Monday to Friday only daily between 08:00 hours and 18:00 hours from Monday 9 December until Friday 20 December 2024. There will be a prohibition of driving when signs as prescribed by the Traffic Sign Regulations and General Directions 2016 are in place to indicate the said restrictions. If you wish to have more information, please contact **OCU Group** working on behalf of **City Fibre** on **0800 083 6160**.
Dated: 6 December 2024
 Alysse Strachan, Traffic Manager, Town Hall, St. Ives Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 1RF

Public Notices - Probate

LESLIE HARRIS (Deceased)
 Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the above named, late of 6 Gibston Court Ditton Road Langley Slough, SL3 8PP, who died on 11/09/2024, are required to send written particulars thereof to the undersigned on or before 07/02/2025, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.
AWB CHARLESWORTH SOLICITORS LTD.
 Aleside House Aleside Business Centre Royal Ings Avenue Keighley BD21 4BZ

Public Notices - Probate

PETER GILBERT HINSON (Deceased)
 Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the above named, late of Chandos Lodge, Blackpond Lane, Farnham Common, Slough, SL2 3ED; formerly of 6 Lawkland, Farnham Royal, South Buckinghamshire, SL2 3AN, who died on 28/05/2024, are required to send written particulars thereof to the undersigned on or before 07/02/2025, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.
OWEN WHITE & CATLIN LLP.
 74 Church Road, Ashford, Middlesex, TW15 2TP

Public Notices - Probate

ROGERS ALEXANDRINA ELENA (Deceased)
 Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the above named, late of Burnham Lodge Nursing Home, Parliament Lane, Burnham, Slough, SL1 8NU, who died on 27/12/2023, are required to send written particulars thereof to the undersigned on or before 07/02/2025, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.
B P COLLINS LLP. B P COLLINS LLP 20 Station Road, Gerrards Cross SL9 8EL

Public Notices - Goods Vehicle

Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence
 NCM Supply Limited of 21 Halesworth Avenue, Broughton, Milton Keynes, MK10 7NN is applying to change an existing licence as follows: to keep an extra 3 goods vehicles and 3 trailers at the operating centre at Court Lane Industrial Estate, Court Lane, Iver, SL0 9HL. Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Quarry House, Quarry Hill, Leeds LS2 7UE stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representatives must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office.

Public Notices - Goods vehicle

Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence

HARNEK SINGH MAND trading as **MAND TRANSPORT LTD** of 21 SUNDON CRESCENT VIRGINIA WATER, SURREY GU25 4RF is applying for a licence to use **HEATHROW COLNBROOK BY-PASS SL3 0EB** as an operating centre for 1 goods vehicles and 0 trailers.

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Quarry House, Quarry Hill, Leeds, LS2 7UE stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representatives must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's office.

Public Notices

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY Water Resources Act 1991 (as amended by the Water Act 2003) Notice of application for a full licence to abstract (take) water

Frimley Health NHS Foundation Trust has applied to the Environment Agency for a licence. The Environment Agency is giving notice of this application, in accordance with Section 37 of the Water Resources Act 1991 and Regulation 6 of the Water Resources (Abstraction and Impounding) Regulations 2006. The application is for a full licence to abstract water from underground strata known as the South-West Chilterns Chalk at Wexham Park Hospital at National Grid Reference SU 98866 82441.

The application is to abstract water as follows:
 • 22 cubic metres an hour • 528 cubic metres a day
 • 120,000 cubic metres a year.
 The water will be treated and stored as potable water for hospital use.
Please contact us via e-mail or use the number below to arrange to see the application documents.
 Send any representation about this application by email, quoting the name of the applicant and reference number **NPS/WR/040150** to the Environment Agency, at: **PSC-WaterResources@environment-agency.gov.uk** by **3rd January 2025**.
 For advice about how to make a representation call **03708 506 506**.

Public Notices - Planning

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNCIL

SOUTH BUCKS LOCAL AREA TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) REGULATIONS 1990

The following applications have been received by the Council. The reason for advertising is indicated at the end of the details of the application. The reason abbreviations are LB = Listed Building; CA = Conservation Area

- PL/24/3201/FA** CA Badminton House, 38 Marsham Way, Gerrards Cross, SL9 8AP Two storey rear extension, single storey side extension to the east elevation, 4 rear and 2 side dormers and alterations to main house (amendment to planning permission PL/24/1579/FA).
- PL/24/3509/FA & PL/24/3510/HB** LB in CA 15 Windsor End, Beaconsfield, HP9 2JJ Proposed erection of single storey rear extension, new roof section to second storey and alterations to include replacement second floor structure and roof structure including roof lights. Installation of electric gates, external lighting and cameras, replacement of staircases, refurbishment of fireplaces, internal alterations and erection of new binstore and plant room.
- PL/24/3399/FA** Affects setting of CA Hay Cottage, 25 Bulstrode Way, Gerrards Cross, SL9 7QT Replacement single storey front extension, part first floor/part two storey side extension to include front rooflights and installation of rear solar panels and window changes.

You may view applications at pa-csb.buckinghamshire.gov.uk or at the Council Offices, Queen Victoria Road, High Wycombe, HP11 1BB during office hours. Comments received on applications are public documents. They must be received within 21 days of the date of this publication. Comments can be made either online or in writing quoting the reference number and your postal address, to our Council offices or via email to planning.comments@cb.buckinghamshire.gov.uk. Note there will be no further opportunity to comment on household applications that go to appeal.

ERIC OWENS, SERVICE DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

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www.sloughexpress.co.uk www.windsorexpress.co.uk

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Over 200 years of Slough and Windsor history

Colnbrook: Width restriction also introduced in Poyle Road Bus gate trial aims to cut HGV traffic

By David Lee
david@baylismedia.co.uk
@DavidLee_BM

A northbound width restriction and bus gate are being trialled in Poyle Road to cut down on the number of HGVs passing through Colnbrook.

Slough Borough Council said over the past several years it has been receiving complaints about the speed and number of lorries passing through the residential area along Bath Road.

The local authority said this has been a particular issue between Poyle Road and Bath Road (Elbow Meadow) to the east.

It has now introduced a new experimental scheme which includes a northbound width restriction and bus gate in Poyle Road (south of Mathisen Way).

Bus gates are short sections

of road restricted to public transport or other authorised vehicles.

This would be located to the side of the width restriction, allowing buses and cars to continue northbound – but not HGVs.

