

COUNCIL

Monday 18 July 2016

Agenda Item 6

Questions from Members

Unanswered Questions – Responses sent subsequent to Meeting

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

I am concerned again that the Ancient Monument in Easton Street has become engulfed by weeds and ivy. Could you advise me if contact has been made with the owners Columbia Threadneedle and a schedule of works agreed?

Response from Councillor D Johncock (Cabinet Member for Planning & Sustainability)

Thank you Cllr Wassell for your question and for drawing this matter to our attention.

On the 14th July 2016, our conservation officer visited St John's House which is behind St John's Hospital and is currently vacant and scaffolded. Work is currently under way to refurbish the office buildings which were previously the buildings of the victorian grammar school and which are locally listed. The work is being done on behalf of the owners, Columbia Threadneedle investments.

The Morgan Lovell's project manager advised that, when the refurbishment of the offices is nearing completion, the grounds will be similarly refurbished which will include clearing ivy from the grade ii listed St John's Hospital and the undergrowth and scrub that has grown up around it. It has been unusually moist this year and this has encouraged exceptionally vigorous weed and unwanted ivy growth.

Our conservation officer will continue to monitor the situation to ensure that Columbia Threadneedle investments carry out the landscape works and, in particular, clear the ivy and creeper from the medieval building which is the oldest surviving building in High Wycombe and thus of exceptional historic significance.

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

Following the EU referendum result we have seen a sharp increase in reported hate crime at a national level and a number of anecdotal cases have been reported locally in our own towns and district. At a meeting last week this increase was dismissed as insignificant by some members and yet Thames Valley Police have now confirmed a 44% rise in reported

hate crime compared to the same period last year. Do you agree with me that this is significant and should be of great concern to us as a council?

Response from Councillor Ms K Wood (Leader of the Council).

I would refer you to the previous answer given to Question 5 (Cllr A Hashmi) which was on the same subject and substantially the same question.

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

Could you update us about actions being taken by WDC regarding the possibility of a Unitary Council? I am particularly concerned about the lack of consultation with councillors who represent Wycombe Town wards?

Response from Councillor Ms K Wood (Leader of the Council).

Thank you for your question Cllr Wassell and may I refer you to my previous answer to Cllr Hanif (Q3). I would add though that I am very clear that any discussions must include consideration for the unparished area of High Wycombe.