

## CABINET MEETING 11<sup>th</sup> February 2015

### REGISTERED SPEAKERS

Where the intention is to speak about an item on the Agenda, the speaker will be offered the option to speak near the beginning of the meeting or just before the Agenda item.

#### Statements about issues NOT on the Agenda

- Jonathan Rich (Resident, Peasedown-St-John)  
Re: Petition - Junction of A367 and Bath Road in Peasedown St John
- Lesley Mansell (Chair, Radstock TC)  
Re: Junction of A367 and Bath Road in Peasedown St John
- Gerald Chown  
Re: A 20mph Limit for the whole of Widcombe Hill
- Fiona Bell (Chair of Trustees, The Volunteer Centre, Bath and Beyond)  
Re: Volunteering in B&NES

#### Re: Agenda Item 19 (Funding for Community Transport)

- Bleddyn Phillips (Trustee, Keynsham Dial-a-Ride)

#### Statements from Chairs of PDS Panels

- Cllr John Bull (Chair, Resources PDS Panel)  
Re: Council Budget. *Cllr Bull will speak at the Budget Item on the agenda*
- Cllr Robin Moss (Chair, Economic and Community Development PDS Panel)  
Re: Disability access to Keynsham Leisure Centre

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS - COUNCILLORS

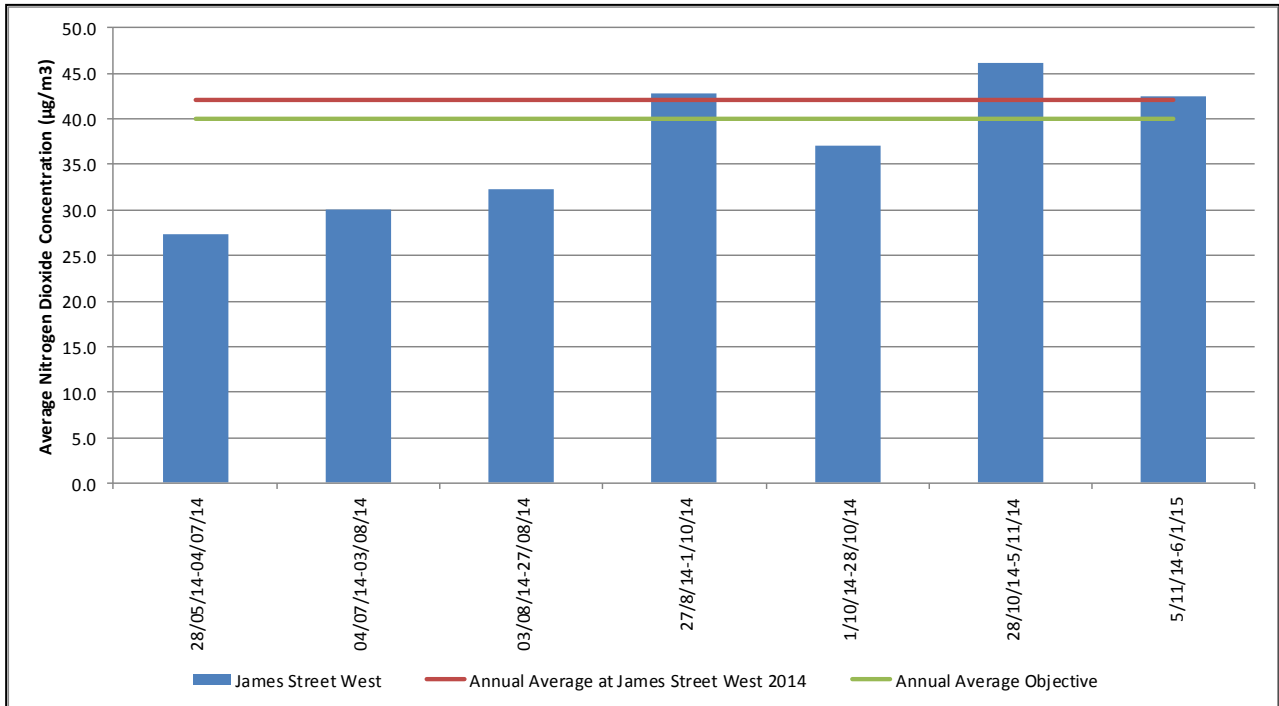
<b>M 01</b>	<b>Question from:</b>	Councillor Andy Furse
<p><b>Bath city centre air quality</b></p> <p>In view of proposals from DEFRA to change the obligations placed upon local authorities, can the cabinet member confirm that B&amp;NES will;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Work towards reducing sources of PM2.5</li> <li>2. Continue to monitor PM10</li> <li>3. Continue to monitor NO2</li> </ol> <p>That overall, the council will undertake measures to improve air quality across the city and tackle sources of pollution, and target improvements at air quality black spots. Kingsmead residents living within the city centre are concerned that during busy periods air quality is noticeably worse, recently citing the Christmas market in particular. Therefore, can the cabinet member confirm;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. the status of air quality monitoring in and around Kingsmead car park, and</li> <li>5. provide outline results for this area from July to December 2014.</li> <li>6. Indicate how circulating traffic at such busy times will be reduced.</li> </ol>		
<b>Answer from:</b>		Councillor David Dixon
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>Yes we are working towards reducing PM2.5 (particulate matter with a diameter of less than 2.5 micrometers). Actions identified within the Bath Air Quality Action Plan will also reduce both PM10 and PM2.5.</i></li> <li>2. <i>Yes we will continue to monitor PM10 at both Windsor Bridge and Chelsea House (London Road Enclosure) sites.</i></li> <li>3. <i>Yes we will continue to monitor NO2 at 4 sites where we have continuous analysers and by using diffusion tubes. The Council is currently working on measures within the Bath Air Quality Action Plan. This plan will be reviewed once the Keynsham and Salford Action Plans have been consulted upon and adopted later this year.</i></li> <li>4. <i>The closest monitor to Kingsmead Car Park is a diffusion tube located on James Street West. Monitoring has been carried out at this location since 2009.</i></li> <li>5. <i>The monitoring results from James Street West in 2014 show an annual average of 42 µg/m3. This is consistent with previous years. The bar chart (below) shows this information.</i></li> <li>6. <i>The Bath Transportation Package has put in place a set of variable message signs within the city and on the main approaches which will direct drivers to the most appropriate parking site, either P&amp;R or off-street parking within the city centre. These signs are linked to newly installed counters at these sites which monitor availability of parking spaces. This should allow drivers to be directed to available parking spaces and minimise those who might otherwise driver around searching for a parking space.</i></li> </ol>		
<b>Supplementary Question:</b>		
Has the Cabinet considered what measures would be necessary to mitigate the		