The scheme aims to:

- divert HGVs to roads more suitable for their needs
- reduce issues currently experienced in the layby south of Mathisen Way
- ensure bus routes and journey times are not impacted
- improve road safety in the area
- ensure businesses and their operations are not affected
- improve air quality and reduce congestion, carbon emissions, and noise pollution by minimising HGV movements through predominantly residential areas

New signs have been introduced and the southbound carriageway for Poyle Road will be unrestricted for all vehicles, including HGVs.

HGV traffic can enter the industrial estate via Bath Road and must exit via Horton Road.

A public consultation opened this week and will run until June 30, 2025, for members of the public to give their views about the trial.

Back in 2016, a consultation was held on a similar bus gate scheme but it was not brought in after businesses raised concerns over longer journey times to Heathrow for freight vehicles.

Conservative councillor Paul Kelly, cabinet member for housing, highways, planning and transport, said: “Tackling this issue feeds back to several of our council policies, including our low emission



Poyle Road's junction with Mathisen Way. Credit: Google Maps

strategy and local transport plan.

“We have implemented this experimental scheme after complaints about HGVs and other traffic issues.

“We always want to hear the views of residents, commuters, businesses and stakeholders.

“Please give your feedback over the next few months as you get a feel for how it is affecting you and traffic in the area. We can then measure the impact of the experimental scheme.”

The trial will be in place for no longer than 18 months.

You can respond to the consultation online, by email, by

post, or by phone.

Members of the public can visit Observatory House, 25 Windsor Road, Slough, to view a larger copy of the plan or to pick up a leaflet about the consultation.

Further information is also available at Colnbrook Village Hall during its opening hours.

The council said all feedback collected during the trial period will be used to decide whether to make the experimental scheme permanent.

Visit slough.citizenspace.com/transport/poyle-road-width-restrict/ to view the online plans.

JustGo!
Holidays

UK BREAKS



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- ✓ En-route visit to a place of interest

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LLANDUDNO, Chester & Snowdonia



Departing Mon 3 Feb '25

Your break includes

- ✓ Return coach travel from Slough
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- ✓ Entertainment some evenings
- ✓ Excursions to Snowdonia (Betws-y-Coed & Conwy) & Chester

Optional excursion to the Isle of Anglesey (£14pp)

5 Days by Coach *only* £259

Single Supplement £100

GREAT YARMOUTH & the Norfolk Coastline



Departing Mon 31 Mar '25

Your break includes

- ✓ Return coach travel from Maidenhead, Bracknell, Slough
- ✓ 4 nights at the Waverley Hotel, Great Yarmouth (JG2+ rating) with dinner & breakfast
- ✓ Entertainment some evenings (at the Waverley & Nelson hotels only)
- ✓ 99p bar (7pm-10pm) on selected drinks
- ✓ Excursions to Cromer, Sheringham & Norwich

Optional excursion to the Norfolk Broads (Horning & Wroxham) (£14pp)

5 Days by Coach *only* £249

Single Supplement £100

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Council defends new parking restrictions

By Nick Clark, local democracy reporter
news@baylismedia.co.uk
@ExpressSeries

Planned parking restrictions set to be rolled out across Slough have been branded a 'money-making scheme for the council'.

But council leaders insist both the new restrictions and the income they'll bring in are necessary.

Baylis and Stoke ward councillor Fiza Matloob (Lab) called on Slough Borough Council to halt the borough-wide controlled parking zone (CPZ) rollout at a meeting on Thursday, November 29.

The Labour councillor said: "The CPZ and how it's being implemented currently is flawed.

"The way that it's being implemented is nothing more than a money-making scheme to squeeze our residents."

Councillor Matloob added that a consultation on restric-

tions already rolled out in his ward ended in a 'massive rejection' by residents.

More than 1,400 people had signed a petition against the plans, and 550 people objected – but councillor Matloob said they'd been 'ignored'.

He called on council leaders to 'show they truly represent the residents of Slough instead of trying to squeeze them for every penny they can get out of them'.

But Conservative council leader Dexter Smith said the rollout would be introduced gradually, as a series of proposals.

He said they were needed to address areas where there are already parking problems, but also to avoid 'displacing' those problems elsewhere.

He said: "It envisages that there will be a displacement of that where some of the extra parking demand that there is moved to areas where there are less controls.

"These controls might include things like waiting time restrictions or residents parking permits."

Councillor Smith also insisted the planned new restrictions 'is not just a money-making scheme for the council'.

But he did say the money they'd bring in would be essential to fund parking enforcement. He said if they were scrapped, the council would have to find 'alternative savings' elsewhere.

He said: "That income generated from controlled parking zones is built into our budget.

"The income is not just a moneymaking scheme for the council.

"It is money that is necessary to pay for enforcement. If we simply halt or remove this policy then we won't be dealing with the parking problems that are manifest like airport parking in areas that are on public roads."



Winvale – one of the planned controlled parking zones (CPZs). Photo: Google.

Slough Borough Council is rolling out controlled parking zones across the borough in a 'phased approach'.

This involves consulting residents in each area on proposed restrictions.

Draft council spending plans suggest the controls could contribute to £100,000 in income next year.

Councillor Matloob proposed

that the rollout be halted until it could be made more 'transparent' and 'inclusive', and until alternatives had been investigated.

His proposal was rejected narrowly, with Conservatives, Liberal Democrats and independent Chandra Muvvala voting against while Labour and Independent Group councillors voted in favour.

The Zone

New to streaming this week

Wonka

NOW

Starring Timothée Chalamet as a young Willy Wonka, this is the story of how the world's greatest inventor, magician and chocolatier became the character we know today.

That Christmas

Netflix

It's an unforgettable Christmas for the townsfolk of Wellington-on-Sea when the worst snowstorm in history alters everyone's plans — including Santa's.

Fly Me To The Moon

Apple TV+

Scarlett Johansson and Channing Tatum star as a marketing maven and a by-the-book launch director who team up for a mission set against the high-stakes backdrop of NASA's historic Apollo 11 moon landing.

Black Doves

Netflix

When a spy posing as a politician's wife learns her lover has been murdered, an old assassin friend joins her on a quest for truth — and vengeance.

Renaissance: The Blood and the Beauty

BBC iPlayer

The story of how the greatest art works of all time were born of war and bloodshed, as rival artists Michelangelo, Leonardo and Raphael compete to craft beauty from chaos.

Monkey Man

NOW

Dev Patel directs and stars in this action thriller about a man who unleashes a campaign of vengeance against the men who killed his mother.

Beatles '64

Disney Plus

Filmmakers Martin Scorsese and David Tedeschi reveal the four Beatles at the moment of their musical breakthrough and unimaginable fame. This film showcases behind-the-scenes footage captured by David and Albert Maysles, restored in 4K. Newly filmed and archival interviews with the Beatles, along with fans whose lives were transformed, illuminate this singular cultural moment.

