

## **Public Questions for Council 14<sup>th</sup> November 2013**

(NOTE: The following questions and answers will be published on the Council's website as soon as possible after the meeting and linked to the published draft minutes of this meeting.)

### **1. Question from Leonie Robertson**

I am a parent of two boys who attend St Andrew's Primary School on Northampton Street. We live in Alpine Gardens and to walk to our local school we have to cross Lansdown Road at the junction with Julian Road and Guinea Lane.

Many other families attending St Andrews, in particular, from Snow Hill, also cross at this junction which is very busy at rush hour. There is a steady stream of speeding cars, all very impatient to get onto Guinea Lane to queue onto The Paragon/London Road. Therefore, it is very difficult to cross Lansdown Road and extremely dangerous.

In order to cross the road, we usually have to wait until another family comes along so that we can stop the traffic and cross the road en masse. I can feel my anxiety levels rising greatly when we cross the road and I am very concerned about what we are teaching our children – that it is okay to cross the road in oncoming traffic – when clearly it is not.

Even parents with children in year 6 have to walk their children to school because of the dangers of crossing Lansdown Road, at a time when they want to encourage their children to be more independent in preparation for the move to secondary education.

There are many families who use this route to St Andrews and I know many more would walk to school more often if it were safe to do so. We should be encouraging people wanting to walk to school because of the obvious health benefits. This is a huge safety and environmental issue and I understand that this has been a particular problem since Walcot Infants was closed over 4 years ago and yet no still no provision has been made to cross Lansdown Road safely.

I am informed that a pedestrian / traffic study carried out by the council's Design and Projects team highlighted the Julian Road/Guinea Lane junction on Lansdown Road as having sufficient footfall to justify the installation of a zebra crossing, but that budget constraints mean it might not be carried out until 2015.

Can the Council confirm that it will be prioritised and allocated funding in the forthcoming budget and, if not, how they can justify their position?

### **Answer from Cabinet Member for Transport**

A pedestrian crossing at the junction of Lansdown Road and Guinea Lane is one of a number of schemes being considered for funding in 2014/15. It is intended that, following consultation, the final list of schemes will be confirmed at the Council's budget meeting in February 2014.

## **2. Question from Phyllis Gay**

After a meeting with Mr Dave Dixon last June we were told that a Grant had been earmarked for Writhlington Village Hall to replace the leaking roof. This grant would come from money allocated to Radstock under the Regeneration Scheme. When it rains we have to place containers around the Hall to catch the rain and if it gets any worse we shall have to consider closing a very well used Community Hall as we have not got the funds to finance replacing the roof. Why is it that we are still waiting for this grant to be released?

Our local Cllrs have been unable to make any progress so far and as a last resort we are appealing to you.

### **Answer from the Cabinet Member for Sustainable Development**

In April 2013, as part of the £500,000 Radstock Capital Funding, £50,000 was allocated for “investment in to additional community facilities.” The funding was to be “awarded through a competitive bidding process” with bids assessed against a set of criteria and scored through the use of a scoring matrix. This requirement to award the funding through the basis of a competitive bidding process does remain and a formal invitation to bid will be advertised in the local press by the end of November. This will set out the criteria upon which applications for funding will be assessed, establish any terms and conditions attached to the funding and invite applications for funding. The applications will then be assessed and successful applicants notified as soon as practically thereafter.