

**QUESTIONS TO BE ASKED OF EXECUTIVE
COUNCILLORS AT THE COUNCIL EXECUTIVE
MEETING 9th JULY 2003
(Agenda item 6)**

1. Question from Councillor Marie Brewer

A number of kerbs were replaced on Windrush Road, Keynsham two years ago. These made the footway safer for older people and the disabled. However, only about half of these kerbs were constructed.

A similar project was undertaken in Wansbeck Road, Keynsham, where repairs were completed.

After listening to concerns from local residents, I would like to get an assurance from the Executive Councillor responsible for kerbs and footways that they will look into completing this unfinished work.

(I have asked Cllr Chris Watt to ask this question on my behalf in my absence)

Answer from Executive Councillor Sir Elgar Jenkins OBE

Works were undertaken in Windrush Road about 2 years ago to replace footpaths and kerbs that were defective. Some were not replaced because they were regarded to be in a satisfactory state of repair. A recent inspection has not identified any further kerbs that need replacing at this time.

The same approach to repairs was undertaken in Wansbeck Road.

Officers will continue to keep under review the condition of the kerbs and footpaths in Windrush Road.

2. Question from Councillor Hilary Fraser

Over 80 commonly used garden pest and weed control products currently on sale will be banned in 2 weeks (EU Directive 91/414 EEC). Could the Executive Member for Sustainability and the Environment please explain what measures the Council is taking to fulfil its' responsibility to dispose of the weed killer and to prevent a weedkiller mountain?

What measures are being taken by the Council to inform the public of the new regulation and its' implications?

Answer from Executive Councillor Rosemary Todd

Under Directive 91/414 EEC manufacturers of certain pesticides were required to provide modern data on their products. Some chose not to provide the data, usually for financial reasons. The approval for those products has now been withdrawn, after allowing a wind down period. The legislative framework for this is the Food and Environmental Protection Act 1985, the Control of Pesticides Regulations 1986 and the Plant Protection Products Regulations 1995, all as amended.

The Principal Trading Standards Officer has been in contact with the Pesticides Safety Directorate and been advised that the withdrawn products are not regarded as being dangerous. They were also not contacted before the article was published and believe that it gives an erroneous view of the situation.

In answer to the question posed;

- The Council's duty in connection with these regulations is confined to the control of sales at retail and wholesale outlets. This will be undertaken by officers of the Trading Standards Service, although advice received from the Pesticides Safety Directorate suggests that little, if any, offending product is still on the market.
- On the second point, the Council has, I am advised, no duty to collect and dispose of any offending product. The Principal Trading Standards Officer has spoken to David Littlewood and been advised that there are secure storage facilities available for any product brought to either of the waste transfer stations and that product will be disposed of in the normal course of operations.

Because of the above comments, it is not felt that any publicity is needed or appropriate.

3. Question from Councillor Gail Coleshill

Bath Bus Company have circulated a letter to residents living around Orchard Way in Peasedown St John stating that they will be withdrawing the C3 bus service from July 26th.

I have been approached by residents who live around Orchard Way to help them restore this all important service. Many are elderly or have a disability and find it difficult or impossible to get around the village to Bath Road where there is another bus service.

On behalf of the residents of Peasedown St John, I request that Bath and North East Somerset Council begins negotiations with other bus companies to restore the route around Orchard Way, and keeps available the funds in the

budget that could have been used for the de minimus payment for the existing C3 bus route.

I would appreciate your observations on this solution

Answer from Executive Councillor Sir Elgar Jenkins OBE

I realise this is a serious issue for the residents and I have already spoken to officers in Transport, Access and Waste Management about this, including the question of de minimus payments. I hope that we can come up with a satisfactory answer and I will keep the Councillor in touch with the developments.