The Madness

Netflix

After a media pundit stumbles



upon a dead body deep in the Poconos woods, he finds himself framed for the murder of a notorious white supremacist. Starring Colman Domingo.

The Listeners

BBC iPlayer

Can you hear it? Is this mysterious hum a gift for the chosen few — or the soundtrack to a living nightmare? Provocative, haunting drama starring Rebecca Hall.

Our Little Secret

Netflix

After discovering their significant others are siblings, two resentful exes must spend Christmas under one roof — while hiding their romantic history. Starring Lindsay Lohan.

Blitz

Apple TV+

In World War Two, nine-year-old George is evacuated to the countryside by his mother, Rita, to escape the bombings. Defiant and determined to return to his family, George embarks on an epic, perilous journey back home as Rita searches for him.

in cinemas

Nightbitch

15

A woman pauses her career to be a stay-at-home mom, but soon her domesticity takes a surreal turn.

Rumours

15

The leaders of seven wealthy democracies get lost in the woods while drafting a statement on a global crisis, facing danger as they attempt to find their way out.

Moana 2

PG

After receiving an unexpected call from her wayfinding ancestors, Moana must journey to the far seas of Oceania and into dangerous, long-lost waters for an adventure unlike anything she's ever faced.

Wicked

PG

Elphaba, a misunderstood young woman because of her green skin, and Glinda, a popular girl, become friends at Shiz University in the Land of Oz. After an encounter with the Wonderful Wizard of Oz, their friendship reaches a crossroads.

Gladiator II

15

After his home is conquered by the tyrannical emperors who now lead Rome, Lucius is forced to enter the Colosseum.

TEST YOUR BRAINPOWER

TWO PAGES OF CROSSWORDS, QUIZZES, SUDOKUS, ZYGOLEX – AND MUCH, MUCH MORE

The Accumulator Quiz

Each question has four possible answers and is worth from one to 15 points. Circle your chosen answers and keep a record of your points total. Maximum total points 120.

QUESTION 1 – for 1 point:
In which sport might a double axel be seen?

- A Formula 1 motor racing
- B Trampolineing
- C Figure skating
- D Diving

QUESTION 2 – for 2 points:
Toulouse, chorizo and Cumberland are all types of what?

- A Working dogs
- B Sausages
- C Sheep
- D Cheese

QUESTION 3 – for 3 points:
Which of the following is a bain-marie?

- A Walk-in bath
- B Swimming hat
- C Food warmer
- D Fish stew

QUESTION 4 – for 4 points:
LadBaby, Ed Sheeran and Elton John had 2021 Christmas No 1 hit with which song?

- A Don't Stop Me Eatin'
- B Sausage Rolls For Everyone
- C We Built This City
- D I Love Sausage Rolls

QUESTION 5 – for 5 points:
Complete the proverb: One swallow does not make a...

- A Dry man happy
- B Nest
- C Flight
- D Summer

QUESTION 6 – for 6 points:
Which cyclist in the Tour de France wears a jersey with red spots on a white background?

- A A sprint stage winner
- B King of the mountains
- C Youngest stage leader
- D Overnight leader



Actress Carrie-Anne Moss. See Question 10

QUESTION 10 – for 10 points:
Carrie-Anne Moss played the character of Trinity in which science fiction film franchise?

- A The Terminator
- B Alien
- C The Matrix
- D Star Trek

QUESTION 11 – for 11 points:
The stars Rigel and Betelgeuse are in which constellation?

- A The Plough
- B Cassiopeia
- C Orion
- D Leo

QUESTION 12 – for 12 points:
The height of a horse is measured in hands – how many inches make a hand?

- A Three
- B Four
- C Five
- D Six

QUESTION 7 – for 7 points:
The famous 70m-long Bayeux Tapestry depicts which early conflict?

- A Battle of Agincourt
- B The First Crusade
- C Hundred Years' War
- D The Norman Conquest

QUESTION 8 – for 8 points:
What is the state capital of Iowa?

- A Des Moines
- B Springfield
- C Providence
- D Annapolis

QUESTION 9 – for 9 points:
The Pequod is a ship in which classic novel?

- A The Cruel Sea
- B Billy Budd
- C Moby Dick
- D The Riddle of the Sands

QUESTION 13 – for 13 points:
Which plant is also known as the Woodbine?

- A Honeysuckle
- B Old Man's Beard
- C Ground elder
- D Convolvulus

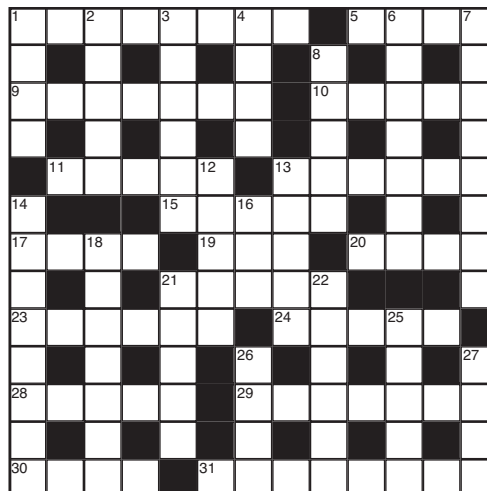
QUESTION 14 – for 14 points:
What is the only other animal known to be a host for leprosy?

- A Armadillo
- B Badger
- C Orangutan
- D Rat

QUESTION 15 – for 15 points:
What was the Cloaca Maxima in ancient Rome?

- A The main aqueduct
- B A sporting arena
- C The road leading to Naples
- D The Great Sewer

QUICK CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 1. Aerodrome (8)
- 5. Church recess (4)
- 9. Authorise (7)
- 10. Care for (5)
- 11. Take control unjustly (5)
- 13. Corset (6)
- 15. Decompose (5)
- 17. Step (4)
- 19. Rowing blade (3)
- 20. Asian desert (4)
- 21. Enlist (5)
- 23. Star system (6)
- 24. Hangman's rope (5)
- 28. Nimble (5)
- 29. Cupidity (7)
- 30. Look for (4)
- 31. Outdated insulating material (8)

