

WYCOMBE DISTRICT COUNCIL
COUNCIL MEETING
Monday 14 December 2015

AGENDA ITEM 6

Questions from Members

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

How is that in a prosperous town like High Wycombe we have above average levels of child poverty in Micklefield, Bowerdean, Disraeli and Castlefield, where from a quarter to a third of the children live in poverty.

Would the leader agree that this is a serious concern for WDC and if so what action is being proposed to alleviate officially defined child poverty in High Wycombe?

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

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

Could you give an update on the latest figures on assessed housing need in the district and outline the council's strategy for ensuring that this need is met?

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

3. Question from Councillor M Clarke to the Cabinet Member for Planning

How many new dwellings have current permission to be built and have not been completed?

Could the answer identify the numbers by parish, including the un-parished areas?

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

4. Question from Councillor M Hanif to the Cabinet Member for Planning

On Saturday 28th October I had an opportunity to join the Nightsafe team and walk in the town centre. In Pauls Row the new pedestrianized area appears to have improved the look of the area, nevertheless I came away with a few public safety concerns. The pedestrianized area is accessed both by pedestrians and motor vehicles. During our walk unsafe pedestrian and driver behaviour was observed. Some members of the public felt that some control of vehicular traffic is required either through better signage or by installing some bollards.

Can you please reassure the members that appropriate measures to improve Health and Safety in the Town Centre are being considered before an accident takes place? What improvements can we expect?

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

5. Question from Councillor S K Raja to the Cabinet Member for Youth

Following the demise of Skidz earlier this year, could the Cabinet Member for Youth provide an update to members on the provision of motor vehicle courses in our District for the existing and prospective students, in particular those with special requirements?

Verbal reply to be given by Councillor R Newman (Cabinet Member for Youth)

6. Question from Councillor M Asif to the Cabinet Member for Community

At a recent Cabinet meeting it was resolved that the new cemetery at Queensway was to have £20,000 allocated from the Special Expenses reserves, to fund the necessary feasibility work.

Would the cabinet member say what the feasibility study involves and why does it cost so much?

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

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

I am often asked by members of the public why there is a housing shortage when so many buildings are so obviously unused. Could you let me know if there is a strategy for the use of empty buildings and whether all possible sites have been identified for current and future housing needs?

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

8. Question from Councillor R Raja to the Cabinet Member for Community

Would the Cabinet member for Communities agree that increasing levels of obesity are a serious threat to the overall health of the District and puts extra strain on the already tight budget of the NHS.

Therefore, now that the new Leisure Centre is about to come on stream, what actions does she recommend to encourage middle aged people to become physically active?

And would she agree that serious discounts and special recruitment drives may be appropriate in getting the District on the road to long term fitness?

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

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

Recently there has been a thread on social media about the state of the stairwells and lift in the Wycombe Swan car park. I have noticed myself that these are often unpleasant and smelly. Could you give any reason why this important car park has such difficulties with cleansing issues?

Verbal reply to be given by Councillor Mrs J Teesdale (Cabinet Member for Environment)