

WYCOMBE DISTRICT COUNCIL
COUNCIL MEETING
Monday 5 October 2015

AGENDA ITEM

Questions from Members

1. Question from Councillor R Raja to the Leader of the Council

The Household Voter Registration system was replaced by the Individual Electoral Registration system in 2014. Under the previous system the "head of the household" was required to register all residents of the household who were eligible. Under the Individual Electoral Registration individuals are required to register themselves, as well as provide their National Insurance Number and date of birth on the application form.

Would the Leader of the Council tell us as to what percentage of eligible voters have registered so far and whether the new voter registration requirements are acting as a barrier to registration? And what action is the council taking or proposing to take to encourage eligible voters to register so that they can exercise their democratic right to vote?

Verbal reply to be given by Councillor Ms K Wood (Leader of the Council)

2. Question from Councillor M Knight to the Leader of the Council

Over the last year there have been a number of violent attacks in Wycombe involving knives. Nationally the carrying of knives is reported to be on the rise and in the past successful amnesties have been held in Wycombe, although the most recent one appears to have been back in 2006.

High Wycombe is generally a peaceful and friendly place to live, and I acknowledge the hard work that agencies have put in to improve public safety, particularly in the town centre through the Purple Flag award. However, would the leader of the council join with me in calling on Thames Valley Police to have another widespread knife and gun amnesty, in the light of recent incidents?

Verbal reply to be given by Councillor Ms K Wood (Leader of the Council)

3. Question from Councillor B Pearce to the Cabinet Member for Community

Does the member agree with me that it would be far more beneficial to keep the close circuit television response centre within Wycombe District, as it is at the moment. Do you agree with me that it would be more beneficial to keep this operation local, not just because of the problems with vandalism and antisocial behaviour but also the threat of terrorism that we must all be vigilant against?

Verbal reply to be given by Councillor Mrs J Adey (Cabinet Member for Community)

4. Question from Councillor S Graham to the Cabinet Member for Housing

It is my understanding that WDC transferred about 6000 homes to Red Kite in December 2011 and at the time, it was promised that the Council would hold accurate and up-to date information on the delivery and performance of Red Kite against the promises made to Council tenants.

Would the Cabinet member for Housing please tell us as to how many quarterly monitoring meetings have been held with Red Kite, and when they took place? (The quarterly meetings were laid down in the contract between Red Kite and WDC).

Could you also tell me where ex- Council tenants can find the reports of these monitoring meetings so they can see if the promises made to them by WDC have been kept?

Verbal reply to be given by Councillor Mrs J Langley (Cabinet Member for Housing)

5. Question from Councillor Ms A Baughan to the Cabinet Member for Community

I recently attended the excellent and informative evening session at Cressex School with regards to child sexual exploitation. There is a multi-disciplinary panel working to educate and inform parents, those working with young people and young people themselves. It is something we all should be aware of in our community. I would ask how Wycombe District Council can further contribute to this work?

Verbal reply to be given by Councillor Mrs J Adey (Cabinet Member for Community)

6. Question from Councillor Ms J Wassell to the Leader of the Council

Can we be told what involvement Wycombe District Council will be having in the future redevelopment of the Wycombe General Hospital site?

There is always a good deal of speculation about this and it would be helpful to know the official position.

Verbal reply to be given by Councillor Ms K Wood (Leader of the Council)

7. Question from Councillor B Pearce to the Leader of the Council

Does the leader agree with me that it is very disturbing to hear of calls and rumours for various parishes within the town of High Wycombe. Do you agree with me that this would be absolutely disastrous for the town and it would be much better to have a town council than individual parishes and it would be a good idea to look into the possibility of having a town council? Do you agree with me that it would be the lesser of 2 evils?

Verbal reply to be given by Councillor Ms K Wood (Leader of the Council)

8. Question from Councillor M Knight to the Cabinet Member for Housing

Do you agree with me that it is essential for the Cabinet member, and indeed all councillors, to have access to the latest figures for housing need in the district?

Do you also agree that given the number of our residents who are struggling with housing this information is in the public interest and should be regularly published?

Verbal reply to be given by Councillor Mrs J Langley (Cabinet Member for Housing)

9. Question from Councillor Ms J Wassell to the Cabinet Member for Planning

Would it be possible for more care to be taken of Wycombe's Ancient Monumenet, the Hospital of St John the Baptist 1180 AD. This ancient hospital needs better signposting, information boards and landscape maintenance. Would you agree?

Verbal reply to be given by Councillor D Johncock (Cabinet Member for Planning)

10. Question from Councillor M Knight to the Cabinet Member for Community

What is the council doing to tackle the growing number of Signal Crayfish, particularly in The Dyke on the Rye in High Wycombe?

Verbal reply to be given by Councillor Mrs J Adey (Cabinet Member for Community)

11. Question from Councillor Ms J Wassell to the Leader of the Council

Would the Leader agree that the work done locally to raise funds and provide essential items to refugees highlights the generosity and hard work of Wycombe people?

These items and funds are supporting people in Calais, Greece, Syria and elsewhere and this is vital work with the winter approaching.

Verbal reply to be given by Councillor Ms K Wood (Leader of the Council)

12. Question from Councillor M Knight to the Leader of the Council

Would the Leader of the Council agree that the redesign and recent re-opening of the Quaker Peace Garden in High Wycombe has been a great success and all those involved should be congratulated?

Verbal reply to be given by Councillor Ms K Wood (Leader of the Council)