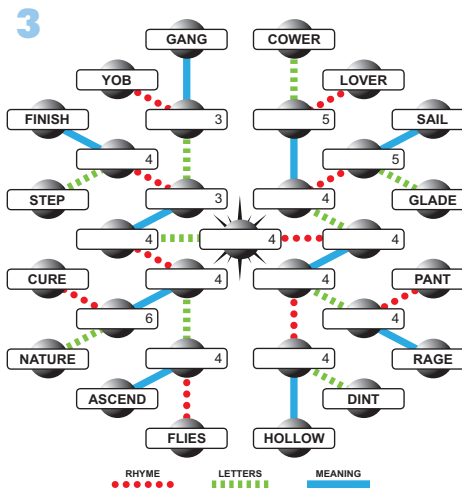
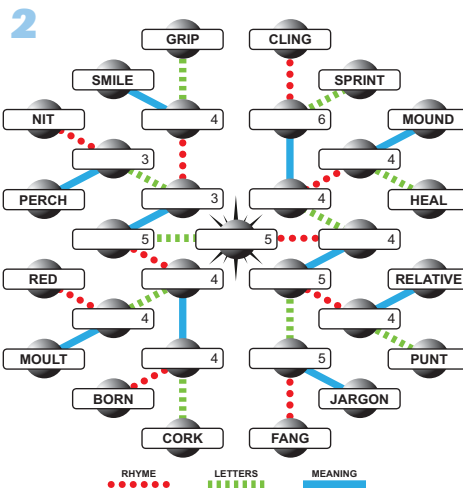
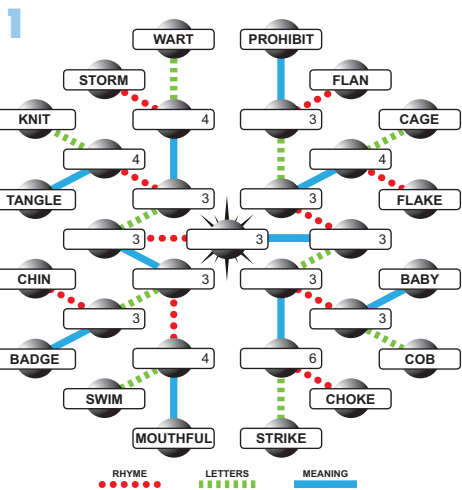
DOWN

- 1. Cain's brother (4)
- 2. Prose (anag.) (5)
- 3. Toward the centre (6)
- 4. Entice (4)
- 6. Colonnade (7)
- 7. Critical interpretation (8)
- 8. Irritate (5)
- 12. Showy flower (5)
- 13. Nobleman (5)
- 14. Small telescope (8)
- 16. Vehicle (3)
- 18. Crash together (7)
- 21. Distinguish oneself (5)
- 22. Scene of an event (6)
- 25. Rapid (5)
- 26. Elapse (4)
- 27. Muddle (4)

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ZYGOLEX®

Find the missing words by following the RHYME, MEANING and LETTERS links, e.g. a word that rhymes with 'cheek', has the same meaning as 'mountain' and has one letter different from 'pear', would be 'peak'. A Letters link means one letter always changes. Full rules at www.zygolex.com



TEST YOUR BRAINPOWER

WORDSEARCH

Answers can be found running backwards or forwards, horizontal, vertical or diagonal.

Subject: condiments

- 1. CHUTNEY
- 2. KETCHUP
- 3. MAYONNAISE
- 4. MINT SAUCE
- 5. MUSTARD
- 6. PEPPER
- 7. PICKLE
- 8. SALAD CREAM
- 9. VINEGAR
- 10. WASABI

E C U A S T N I M B D L
 C S L L P F K D A B I R
 Z D I W R E P P E P I A
 F C F A T F C C R A M G
 T R U C N E L K C I P E
 L U H H D N I N D B S N
 Y U F U C R O E A C I I
 P W W T N B A Y L J B V
 C V V N W Y I T A A G D
 U P Q E U K Y I S M L H
 M H Q Y C P N A C U T X
 L H S K O J W O I L M I

Subject: things associated with Ancient Egypt

- 1. AMULET
- 2. ANUBIS
- 3. MUMMY
- 4. PAPYRUS
- 5. PHARAOH
- 6. PYRAMID
- 7. SCARAB
- 8. SCROLL
- 9. SPHINX
- 10. TEMPLE

P N N O E K X S M K T V
 K P B C X N D R V E F K
 Q J E A I V B S L V O K
 K M L H R Z S U I H P I
 F V P Y R A M I D U A H
 X S M A R A C U B E B O
 B F E S P B Z S M U S A
 X Y T N M Y C Z H M N R
 O M E F G R R V F X Y A
 H T Y M O T S U H S N H
 M R K L Q Z W L S H X P
 Y U L J Q B Z C L M Z M

Two-Timer

Can't solve one - then try the other!
 Two sets of clues both leading to the same answers.

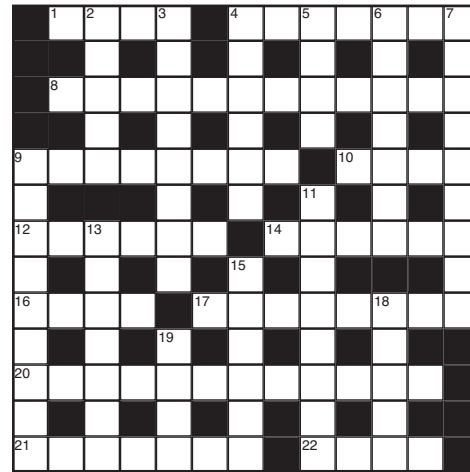
CRYPTIC CLUES

Across

- 1. School bill is returned (4)
- 4. Scoundrel will rave over a seedless grape (7)
- 8. He fights for nothing (7,5)
- 9. Bird of the length in question (8)
- 10. Turn twice to the desert? (4)
- 12. It's an awful pity, by the way, for an office worker (6)
- 14. Cook us some dessert (6)
- 16. Part left among eggs (4)
- 17. Trade vehicle I take to the cape (8)
- 20. Booze rules at about this temperature (8,4)
- 21. Keen to break covering in one's leg (4-3)
- 22. Trust entirely, not half (4)

Down

- 2. Times I follow occasional worker (5)
- 3. Mark suit containing money (8)
- 4. Endless courage moved large cat (6)
- 5. King has order for dressing-gown (4)
- 6. One with ten debts is apprehensive (7)
- 7. Trains Des organised suffered from unpunctuality (9)



QUICK CLUES

Across

- 1. Berkshire college (4)
- 4. Dried fruit (7)
- 8. Unpaid puglist (7,5)
- 9. Songbird frequenting gorse (8)
- 10. Asian desert (4)
- 12. Keyboard user (6)
- 14. Light creamy dish (6)
- 16. Acting part (4)
- 17. Commerce (8)
- 20. Lowest attainable temperature (8,4)
- 21. Patella (4-3)
- 22. Depend (4)

Down

- 2. Musical speeds (5)
- 3. Wallet (8)
- 4. Puma (6)
- 5. Loose garment (4)
- 6. Restless (7)
- 7. Sluggishness (9)
- 9. Faint design in paper (9)
- 11. Short, squat gun (8)
- 13. Sleeveless cape (7)
- 15. Serious brawl (4-2)
- 18. Enlist (5)
- 19. Alliance of nations (4)

SUDOKU

There is just one simple rule in Sudoku. Each row and each column must contain the numbers 1 to 9, and so must each 3 x 3 box.

