

**WYCOMBE DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
**COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Monday 17 July 2017**

**AGENDA ITEM 6**

**Questions from Members**

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

In view of the horrific Grenfell fire and the series of catastrophic missteps and a woefully inadequate response from Kensington & Chelsea Council in the first 48 hours of the tragedy, it has put the Kensington & Chelsea Council under a bitter national spotlight.

It also shows that whilst you can have all the policies in place but the lack of preparedness to meet such challenges means that policies, which cannot be put in practice, are not worth the paper they are written on.

With the hope that we never have to experience anything of the magnitude of Grenfell, can the Leader of the Council reassure us that all necessary fire & safety precautions are in place in all social housing facilities within the authority's area?

**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 Community.**

Along with victims of knife crime in High Wycombe I have previously called for a knife amnesty to be held.

Neither the council nor the police have deemed this to be necessary.

Could you tell me how serious the problem needs to get before the council joins me in calling on the police to hold an amnesty in order to reduce the number of offensive weapons on our streets?

**Verbal reply to be given by Councillor G Peart (Cabinet Member for Community).**

**3. Question from Councillor A Hashmi to the Cabinet Member for Environment.**

Is the Cabinet Member for the Environment aware that the waste collection service in the town is falling apart. A number of people in my ward have complained that their bins have been emptied days later than scheduled.

Even more worryingly, the promises of special services to those with disabilities are not being met. I understand that this is due to the waste collection service suffering from broken down vehicles and a shortage of manpower.

This may be due to incompetence on part of WDC or the company providing waste collection services, whatever how does she plan to rectify this failure so that residents can be sure of a reliable vital service?

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

**4. Question from Councillor K Ahmed to the Leader of the Council.**

In light of the recent BFP article relating to the loss of revenue through uncollected fines from the defunct ANPR system, can the Leader explain as to why the public is having to find out about the true cost of the failed project via FOI's and why a full inquiry was not deemed appropriate to dispel any theories of a 'cover up' regarding the actual amount lost?

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

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

Analysing the data from the Office of National Statistics (ONS), it is clear that homicide and knife crime have actually increased. You only have to open the local newspaper and see that knife crime is becoming more and more of a problem. Is the council taking any pro-active measures to tackle this epidemic, within the District?

**Verbal reply to be given by Councillor G Peart (Cabinet Member for Community).**

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

I am interested in the process for selecting locations for tree planting and obtaining funding. How are these saplings monitored and maintained?

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

**7. Question from Councillor Ms A Baughan to the Cabinet Member for Housing.**

Please could you confirm the latest figures for street homeless people in the District, and the method used for counting?

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

**8. Question from Councillor K Ahmed to the Leader of the Council.**

Two years ago, upon election as Leader, she announced that she was keen to engage more closely with younger people across the district. A new cabinet post for Youth was created, it is now noted that the terms of reference for the post have been changed a little and the member responsible for the portfolio also has been changed.

Can the Leader highlight the achievements of the outgoing member and enlighten us as to what the incoming cabinet member is intending to do things differently for this important portfolio?

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

**9. Question from Councillor R Raja to the Leader of the Council.**

A joint investigation by the Guardian newspaper and Greenpeace (in April) has reported that “hundreds of thousands of children are exposed to illegal levels of air pollution from diesel vehicles at schools and nurseries across England”. Furthermore, analysis of the most recent government data exposes how dangerous levels of nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) pollution from diesel traffic is not limited to large metropolitan centres, but threaten the health of children and young people in towns and cities throughout the country.

As we are clearly not immune from these illegal levels of pollution, which is toxic for large sections of young and old. Will the leader tell us if she plans to earmark some modest resources to understanding the conclusions of these studies and for WDC to draw up measures to minimise the harmful effects of this pollution?

**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.**

How many empty houses have been subject to an Empty Dwelling Maintenance Order in the last year and do Councillors have a role in reporting these empty dwellings?

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

**11. Question from Councillor M Knight to the Cabinet Member for Planning.**

I am interested in understanding of the role of our planning department in identifying wider issues connected to over development of residential properties in our district.

These issues may include modern slavery, exploitation and immigration contraventions.

Could you outline to what extent our planning department encounters these issues and how they respond to them in partnership with other agencies?

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

**12. Question from Councillor M Knight to the Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Regeneration**

Across High Wycombe town, and quite possibly the District, there are commercial properties owned by Wycombe District Council which are run down and having a detrimental impact on local communities.

There has been much focus on major town centre regeneration in recent years.

Is it time for the Council to begin investing in some of these smaller pockets of property with a view to engaging in community regeneration?

**Verbal reply to be given by Councillor S Broadbent (Cabinet Member for Economic Development & Regeneration)**