situation if the high levels of pollution to be encountered?

**Answer from:**

Councillor David Dixon

*We are well off any of the triggers. If we were to encounter such a situation we would not hesitate to take action to address the situation, such as removing all pollution vehicles from the roads for a period of time.*



**M 02**

**Question from:**

Councillor Eleanor Jackson

What is being done about the subsidence of the Bristol Road at Radstock between numbers 52 and 98?

**Answer from:**

Councillor Caroline Roberts

*The highway in Bristol Road is regularly monitored. If the conditions meet the intervention levels then remedial work is ordered. In view of the member's concerns Officers will check the road and inform Cllr Jackson of their findings.*

**Supplementary Question:**

The officer has confirmed to me that there is subsidence. Please halt the sale of the land which contains supporting trees and shrubs.

**Answer from:**

Councillor Caroline Roberts

*Anything which becomes a danger will be given priority.*

<b>M 03</b>	<b>Question from:</b>	Councillor Geoff Ward
<p>Whilst I welcome and commend that the budget has been found to invest in waste bins at a number of our rural road lay-by sites, is the Member for Neighbourhoods aware many lay-bys remain in a deplorable state with long term scattered waste trapped in undergrowth and in some cases spawning a none to healthy population of rats? What actions does the Member propose to take to reduce such these populations and prevent re-infestation? Are you able to reassure me that you understand the importance of our World Heritage setting and the fact that these lay-bys are possibly the first impression our road journeying visitors might get of our City and at the moment its likely to be an objectionable and unfavourable one?</p>		
<b>Answer from:</b>		Councillor David Dixon
<p><i>The Cleansing Service is reviewing schedules for the rural lay-bys to see if it is possible to increase the frequency of cleansing within existing budget. Our pest control service will attend to any infestations reported. Litter picking on A road verges with no footways and speed limits above 30 mph is clearly a very hazardous operation, and can only be carried out safely with the correct traffic management systems. The Cleansing Service is working with highway contractors to see if lane closures can be scheduled in more routinely and to take advantage of lane closures already programmed in. Where work can be completed without specialist help, then this will be done. The cleanliness of the whole district is of importance to our residents and visitors alike. We urge anyone with specific concerns about the cleanliness of a public highway to be reported to Council Connect on 01225 394041 or councilconnect@bathnes.gov.uk</i></p>		
<b>Supplementary Question:</b>		
<p>Given the state of the verges and lay-bys, especially on the A46 in my ward, where there is evidence of colonies of rats, when will the review be undertaken?</p>		
<b>Answer from:</b>		Councillor David Dixon
<p><i>We are not aware of any evidence of rat colonies. I can assure him that the team is actively looking at this. We agree with him that we want the area to be clean and beautiful.</i></p>		

<b>M 04</b>	<b>Question from:</b>	Councillor Vic Pritchard
<p>How much was the total cost of creating of the cycle land which runs alongside the A4 dual carriageway from the Globe Roundabout to the Twerton Fork?</p>		