Easy

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | | | | | | 2 | 4 | |
| | 9 | 7 | | | | | | |
| 6 | 2 | | | | | | | |
| | | | 6 | 2 | | | | |
| | 8 | 9 | | 1 | 7 | | | |
| | 1 | | 9 | 4 | | 2 | 5 | 7 |
| 8 | | 3 | 2 | | 5 | 4 | 9 | 1 |
| | 5 | | 1 | | | 8 | | |
| | 7 | | | 9 | 4 | | | 3 |

Hard

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 1 | | | | | | 6 | | 5 |
| | | | 3 | | | | | | 1 | 4 |
| 6 | | | | | | | | 9 | | |
| | | | | 5 | 4 | 8 | | | | |
| 1 | | | | | | 2 | 7 | | | |
| | 2 | | | | | 6 | | | 9 | |
| 2 | 3 | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | 8 | | | 2 | |
| | | | | | | | | 3 | | 6 |

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ALL THE ANSWERS

Sudoku Hard

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 8 | 9 | 5 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 7 | 6 |
| 7 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 8 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 9 |
| 2 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 7 | 9 | 5 | 8 | 1 |
| 5 | 2 | 8 | 7 | 1 | 6 | 4 | 9 | 3 |
| 1 | 4 | 6 | 9 | 3 | 2 | 7 | 5 | 8 |
| 3 | 7 | 9 | 5 | 4 | 8 | 1 | 6 | 2 |
| 6 | 8 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 9 | 3 | 7 |
| 9 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 1 | 4 |
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Sudoku Easy

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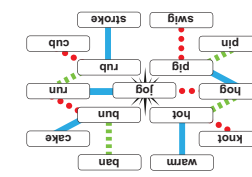
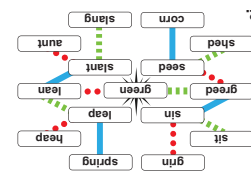
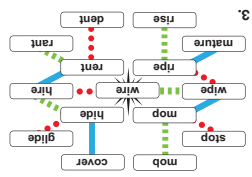
Wordsearch 2

Y U L I Q D B Z C L M Z M
 M R K L Q Z W L S M Z M
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 O M E F G R R V F X Y A
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 B F E S P B Z S M U S A
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 K M L H R Z S U I H P I
 Q J E A I V B S L V O K
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Wordsearch 1

E C U A S T N I M B D L
 C S L L P F K D A B I R
 Z D I W R E P P E P I A
 F C F A T F C C R A M G
 T R U C N E L K C I P E
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 C V V N W Y I T A A G D
 U P Q E U K Y I S M L H
 M H Q Y C P N A C U T X
 L H S K O J W O I L M I

Accumulator Quiz
 PAGE 1
 Down - 2 Temp; 3 Notcase; 4 Cougar; 5 Robe; 6 Anxious; 7 Tardiness; 9 Watermark; 11 Howitzer; 13 Pelisse; 15 Bust-up; 18 Enrol; 19 Bloc.
Quick Crossword
 Across - 1 Airfield; 5 Apse; 9 Empower; 10 Nurse; 11 Usurp; 13 Bodice; 15 Decay; 17 Pace; 19 Car; 20 Gob; 21 Enrol; 23 Galaxy; 24 Noose; 28 Agile; 29 Avance; 30 Seek; 31 Asbestos.
Down - 1 Abel; 2 Ropes; 3 Inward; 4 Lure; 6 Portico; 7 Exegesis; 8 Annoy; 12 Peony; 13 Baron; 14 Spyglass; 16 Car; 18 Collide; 21 Excel; 22 Locale; 25 Swift; 26 Pass; 27 Mess.
Two-Timer Crossword
 PAGE 2
Across - 1 Eton; 4 Current; 8 Amateur boxer; 9 Whinchat; 10 Gobi; 12 Typist; 14 Mousse; 16 Role; 17 Business; 20 Absolute zero; 21 Knee-cap; 22 Rely.



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Confidence in hiring grew in run up to Budget – but will trend continue?

The Recruitment & Employment Confederation's (REC) latest JobsOutlook shows building momentum – including notable strength in London, the bellwether of the UK labour market.

Savanta ComRes interviewed a sample of 504 UK employers involved in hiring between August 5 and October 22, 2024.

Employers' confidence on the path of the UK economy remains weak, but has steadily recovered through 2024, while firms themselves have been getting more confident in their own investment and hiring decisions.

The positive sentiment in October is a promising signal of a potential shift in the labour market.

But the big question now is whether the large payroll tax raid in the Budget takes the steam out of this trend.

Neil Carberry, REC Chief Executive, said: "The strong growth in employer confidence about hiring and investing in their own firms slowed a little as firms awaited a Budget they knew would be tough.

"The scale of the changes to Employers National Insurance – in particular the

decision to increase the tax far more for lower earners – will be a headwind for hiring confidence from here on in.

"But the economy and the labour market are subject to far greater trends than government action, and the gentle recovery of employer views on the wider economy will be what ultimately drives demand in 2025. London appears to be leading the way on this.

"The big question now is not if firms will restructure their hiring plans post-Budget, but whether wider economic growth will make this an annoyance in a growing wider economy, or a headwind that firms struggle with in a tough economy. The Chancellor has balanced the books on the backs of businesses across the country, now she needs to deliver on support for growth.

"A key part of this will be ensuring further costs are not layered onto employers unnecessarily. Making sure the Employment Rights Bill maintains and enhances our flexible, diverse labour market – rather than loading firms with more costly process that does not help workers – is a key test.

"Confidence trends this year suggest the labour market will remain resilient, despite ongoing economic challenges in 2025.

"Businesses are adapting, embracing new ways of working and determined to succeed. They can boost their ability to compete in the labour market by engaging with specialist recruitment and talent businesses, who can also help jobseekers with more up-to-date advice and guidance."

Employers' confidence in making investment and hiring decisions fell by six percentage points this quarter (to net: +2) – down from the notable near-term peak of net: +16 in the three months to June 2024. But the quarterly fall was driven by a sharp decline in confidence in August (to net: -7), after which it recovered strongly through to net: +9 by October.

