



Council – Supplement – Items 5 & 6 – Public & Member Questions

Date: Monday, 12 December 2016
Time: 6.30 pm
Venue: Council Chamber
District Council Offices, Queen Victoria Road, High Wycombe Bucks

Agenda

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5	QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC	1 - 2
	Written questions may be asked of the Leader or any Cabinet Member if submitted to the Head of Democratic, Legal and Policy Services no later than 12 noon on Monday 5 December 2016. Questions will be submitted in the order in which they were received.	
	A questioner will have a maximum of 1 minute to ask a question and the answer shall not exceed 3 minutes. Any questioner may put one supplementary question without notice within a maximum time of 1 minute and the answer may not exceed 2 minutes.	
6	QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS	3 - 6

Questions to the Leader or any Cabinet Members must be submitted by 12 noon on Monday 5 December 2016. Questions shall be taken first from the Group Leaders of the political parties who shall be entitled to ask an initial Leader's question, including the right to adopt another Member's question from his/her group, of which written notice shall have been given to the Head of Democratic, Legal and Policy Services prior to the meeting.

The order of questions shall then permit the first question from each other Councillor to be asked before any subsequent questions from the same Councillor. One question will be taken in turn from the same Councillor unless there are no other questions to be asked.

Every Member asking an oral question is permitted to ask one supplementary question without notice provided that it is not substantially the same as a question that was put to a Council meeting during the past six months.

The appropriate Member will respond to any questions remaining unanswered at the expiry of 30 minutes in writing. Any question remaining unanswered after 30 minutes will be answered within 10 working days in writing after the meeting by the appropriate Member and appended to the minutes of the meeting.

For further information, please contact Iram Malik on 01494 421204, committeeservices@wycombe.gov.uk

WYCOMBE DISTRICT COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING

Monday 12 December 2016

AGENDA ITEM 5

Questions from Members of the Public

1. Question from Mr T Snaith to the Cabinet Member for Housing

Wycombe District continues to have a dire need for low cost and social rent affordable homes.

WDC identified that HMOs could be one such route. However there was a need to improve the quality of some of the HMOs in the district to meet acceptable standards.

In the last Council administration there as a Councillor T&F group set up to look at Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) and how WDC could introduce a new licencing system to improve the quality and monitoring of these properties

Perhaps the cabinet member for Housing could give an update on how this project is progressing?

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

2. Question from Mr R Colomb to the Cabinet Member for Housing

In 2014 and Improvement & Review Commission Task & Finish Group conducted an in-depth review of Houses in Multiple occupation. Their recommendations were considered by the Cabinet in February 2015, and it was resolved that a further report be presented to the July 2015 Cabinet responding to each of the recommendations in detail.

Would you please state what these recommendations were, as I have been unable to trace them?

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

3. Question from Mr D Done to the Cabinet Member for Community

Many voluntary organisations in Marlow are facing large increases in the cost of room hire and catering services at Court Garden, brought about by the removal of concessionary rates formerly given to local organisations.

These arrangements were in place for many years, only now being removed due to the subcontracting of the management of many facilities to an events company. In one case, a local organisation, having already placed a deposit for the provision of a meal, had that deposit returned and had to enter into a new agreement at increased cost with the new company.

It is difficult to avoid the conclusion that this Council is unaware of, or deliberately ignoring, its obligations to the local community as sole trustee of the Higginson Park Trust. This is the body established, as outlined in the trust deed, to provide these facilities “for the benefit of the inhabitants of the District of Wycombe with particular regard for the inhabitants of the town of Marlow”, not for anyone the contractors decide can provide them with a commercial return.

Why is this happening?

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

WYCOMBE DISTRICT COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING

Monday 12 December 2016

AGENDA ITEM

Questions from Members

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

The draft local plan identifies the need for some 10,000 homes to be built in Wycombe District area yet there are real concerns over the ability of the over-subscribed schools, choking road network and a struggling sewage system, (especially the ability of the Little Marlow Treatment Works) to cope with thousands of new homes, should the draft Local Plan be approved.