<b>Answer from:</b>	Councillor Caroline Roberts
<i>The total cost of the shared path was £180k. This included providing drop crossings. I am aware that there is a need to complete some remedial work to the verge and officers are in discussions with the contractor to agree appropriate dates for these works.</i>	

<b>M 05</b>	<b>Question from:</b>	Councillor Vic Pritchard
What is the total cost of creating the new Toucan Crossing on the A4 by the Globe Roundabout, including the cost of moving the bus stop?		
<b>Answer from:</b>	Councillor Caroline Roberts	
<i>The total estimated cost for the works including bus stop improvements is £309k. The project is funded from the Local Sustainable Transport Fund grant.</i>		

<b>M 06</b>	<b>Question from:</b>	Councillor Vic Pritchard
What was the total cost of installing the traffic calming build-out on the B3355 in Paulton towards Midsomer Norton, and does the Council now intend on removing this traffic calming measure?		
<b>Answer from:</b>	Councillor Caroline Roberts	
<i>The total cost including all materials and electrical work is £10k. Officers have agreed with Ward Councillors and the Parish Council to jointly review the feature upon receipt of the Stage 3 Road Safety Audit. This is in accordance with good design and construction practice.</i>		

<b>M 07</b>	<b>Question from:</b>	Councillor Vic Pritchard
Will the new build-out on the Lower Bristol Road near the Twerton Fork make the access/egress to the traveller site compliant in highway terms, and are the lost parking spaces being replaced?		
<b>Answer from:</b>	Councillor Caroline Roberts	
<i>The scheme has been designed and is being constructed in accordance with highway standards. The Council's highways contractor is delivering the works. There is no loss of official parking spaces. However, the new layout effectively displaces</i>		

*approximately 7 car lengths of parking to further along the Lower Bristol Road.*

<b>M 08</b>	<b>Question from:</b>	Councillor Vic Pritchard
When will the Cabinet Member take a decision regarding the Ford signs in Stowey which the Parish Council and PT&E PD&S Panel recommended, on a cross-party basis, be removed?		
<b>Answer from:</b>	Councillor Caroline Roberts	
<i>Officers have expressed further concerns about prospect of changing the signage in view of the Coroner's comments and the fact that water levels can rise quickly in this rapid response catchment. As a result, I have asked officers to seek further independent specialist advice and consult the Environment Agency before I make a decision on this matter.</i>		

<b>M 09</b>	<b>Question from:</b>	Councillor Anthony Clarke
Can the Cabinet Member confirm whether any Government or other external funding has been committed to allow an East of Bath Park & Rail to be constructed?		
<b>Answer from:</b>	Councillor Caroline Roberts	
<i>We would not expect to receive any commitment from Government Agencies to the construction of this project until the completion of the outline business case which is currently in preparation. However we are actively involving the Highways Agency, Network Rail, DfT and the West of England LEP in this work and will submit our bid for funding in due course.</i>		
<b>Supplementary Question:</b>		
What then would be a realistic timescale?		
<b>Answer from:</b>	Councillor Caroline Roberts	
<i>If the budget is approved, we would then have to wait for the government to confirm funding.</i>		

<b>M 10</b>	<b>Question from:</b>	Councillor Anthony Clarke
Can the Cabinet Member confirm the completion dates for the Rossiter Road work,		

London Road work, and Newbridge Park & Ride extension?

**Answer from:**

Councillor Caroline Roberts

*Rossiter Road and London Road schemes are scheduled to complete by the end of April 2015. The works on the Newbridge P&R extension should complete by the end of March 2015. Some essential maintenance work within the Newbridge site will take place once the extension works are completed.*

**M 11**

**Question from:**

Councillor Anthony Clarke

Can the Cabinet Member confirm that the preparatory works for the provision of the pedestrian crossing (or crossings) outside the three schools in Larkhall have commenced, as voted for at the full Council last month?

**Answer from:**

Councillor Caroline Roberts

*Engineers were appointed immediately following the decision by full Council. Officers and the engineers have already met to scope the scheme and commence design work.*

**M 12**

**Question from:**

Councillor Anthony Clarke

What conversations has the Cabinet Member, and/or her officers, with the Highways Authority relating to road safety issues on their trunk roads within Bath & North East Somerset, especially the A36 south of the Avon, where it runs through residential areas?

**Answer from:**

Councillor Caroline Roberts

*The Council's officers have a good working relationship with the Highways Agency (HA) and meet quarterly to discuss programmes of work. No conversations are currently taking place regarding road safety concerns. If the member would provide details of the concerns these will be raised with the HA.*

*The A36 trunk road falls within the remit of the Highways Agency and is subject to an entirely separate government funding arrangement and bidding process with the DfT for road safety schemes.*

**Supplementary Question:**

Given the safety issues on both the north and south sides of the river, is the Cabinet member contemplating at least informal discussions with the Highway Agency?