The +2 still shows employers getting more confident across the quarter.

The survey found that employers' confidence in the UK economy performance improved by one point (net: -25) when compared to the three months to August.

Looking at month to month, crucially

sentiments improved in October (net: -17), compared to September (net: -32). While this trend is still negative, it has been improving across the year.

Short-term permanent hiring intentions remained positive but fell three percentage points this quarter (compared to the three months to August), to net: +11.

But London remained a notable positive outlier, improving from net: +20 to net: +27 between the two periods.

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Daring to dream as rivalry is renewed

Slough Town FC: Davies expects Rebels will turn up for FA Trophy clash

A rivalry that hasn't been visited in earnest for many years will be renewed when Slough Town host Maidenhead United in the third round of the FA Trophy on Saturday (3pm kick-off).

The near neighbours were pulled out of the hat to face each other at Arbour Park after the Rebels edged past Chatham Town on penalties in the last round.

Barring the odd Berks & Bucks Senior Cup clash in recent seasons, the two sides haven't faced each other many times at all over the past two decades. In fact, this is the first time Maidenhead will have played at Arbour Park since the Rebels made it their new home.

500 Magpies supporters are set to make the short trip down the Bath Road for the 3pm kick-off and a crowd of more than 2,000 is expected to pack out all sides of the ground and create a fantastic atmosphere for a tie fans have dubbed 'The SL Clasico'.

Looking ahead to Saturday's clash, Slough Town's player manager Scott Davies said: "From an unselfish point of view I'm delighted for the fans because I know how much it means to them

"The Maidenhead and the Slough fans will both enjoy the day and the occasion. There's a big rivalry there that hasn't been visited for many years.

"It was the draw all our fans wanted. It's a draw we like, for the club to get over 2,000 people in attendance.

"And we're thinking we've got nothing to lose against a team that are in the league above. I'm extremely looking forward to it.

"I think the lads will turn up on



Scott Davies hopes to silence Maidenhead United's supporters on Saturday when the sides meet in the FA Trophy. Photo: George Beck.

the day because they usually do when we're the underdogs.

"It's a game we'll worry about next week when it comes around but we're grateful that the draw has given us this game to look forward to."

Maidenhead comfortably defeated Slough in the county cup at York Road a few seasons ago – shortly before Davies was appointed player manager.

While there was a more memorable clash between the two sides in the competition during the 2016-17 season. On that occasion, Slough led 2-1 on a bitterly cold evening at York Road, before the Magpies fought back for a 4-2 victory. United went on to lift the National League South league title that same season.

One man who won't be at Arbour Park this Saturday is the Rebels' assistant boss Tony Fontenelle, who has a pre-booked

family trip to New York this weekend.

He will though try to listen to the game on Rebels Radio.

Speaking about the tie last week, he said: "I'll be listening to Rebels Radio from Central Park.

"I've cleared my diary for a couple of hours, but I'm also gutted because there's been a buzz around the place since the draw.

"The lads are excited for the game, and I would expect it will have a similar feel to when we welcomed Grimsby Town here last season. It will be a fantastic experience. It's the first SL Clasico for about eight years – I believe we played them just before I joined.

"We'll look to give a good account of ourselves like in the Woking game.

"We'll try and find a way to win but it's going to be a massive ask. Why not? We dare to dream."

Dame Katherine to be new British Olympic chair

Marlow's Dame Katherine Grainger is to become the first female chair of the British Olympic Association in its 119-year history.

Announcing the move on social media, Dame Katherine said it would be a 'huge honour' to head up Team GB's challenge for medals at future Olympics.

She becomes the first female chair in the organisation's history and will move into the role in early 2025 after completing her term in the same position for UK Sport.

"It's a huge honour," she said.

"The Olympics has been central to my life for nearly 30 years. As an athlete I felt first hand the incredible influence the impact sport has on people's lives.

"During my time as Chair of UK Sport, I have learned the power of collaboration as part of this impressive eco system that enables Olympic sport to flourish in the UK, and so I look forward to embarking on this next chapter with the BOA."

Dame Katherine is the only British woman to have won medals in five successive Olympic Games. However, it was at London 2012 - alongside Anna Watkins in the double sculls - that she was finally crowned an Olympic champion. She also won silver medals in Sydney, Athens, Beijing and Rio.

She will take over as chair from Hugh

Windsor FC



Dame Katherine Grainger will become the first female chair of the British Olympic Association.

Robertson, after 46 members of the National Olympic Committee voted to elect her.

A statement from Team GB described Dame Katherine as a "highly respected figure in sport".

After retiring from her 20-year rowing career, she was appointed chair of UK Sport.

Andy Anson, the CEO of the BOA, said: "Katherine is an esteemed figure in high-performance sport, recognised in the British sporting community as a steadfast leader as well as one of our greatest ever Olympians.

"We are looking forward to working with her in the build-up to and during Milano-Cortina 2026 and Los Angeles 2028."

Windsor boost promotion hopes with thrilling away win over rivals Chinnor

Windsor claimed a narrow but vital away win at second placed Chinnor 3rds on Saturday to boost their promotion hopes in the Counties 1 Tribute Southern North this season.

Andy Symons side have now won their last four matches in a row to put pressure on the leading two sides in the division, with Saturday's 24-28 win moving them to within four points of Chinnor and nine behind leaders Oxford Harlequins 2nds with 10 matches now played.

The stated aim for the season remains promotion, however, it's looking like the Quins side this season are in formidable form and will be difficult to catch – even with half the season still to play. However, Windsor could yet take one of the best runners-up posi-

Rugby round-up



Windsor have moved up to third.

tions in the region should they maintain their recent consistency through to the end of the season.

Saturday's encounter at Chinnor was a thrilling one, but Windsor managed to claim a bonus-point victory thanks to tries from Joseph Triegaardt, Kieran Ghafadgi, Will Moss and Harry Bicknell. Crucially, Ben Grant-Adamson also converted all four of them to edge the visitors to a four-point victory.

This Saturday, they're back at Home Park against fifth placed Wallingford where they'll be looking to maintain their current momentum.

For the second time this season, Marlow scored more than 50 points as they trounced the London Wild Geese 50-28 away from home on Saturday.

Marlow appear to be steadily improving under new coach Kev O'Byrne and the side made it back-to-back wins

in Regional 2 Thames with Saturday's try-fest.

The Wild Geese aren't one of the division's also-rans either. They're fourth in the table with seven wins from their 10 matches so far, however, Marlow went there and tackled, ran and passed them off the park.

