

WYCOMBE DISTRICT COUNCIL
COUNCIL MEETING
Monday 11 April 2016

AGENDA ITEM 6

Questions from Members

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

Will the Leader agree that the EDL is an extreme racist organisation and its sole purpose in coming to High Wycombe on Saturday, 9 April, was to stir up racist hatred against Muslims and to blame whole communities for the criminal activities of a few bad apples. Would she also tell us whether she is satisfied with the measures taken by WDC and the Police to contain this racist onslaught on our peaceful town and whether she agrees that racist organisations like the EDL have to be shown that they are not welcome 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 Leader of the Council

In the past few weeks a number of public figures, including the outgoing CEO of Bucks County Council, have been making the case in favour of a Unitary Authority for Buckinghamshire.

Would the Leader outline her views on Unitary Authority and agree with me that in this time of austerity the financial case in favour is now compelling, even more so than in 2007?

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 Planning

Like myself, and many residents in Booker and Cressex, I am sure you welcome the new Costco store coming to Cressex Island in High Wycombe. I believe this would be a great asset to the town.

However there is much concern regarding the traffic and parking. I saw a presentation at the Holiday Inn last year, indicating customers would gain entry into Costco's car park from a mini roundabout in Crest Road and the existing road that runs alongside the YMCA.

Do you not agree with me that it would be better to have a 4 point roundabout constructed where the existing mini roundabout leads into Asda and also a slip road from John Hall Way.

I realise this is a Highways and County Council issue but I am sure you'll agree with me that WDC could make this a condition of the planning application?

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

4. Question from Councillor M Davy to the Cabinet Member for Economic Development & Regeneration

Having visited the new sport centre, and had many residents acknowledge how brilliant it has been for people of all ages in our community, I think WDC can be very proud of providing such a contemporary facility for our whole district.

Can the Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Regeneration give the Council and the public an update about the progress of the demolition of the old sport centre and a timetable for future works on the hotel and others in the Handy Cross Hub?

Verbal reply to be given by Councillor R Wilson (Cabinet Member for Economic Development & Regeneration).

5. Question from Councillor K Ahmed to the Cabinet Member for Environment

Recently an investigation carried out by the BFP revealed a major flaw with our car park ANPR system. The council's response failed to give an explanation as to why the BFP reporter managed to avoid any standard charge notice being sent to him even after failing to pay on three separate occasions. Would the responsible cabinet member please explain why this failure could have occurred?

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

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

Under the Infrastructure Levy Funding Strategy some fifteen projects have been earmarked for High Wycombe; can the cabinet member for this responsibility provide a time scale for the completion of these putative projects; what for example are the factors which will expedite or hinder the timely completion of these projects?

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

7. Question from Councillor M A Hashmi to the Cabinet Member for Environment

Many roads and service roads in particular, are blighted by fly tipping and general accumulation of rubbish. In Bowerdean Ward a service road behind Rowan Avenue has heaps of soil, accumulated rubbish and large articles of rubbish left by either uncaring local residents or more likely the result of fly-tipping.

What is the Council's strategy to tackle fly tipping, what actions is the Council taking, (such as placing signs asking people not to fly tip) to combat this social menace? Moreover, how many people have been prosecuted for fly tipping in High Wycombe, over the last year?

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

8. Question from Councillor S Graham to the Cabinet Member for Community

During the consultation process about the new Wycombe sports centre, the developers had given an undertaking that the centre could be used for dances, weddings and other large gatherings.

However I am now told that high heel shoes and drinks are not allowed in the halls and that it would cost £30,000 for a special cover to protect the floor for any of the above activities to take place at the centre.

Can you tell me who took the decision not to honour the commitment made by the developers during the consultation process to provide a place at the centre for large gatherings and when was this undertaking revoked?

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

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

Would the Leader update us on the finances of the Hughenden Quarter and the current expenditure by the Council on the project? A resident has asked me to obtain this information.

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

10. Question from Councillor M Asif to the Cabinet Member for Housing

How much is the rent for a two bedrooomed flat in Castlefield

- a) in social housing
- b) in affordable housing and
- c) in commercial housing in the private sector?

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

11. Question from Councillor K Ahmed to the Cabinet Member for Housing

When will Wycombe's housing waiting list be significantly reduced and WDC not need to help families and individuals who are homeless, or at risk of being made homeless?

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

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

Now that the racist EDL has paid High Wycombe a visit will WDC be undertaking an impact assessment on the disruption caused to local businesses and the travelling public

by the unwelcome visitors numbering from 150 to 200? Secondly, would she advise us in due course as to the cost of policing the march by the racist EDL and how much of this cost will have to be borne by WDC?

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

13. Question from Councillor B Pearce to the Cabinet Member for Planning

Why is it that Red Kite have to obtain planning permission to knock down some existing garages to rebuild them because they are in an unstable condition. These garages once belonged to Wycombe District Council?

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

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

Could the Leader kindly provide to members a map of all land transferred to Red Kite Housing Association? I am sure that the Leader can appreciate how time consuming it is for members to have to locate ownership on a case by case basis..

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

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

Does the Leader agree with the statement made by the out-going Chief Executive of Bucks County Council that the existing 2- tier system of district and county councils is not fit for purpose and too expensive and that Bucks should move to a unitary system?

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

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

Does the Leader think that Wycombe District Council will become more dependent on income generating schemes in future? This is becoming more of a topic in local authority publications due to the reduced settlement from Central Government. If so does she feel this is an opportunity to consult our talented and entrepreneurial Wycombe residents?

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