**Answer from:**

Councillor Caroline Roberts

*We do already meet regularly with the HA, as I stated in my answer, and have a very good relationship with them.*

<b>M 13</b>	<b>Question from:</b>	Councillor Anthony Clarke
<p>Has the Cabinet Member been informed of the monitoring of the effects of the Dorchester Street Bus Gate experiment and when does the Cabinet Member anticipate taking a decision over the future of this Bus Gate?</p>		
<b>Answer from:</b>		Councillor Caroline Roberts
<p><i>The impact of removing the bus gate cannot be assessed until Rossiter road works are complete and traffic patterns return to normal flows. The results of the enforcement during the trial have been reported to the PDS Panel.</i></p> <p><i>No decision will be taken on this matter until a suitable alternative arrangement for westbound traffic is found and fully evaluated by officers.</i></p>		

<b>M 14</b>	<b>Question from:</b>	Councillor Anthony Clarke
<p>Can the Cabinet Member provide details of the full cost of the Kelston Road works following the landslip last year?</p>		
<b>Answer from:</b>		Councillor Caroline Roberts
<p><i>The final account has not been received yet as ground reinstatement work in Kelston park is ongoing. At present it expected that the project costs will be within the revised scheme budget, reported to and agreed by Members.</i></p>		

<b>M 15</b>	<b>Question from:</b>	Councillor Anthony Clarke
<p>Is the Cabinet Member aware that there is mounting concern about the standard of resurfacing within the authority and in particular the apparent failure of the contractor to revisit completed works to rectify any outstanding problems and can she say how many of these visits are now outstanding, particularly in excess of one month, and if so what is being done to address this?</p>		
<b>Answer from:</b>		Councillor Caroline Roberts
<p><i>This year the Council's officers has delivered a multi – million pound programme of resurfacing and surface treatments, as well as delivering the resurfacing funded from The DfT's winter damage fund . Only one surfacing site requires remedial work and officers are working with the contractor to agree the dates for remedial work.</i></p> <p><i>Although there is no issue with quality of work, there a small number of sites where parked vehicles prevented the completion of the micro asphalt programme. The contractor works across the whole of the UK and is scheduled to revisit these sites with officers in February and agree a programme to complete any missed work.</i></p>		



## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS - PUBLIC

<b>P 01</b>	<b>Question from:</b>	Vicky Drew
<p>In light of recent feedback I've received in Lambridge Ward from the isolated residents on the Gloucester Road and Swainswick Gardens, could the cabinet please open a dialogue with First Bus and other local transport providers (Wessex), with a view to increasing what is an extremely sparse and inaccessible bus service. Residents with mobility problems, disabilities and many who are elderly have a 0.5 mile walk to the nearest shops - and similar to a stop opposite the Lambridge rugby ground for a regular bus service.</p> <p>The one bus that passes the Gloucester Road within walking distance of the Curo owned bungalows and flats, is timetabled in such a way that a resident would need to spend a minimum of 4 hours waiting for a return bus from the supermarket or the city centre.</p>		
<b>Answer from:</b>		Councillor Caroline Roberts
<p><i>Bus service 79 runs along Gloucester Road en route between Marshfield and Bath. It is operated by Wessex under contract to South Gloucestershire Council. The service consists of a morning peak bus into Bath on Mondays to Fridays and two journeys back from Bath in the afternoon peak. In addition, there is a mid-morning bus and lunchtime bus to Bath on Fridays with a return journey at midday. On Saturdays, there is an afternoon bus to and from Bath. The daytime buses give users the choice of 1 hour 40 minutes or 3 hours 20 minutes in Bath on Fridays and 2 hours 50 minutes in Bath on Saturdays. The full timetable is available at <a href="http://www.travelinesw.com">www.travelinesw.com</a></i></p> <p><i>South Gloucestershire Council has recently advised us that it is reviewing several bus services, including the 79, and is carrying out a consultation at the moment. We will consider the issues and respond in due course.</i></p> <p><i>The Gloucester Road area is within reasonable walking distance of the frequent bus services that operate along London Road to the south and along St Saviours Road to the west. For elderly residents and those with disabilities, Bath Dial-a-Ride provides a door-to-door service on Mondays to Fridays between 0930 and 1430. This service is operated by the Council's in-house fleet with fully accessible vehicles.</i></p> <p><i>Any local bus operator is free to register a service along Gloucester Road if they wish to and I would welcome any such commercial initiative. In the absence of any such initiative on the part of bus operators and the pressure on the Council's revenue budget, I regret I am unable to commit funding for a new supported bus service at present. However, I have asked officers to review this matter in future if other sources of funding – such as developer contributions – become available.</i></p>		