The result backed up another try-laden performance at home to Grasshoppers on November 16, which Marlow won 41-36.

It's been something of an up and down season for Marlow so far, with the side having lost four matches in a row before their recent victories.

The magnificent away win lifts them to seventh in the table ahead of Saturday's winnable-looking home game against 10th placed Teddington.

Sport

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Windsor play the beautiful game to beat Holmer Green

Windsor FC

Windsor bounced back from Saturday's 3-2 defeat at Staines & Lammas to record an impressive 3-0 home win over Holmer Green on Tuesday evening – scoring some beautiful goals in the process.

Holmer arrived at Holloways Park in sixth place, having steadily climbed the Combined Counties League 1 table over previous weeks, and few were predicting a comfortable evening for the home side.

Managed by former Windsor boss Keith Scott, they posed problems for a home side but weren't at their clinical best. In contrast Windsor were, and they won the game with some brilliantly taken goals – one of which may well go down as a goal of the season contender.

A bright start from the hosts was rewarded when Max Jarzabek weaved his way past three challenges and smashed the ball home via the underside of the crossbar in the 10th minute.

The visitors responded well but the home side continued to create the better chances. Twice debutant Bryan



Credit: Trophy Photography.

Taylor playing at left back hit exquisite low crosses into the six-yard box, only for Ollie Saunders and Troy Willaims to miss when it looked easier to score.

Windsor really should have increased their lead in the first minute of the second half

when the ball fell perfectly for Ollie Saunders on the left-hand side of the penalty area, but somehow, he managed to sky his half volley over the stand.

You frequently get punished for missing such gilt-edged chances but not on this occasion. Liam Jenkins took matters into his own hands, scoring a beauty just three minutes later to make it 2-0 and cement the home side's advantage.

Sam Bell in the Holmer Green goal cleared the ball which fell nicely at the feet of the Windsor Captain, who promptly fired an unstoppable shot from 45 yards into the top left-hand corner of the net. No one was expecting that.

Both sides continued to play neat attractive football, but it was Windsor who came closest to adding a third when Reilly Hudson's deft header bounced back off the inside of the post into the Sam Bell's hands.

When the final goal came it was a peach. Avta Akhshashvili raced past full back James Jarrot before crossing to Sam Healey at the near post, who glanced a near perfect header to the left of the hapless Sam Bell.

The result lifts Windsor to 16th in the table ahead of Saturday's trip to Langley.

Dominant Jets claim comfortable home and away wins

A dominant final period from the Slough Jets saw them claim a comfortable 4-1 away win over the Solent Devils on Saturday, and they backed that up with an equally impressive 4-1 home win at Oxford City Stars the following evening.

The Jets have been one of the form sides in their division this season, but they slipped to a defeat at rivals Streatham in their last outing.

Lucas Smital's side put that right in fine fashion in Gosport on Saturday evening, but it took a while for their skaters to find their groove.

After a scoreless first period the Devils scored against the run of play

through Cam Buckle at 25.12. But the Jets came roaring back into contention with Christian Mohr equalising with just 62 seconds left of the second period.

Doubling the Devils' shots on goal in the final period, they then eased away from their hosts with goals from Luke Smital (45.32) and Sebastian Mohr (49.23) before Luke Smital put the cherry on the cake with a fourth goal at 59.00.

It was a simple strike into an empty net after the Devils had removed their netminder for an extra offensive skater.

The Jets made a more confident start to their clash with the Oxford City Stars at The Hangar on Sunday.

Luke Smital scored his third goal of the weekend to break the deadlock five minutes into the second period and two more goals in the period gave them a decisive advantage. Jacob Soper doubled their lead 20 seconds after Smital's strike while Kyle Bradburn's goal at 35.03 gave them a commanding lead.

Hopes of a home shutout at The Hangar were deflated by Casey Wilson's goal at 43.02 but a controlled and disciplined home display was rewarded when Aaron Edworthy netted his first senior goal for the Jets with 32 seconds left to play.

Jets head coach Lucas Smital said: "I'm happy with another six points from the

weekend and the team played well on both nights.

"We showed patience to wait to create our opportunities and we created them well when they came. Sunday was a completely dominant performance, and we'll look to carry on that play this coming weekend."

The Slough Jets next home game against Romford this Sunday.

There will also be a fundraising event for SUDC UK, a charity dedicated to awareness, research and family support regarding sudden unexplained death in childhood.

The events on Sunday will take place in memory of Tyler Hatfield who passed away suddenly last month.

Focus turns to vital FA Vase tie with VCD

Windsor & Eton FC: Angell's side well rested after a series of postponements

Windsor & Eton turn their attention to the third round of the FA Vase on Saturday afternoon and a trip to Crayford to play VCD Athletic.

This tie could prove to be one of the ones to watch in the Vase this weekend, with VCD currently top of their step five Southern Counties East League Premier Division, and Windsor & Eton having led the way in the Combined Counties League 1 table for much of the campaign so far.

Neither side will want to give an inch, and both will feel confident enough in their ability to progress through to the fourth round.

In many ways it's been a frustrating few weeks for Matty Angell's Windsor.

Not only did they see their long, 19-game winning streak come to an end, but some slightly inconsistent form - combined with bad luck with postponements - has seen them knocked off their perch at the top of the table.

The Royalists haven't played competitively since their 2-0 home win over Yateley United on November 23, but it remains to be seen whether that leaves them ring-rusty or refreshed for Saturday's trip to Oakwood.

They'll be followed there by a coachload of Windsor supporters, all desperate to see the visitors prevail and



Windsor & Eton captain Ross McKernan. Richard Milam

move on in a competition they stand an outside chance of doing very well in.

Their hosts top their own table by a point from Faversham Town and are unbeaten in five matches, two of them wins.

Windsor & Eton meanwhile are now down to fourth with rivals stealing a march on them during this period of inaction.

They remain only five points behind leaders Westside however and have seven

matches in hand on them.

They're also due to host Bedfont in the Premier Challenge Cup at Stag Meadow on Tuesday evening before hopefully getting back to league action at Brook House on Saturday week (December 14).

■ In the Combined Counties Premier Division North, Holyport stopped the rot of successive defeats as they drew 1-1 at home to Risborough Rangers on Tuesday evening.

Much of the Summerleaze Park ground was underwater over the weekend so it's something of a miracle that ground staff managed to get the pitch in good enough condition for the match to proceed.

But the game kicked off as planned and it looked like Port may take full advantage when Harvey Seeman fired them in front in the 27th minute.

Ryley Campbell knocked the ball down to him and Seeman finished clinically.

