

WYCOMBE DISTRICT COUNCIL
COUNCIL MEETING
Monday 11 December 2017

AGENDA ITEM 6

Questions from Members

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

As the cabinet has now approved the replacement of Saunderton Lodge as the future temporary accommodation provision for vulnerable members of society, would the Leader like to tell us what the likely plans are for the Saunderton Lodge land and can she reassure us that the land will only be used for social use and not be sold off to increase the surplus on the council's balance sheet?

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

It has been reported that the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, Sajid Javed, is very close to making a decision regarding the unitary authority proposals. If he were to bring news that 2018 is to be a happy new year for you do you anticipate any changes would be made to the plans given that they were put together almost a year ago?

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

3. Question from Councillor K Ahmed to the Cabinet Member for Community

A Children's Centre in Totteridge has 979 children under the age of 5 living in its catchment area. 628 of these (more than 64%) are registered with the Children's Centre. 375 of these children (over 38%) have had at least one contact with the Children's Centre over the last year and 191 (over 19%) have had multiple.

Clearly, this is a vital service on which many local residents rely, so why isn't WDC protesting more actively against planned closure of this and many other centres?

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

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

Would the cabinet member for planning like to tell us whether he is confident that WDC residents have given him a good idea about their concerns and reservations about the local plan; and would he like to tell us about the broad areas of public approval or concern?

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

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

Please can you update us on the numbers of residents currently placed in Bed and Breakfast outside of Wycombe District? I am particularly concerned about families with young children being placed there.

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

6. Question from Councillor M Abdullah Hashmi to the Leader of the Council.

In light of the many episodes of harassment reported elsewhere and the lack of adequate processes for victims to make confidential complaints that these reports exposed, does WDC have any plans to update its own complaints procedures to offer greater guarantees of confidentiality to those raising the complaints and does the council have procedures in place to investigate such harassment complaints satisfactorily?

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

7. Question from Councillor S Graham to the Cabinet Member for Economic Development & Regeneration

The Bucks Free Press dated 24.11 2017 features a story that the historic Library could be used for offices.

The building has stood empty since the library moved to the Eden shopping centre.

A number of options have been considered for its future over the years ,including putting it up for sale or handing it over to charitable trust, but so far none of those options have come through.

The County Council now wants this historic town centre building to be used for a wide range of purposes including offices and community use.

My question to the Cabinet Member for economic development is 'Can the member tell me whether he has been involved, or been contacted by the County Council, in respect of their intentions as have been reported in the Free Press'?

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

8. Question from Councillor Ms J Wassell to the Cabinet Member for Economic Development & Regeneration

A recent Question at the County Council revealed that the Old Library will be converted to offices and community space. The answer also stated ' we are currently awaiting a licence from Wycombe District Council for access to the rear of the building. Once received, we will submit a planning application for change of use from Library to offices'.

Can you kindly update us on the progress of this licence?

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

9. Question from Councillor M Knight to the Cabinet Member for Community

Attending the Christmas light switch on in Frogmoor it was a delight to see it full of many families from High Wycombe and the wider district enjoying themselves. It is unfortunate that the rest of the year Frogmoor is increasingly becoming an area which families avoid due to a small minority of people being drunk and behaving erratically. I hope to think that we all recognise that a balanced approach is needed to tackle this issue where both enforcement and comprehensive support for people with substance misuse issues go hand in hand. We have been promised a multi-agency coordinated approach in the past.

Could you provide an update on how this is going and what factors are inhibiting progress?

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