Can the leader reassure the council that well before the extra houses are built the council will liaise with and seek commitments from the County Council, where it has the responsibility, to upgrade the sewage system, repair and improve the road network and have sufficient school places available with the increased numbers, so that all the planned development is fit for purpose and helps to improve the lives of the residents of WDC and not further increase residents discontent with this Tory administration?

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

2. Question from Councillor R Farmer to the Leader of the Council

When will WDC start supporting the 'Hand Back our Hospital Campaign' by writing to the Minister of Health with our concerns of the loss of services at the hospital and also request our MP Steve Baker to get back on the case?

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 Environment.

Does the Cabinet Member agree with me that it is false economy and foolhardy for Bucks County Council to change the closing time of the waste disposal facility at High Heavens from the summer time of 6pm to 4pm on 1st October before we altered clocks to GMT?

In previous years the winter closing time has been 5pm not 4pm.

This reduction in hours is coupled with the lack of information to the general public e.g. no sign at the entrance from Clay Lane, one wouldn't know they are closed until you got there. Surely as a result there is more chance people may fly tip because some people would not want to make a second journey?

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

4. Question from Councillor S Broadbent to the Cabinet Member for Environment.

Given the rising popularity of flying UAV's (Unmanned Aerial Vehicles), also known as drones, and the likelihood that many people in the district may receive one as a Christmas gift, does the council have any publicly available guidelines on their appropriate usage within the district?

Recent national statistics indicate an increase in aerospace incidents and physical injuries to members of the public when UAV's are flown in an unsafe manner.

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

5. Question from Councillor Mrs L Clarke to the Leader of the Council

Having read in the local papers recently that Aylesbury Vale District Council is working with Buckinghamshire County Council on the Aylesbury traffic problems, does Wycombe District Council have this working relationship with Buckinghamshire County Council on the traffic problems that beset Wycombe District?

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

6. Question from Councillor K Ahmed to the Leader of the Council

A year ago, I presented a motion to the council to take up to 200 refugees under the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme, which is funded and promoted by the Government.

This motion was rejected by the ruling party on the basis that, whereas the council recognised the humanitarian crisis, Wycombe was not in a position to pledge assistance owing to our own homeless list and the difficulty of liaising with all the services which would need to be involved.

Many thousands of men, women and children have since died.

In view of this, I would like to ask the leader whether she would now be willing to engage with us in cross-party action to save lives by giving some of the most vulnerable refugees a home in the Wycombe District?

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

7. Question from Councillor S Graham to the Leader of the Council

According to BFP report on the 2nd December 2016, the three District Councils in South Bucks are offering free parking days in the run up to Christmas. Would the Leader of the Council agree that this appears to be a test run off collaboration among the three Councils, and does this betray her preference for a unitary authority base on Wycombe District Council, Chiltern District Council and South Bucks District Council?

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

8. Question from Councillor Ms J Wassell to the Cabinet Member for Community.

Given the reported rise in hate crime this year, by the Thames Valley Police, has the Council any proposals to protect and support Wycombe residents in this situation or provide additional training to staff?

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

9. Question from Councillor M Hanif to the Leader of the Council

All Bucks Councils are divided over unitary plans and can you please update us on the progress of the Wycombe District Council's plan to how far things have gone and are we getting the relevant work done in time to put forward the relevant proposals before the deadlines?

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

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

Disabled residents under the age of 60 require adapted ground floor properties to enable their independent living. Bucks Home Choice is providing details of properties which are not adapted and properties for those 60 years old or over. Please can you clarify what properties are available for disabled people and whether or not older persons properties are available to the under 60s?

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

11. Question from Councillor Ms J Wassell to the Cabinet Member for Finance & Resources.

Recently, disabled people have received a declaration form to confirm that they are still eligible for the council tax discount of 25%.

Disabled people with sensory impairment or who have had a stair lift fitted to use stairs appear not to be included in this form which has confused them. The form indicates that the disabled person has to have an extra room or extra space for using a wheelchair.

Not every disabled person has these exact facilities.

How many disabled people receive the discount and how many have not renewed this entitlement?

Verbal reply to be given by Councillor D Watson (Cabinet Member for Finance & Resources).

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

The Ancient Monument called St Johns Hospital in Easton Street is now looking much improved following the conservation works there. How will the council ensure that this significant asset is properly maintained and promoted in future?

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