However, a penalty late in the first half from Kwesi Ntim (44' pen) drew the visitors level and neither side were able to capitalise on their chances in the second half.

Risborough perhaps came closest when Sam Hayes made a fantastic save for the hosts in the 80th minute and the rebound was smashed over the bar.

After a fine start to the season, Holyport's recent form has been more concerning.

They've lost five of their last seven in all competitions yet remain fifth - and in the play-off spots for now - with rivals circling.

This Saturday's match at Wallingford & Crowmarsh has been postponed already, so Port will be back in league action at home to North Greenford United on Saturday, December 14.

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Davies calls for Rebels to make the Magpies squirm

Slough Town FC: Boss urges players and fans to make life 'as uncomfortable as possible' for Maidenhead

Scott Davies has said he wants Slough Town's players and supporters to make life as 'uncomfortable as possible' for Maidenhead United's players during Saturday's FA Trophy third round tie at Arbour Park.

The two sides will clash in a competitive fixture for the first time in several seasons with a place in the fourth round of the competition – as well as the bragging rights – firmly up for grabs.

As the higher-level side, Maidenhead will go into the game as slight favourites – but their own inconsistent form, as well as a spate of injuries and suspensions – should balance things out on that front.

Davies said the Rebels would be using every advantage at their disposal to try and get one over their local rivals, including their vociferous home support and artificial surface at Arbour Park.

United have played competitively at Arbour Park, in the final of the Berks & Bucks Senior Cup against Hungerford Town – which was scheduled there in pre-season, after the Magpies had clinched the 2016/17 National League South title. But they've never gone there to take on the Rebels in a competitive fixture, and – barring a couple of county cup contests – the two teams haven't met in national competition or league match for more than two decades.

Slough come into the tie off the back of a disappointing 3-1 defeat at Chelmsford City, but Davies said he and the players had drawn a line under that one and would approach this game with optimism and confidence.

Maidenhead meanwhile have won only two of their last 12 matches in all competitions – and were thrashed 6-2 away by National League leaders York City last Saturday. They did recover to beat Brighton's u21s in the National League Cup in mid-week, but this tie at Slough should prove to be a real test of their mettle.

"I think it's a great occasion for both sets of supporters," said Davies.

"It's been 23 years in the making. I think we've sold over 1,600 tickets now with a couple of days left



Scott Davies hopes Slough Town make life extremely uncomfortable for the Magpies. Photo: George Beck.

to go so I'm hoping we can edge closer to that 2,000 mark if we get lucky.

"It's obviously a tough game for us but it's one we're looking forward to and one we believe we can have success in.

"We've parked last week. I think you must. If you look at the season, we'd have snapped your hand off to be where we are. We're seven points off the top of the league, which is like dreamland for us. We're in amongst the pack, we're in a good position and we're enjoying it.

"But the cup takes you away from the league for a couple of weeks and it's a great game to have.

Anyone coming to our place knows they're going to be in for a game. And like I've said to people this week, we want to make Maidenhead feel as uncomfortable as possible out on the pitch and that's down to us, creating a tempo we can play at, and at home that's served us well."

Davies added that he thinks the Magpies have more to lose from this tie than the Rebels, adding that he wants his side to be 'fearless' in how they approach the game.

He added: "We've lost two games in 35. When you look at that it's incredible compared to what it was like before that. At our place, it's different to maybe having to go away to play at Maidenhead. I think we'll turn it into a game that suits us, and we've got the advantage of playing on the 3G every single week which they won't have.

"Every single percentage that we can use as an advantage, we'll try to use that and hopefully we can. But I also believe we have a good side. I know there's a difference between the two leagues, but we've got a team that are full of confidence, even coming off the back of a defeat last weekend."

The Rebels edged past Chatham Town on penalties to set up this third-round clash with Maidenhead, but they've proved on several occasions over the past couple of seasons they're capable of matching higher-level sides at Arbour Park.

"We've drawn with the likes of Grimsby," he said. "We beat Ebbsfleet who were in the National League last season, we've drawn with Yeovil who were runaway winners at the time.

"We've played some big clubs here and we don't fear anyone coming to our place.

"The game on Saturday, all we've got to lose is the bragging rights. Maidenhead will be favourites and rightly so, being in the league above.

"We've not got as much to lose as they have so we can go into the game fearless. We're certainly looking forward to it. They've been made aware of the local rivalry and how much it means to the supporters. Hopefully, that will carry us through on Saturday."

Crichlow scores twice as under-strength Rebels are beaten by the Clarets

Chelmsford City 3, Slough Town 1
Slough Town were pushed out of the National League South play-off places again on Saturday after an under-strength Rebels side were deservedly beaten 3-1 away by Chelmsford City.

Slough had produced one of the best performances of Scott Davies' two-year tenure in Tuesday's 3-0 win at Chippenham Town, but with key players unavailable on Saturday, they simply weren't able to recreate that at Melbourne Stadium.

This wasn't a dreadful performance from the visitors – and there were several positives, including another goal for the in-form Sam Evans and a debut for development squad player, Noah

Slough Town FC

Hay. However, four changes were enforced on the Rebels ahead of kick-off, with the suspended Dan Bayliss and Henry Ochieng missing out – replaced by Lexus Beeden and Gary Abisogun. Davies also came back into the side alongside Hay to replace Dan Roth and Kwadwo Bugyei-Kei who missed out because of illness and injury.

Despite this, the visitors made a positive start, with Evans getting on the end of another superb assist from Slavi Spasov to give them the lead in the 34th minute. Again, it was Spasov's quick footwork and quick thinking

that created the chance, and Evans' great positioning to tap home from close range.

It's a forward partnership that's developing nicely for the Rebels but unfortunately, they weren't ahead for long. Chelmsford hit back before the break with a goal from Cameron James.

Slough defended deep in the early stages of the second half and looked to spring the counterattack through the likes of Abisogun and John Gilbert. But on this occasion, the Clarets were ready for them and the hosts took the game away from Slough with two goals in quick succession.

First, in the 65th minute, substitute

Kane Crichlow came on to make an immediate impact by finding the back of the net. He then extended Chelmsford's lead with another simple, clinical finish under Charlie Horlock to make it 3-1 in the 69th minute.

The Rebels had an excellent chance to get themselves back into the game when David Ogbonna cut the ball back for Spasov to strike at goal. But his effort crashed back off the crossbar and with it when the visitors' chances of getting something from the game.

Slough drop back to eighth in the table, a point outside the play-off places and seven off the leaders ahead of Saturday's FA Trophy tie at home to Maidenhead United.