

WYCOMBE DISTRICT COUNCIL
COUNCIL MEETING
Monday 21 October 2019

AGENDA ITEM 7

Questions from Members

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

Would the Leader of the council like to tell us what specific preparations have been undertaken by WDC to deal with the aftermath of Brexit?

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

Earlier this year Communities Secretary Robert Jenrick asked each local authority to designate a Brexit lead to work with central government and local stakeholders to plan for leaving the EU.

Could you summarise the work that Wycombe District Council has done to ensure our council services and business community will be resilient to the upcoming changes, particularly given the possibility that we may leave the EU without a deal?

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

3. Question from Councillor B Pearce to the Leader of the Council

You would no doubt agree with me that the Wycombe Rural Forum and the Wycombe Rural Forum Farm Visits are an exceedingly useful tool for local Councillors and the local farming community.

Is it possible for this Forum to continue one way or another after the introduction of the Unitary Authority?

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

4. Question from Councillor A Hill to the Cabinet Member for Environment

Since the new road layout in Queen Victoria Road, Easton Street, High Street and Crendon Street, what is the increase in pollution in these areas?

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

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

The latest statistics show that rates of hospital admissions for alcohol remain high and authorities struggle to manage issues as anti-social behaviour and vulnerability related to licensed premises.

The LGA has published a handbook that gives an overview of licensing legislation and examples of best practice. Of course, councils cannot address these complex challenges alone but the handbook explores the tools councils have to manage some of these issues.

What tools are being used at WDC to deal with these challenges?

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

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

During recent heavy rain several of my residents experienced flooding. When I followed the advice for Sandbags on the WDC website, I was given the number for a weather forecast. Would you agree with me that these sandbags need to be delivered promptly to residents if required?

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 Environment

The media summary of 20 September 2019 reported that a number of Wycombe eateries are failing to meet basic hygiene standards; it appears that almost one in seven Wycombe businesses which handle food are failing the hygiene standards according to the food hygiene standards agencies.

Would the Cabinet member for the Environment agree with me that this is unacceptable and bad for business as it damages the public's trust in Wycombe's food outlets and would she please tell me what steps have been taken to ensure that the businesses which have failed to meet the hygiene standards so far are able to comply with the basic hygiene standards, to protect the public?

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

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

Some families in our Ward have recently received letters confirming that their Homechoice Band has changed to a Band B. This has been really welcomed and is a positive situation for many residents.

Could you kindly explain how changes will work in practical terms?

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

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

Our local MP, Steve Baker and our Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, have made it clear that they want to come of the EU at the end of October regardless of a withdrawal agreement being in place.

Does the Leader think Wycombe District Council is adequately prepared for a no-deal Brexit?

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

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

As I am sure you are aware, many of the very large flower troughs that are situated in the central reservation of Oxford Road and West Wycombe Road are damaged (almost every other one).

I'm sure that you will agree with me that this is a great shame as these large wooden cladded containers looked quite attractive and made quite an impressive visual improvement to this area but that with the damage, the area now looks almost run down.

Could you please inform us who is actually responsible for maintaining these containers and is there any programme in place, to repair them?

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

11. Question from Councillor M Hanif to the Cabinet Member for Housing

Tackling rough sleeping needs both health and care solutions to help those most in need and reverse the long term trend of rising number of people living on the streets.

In a new publication for councils, the LGA says this this is the best way to support the government Rough Sleeping Strategy and achieve its target of halving rough sleeping over the course of this Parliament.

Prevention, Intervention and Recovery are the focus of the strategy.

What is WDC strategy and are we likely to meet this target?

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

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

I am delighted to hear that the pedestrian underpass on Abbey Way is soon to be completed. Please can you update us about the date we can expect this to be opening?

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

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

The main entrance to the Hilltop community centre and the Wycombe Badminton Club is badly in need of repair, whilst the main car park mainly serving the Hilltop community Centre is in need of resurfacing .On top of this the emergency parking bays need to be repainted and a couple of disabled bays need to be provided.

All the above had been submitted to the appropriate Department back in September 2018, yet nothing appears to have been done.

Would the Cabinet Member responsible please say whether community organisations and their facilities need to be kept up to standard like other public facilities, and if so, can I expect some action in this area please?

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

14. Question from Councillor M Knight to the Cabinet Member for Economic Development & Regeneration.

At the end of August it was announced that High Wycombe had been chosen to receive money from the government's Future High Streets Fund to bring improvements to our town centre.

Could we have an update on how this is progressing?

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

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

Would the Leader of the Council like to give us an update as to where exactly in the 'pipeline' is the recommendation of the Remaking of the River Wye Task and Finish Group, for the River Wye to be brought to the surface in the Town?

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

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

Since the introduction of the Homeless Reduction Act in April 2018, does the cabinet member feel that it has served its purpose so far in reducing homelessness?

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

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

Please can you advise me about the progress with the Bassetsbury Park home scheme as I get many questions about this from members of the public?

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

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

With the arrival of Universal Credit, can you inform us about the impact on our benefits department particularly in regard of housing costs?

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