

CABINET MEETING 25th June 2008

The following Statements and Questions had been registered by the time of publication.

REGISTERED SPEAKERS

- Mrs Tracey Moon
Re: Pedestrian crossing on Radstock Road, near Welton Primary School
Mrs Moon presented a petition to Cabinet

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS - COUNCILLORS

01

Question from:	Councillor Nigel Roberts
<p>a) Please could the executive members give details of the section 106 agreement, transport and education from the Clark's development on Rush Hill? b) Could the executive members give details on what the section 106 monies has been spent on?</p>	
Answer from:	Councillor Charles Gerrish
<p><i>a) Development is proceeding on site under Planning Permission 05/03129/FUL. This Full permission provides for 139 dwellings, plus commercial floor space, and superseded the original Outline permission under ref. 03/00572/OUT. Most of the Outline S106 Agreement's contents were rolled forward into the later Full permission, with two changes; (i) provision of a new Community Building on site was abandoned in favour of a contribution towards community facilities in the area; and (ii) the site for the Community Building will now be occupied by an additional six dwellings. The operative S106 Agreement provides for the following:</i></p> <p><i>1) Highway and transportation measures include:-</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>○ A new roundabout junction to provide access, a signalised pedestrian crossing near to St. Philip's School and necessary alterations to existing signage etc.</i> <i>[NB: These works have been completed, as required, prior to the commencement of the development.]</i> <i>○ Traffic calming on Old Fosse Road; improved public transport facilities; an emergency link from the development to Old Fosse Road; a Travel Plan; and a contribution towards improvements (to the Wellsway route in particular) to assist with the free flow of and accessibility to public transport.</i> <i>[NB: The majority of these provisions have been dealt with as required prior to the occupation of any part of the development, but it is anticipated that the Wellsway route improvement contributions should be channeled through the</i> 	

Greater Bristol Bus Network programme as the most appropriate scheme. Officers are currently discussing this element with the Developer with the intention of securing the outstanding contribution.]

- 2) *30% affordable housing provision.
[NB: The affordable housing to be provided in a structured manner as the development progresses.]*
- 3) *£389,530 to be provided towards the cost of improving secondary and post-16 educational facilities in the area including the development.
[NB: The payment becomes due prior to the occupation of greater than 50% of the permitted dwellings.]*
- 4) *A contribution of £55,600 towards the provision or improvement of youth and community facilities in the area.
[NB: The payment becomes due prior to the occupation of greater than 50% of the permitted dwellings.]*
- 5) *Protection and long term management of key areas and features of wildlife importance, including an Environmental Management Plan and measures to secure the proposals for mitigation and enhancement set out in the ecological section of the Environmental Statement;*
- 6) *A landscape management plan to include provision of play area(s) and any appropriate play equipment and financial and administrative mechanisms to achieve long term management of landscaped and play areas.*

b) The majority of the provisions of the S106 Agreement are targeted at the implementation of specific works or other requirements of the permission. However, the education and community contributions set out as items 3) and 4) above have deliberately been made unspecific in order to allow the Council to consider how the funds to be provided can be used most effectively.

The terms of the Section 106 links the payments of the contribution from the developer to the occupation of 50% of the total of 139 dwellings permitted on the site. That trigger has only recently been reached and Officers are currently in touch with the Developers in order to secure payment of the contributions now due. The S106 Agreement provides that the Council has a period of 10 years within which to decide how to spend the funds, and also provides that any monies unspent after 10 years shall be refunded to the Developer.

02

Question from:	Councillor Dr Eleanor Jackson
Has Cllr Hanney come to a decision about the Victoria Hall, Radstock, and if so, what is it, bearing in mind the strong feelings of the community about this issue?	
Answer from:	Councillor Malcolm Hanney
<p><i>In line with the original decision in Nov 2007, Victoria Hall's future will be taken when the wider regeneration requirements for Radstock have been settled with the community. This may not be as quickly as had been hoped by some, but good progress is being made.</i></p> <p><i>A workshop involving key stakeholders and landowners in Radstock Town Centre was held on 9th June 2008. This meeting followed an initial positive and constructive workshop held on 29th February, between members of Bath & North</i></p>	

East Somerset Council and Norton-Radstock Town Council, and representatives of the Norton-Radstock Regeneration Company and Radstock Co-operative Society.

At the 9th June workshop it was agreed in principle that:

1. The landowners of key sites in Radstock, including Bath & North East Somerset Council and Norton-Radstock Town Council would continue to seek to work together to promote an holistic approach to the regeneration of Radstock Town Centre.

2. The landowners would hold further meetings to consider possible options for the regeneration of the town centre.

3. The Vision work for Radstock would be supported by officers from Bath & North East Somerset Council and taken forward in consultation with the Somer Valley Partnership and in conjunction with the preparation of options for a new framework of planning policies for the Somer Valley area which would be the subject of community consultation later in 2008.

4. The development of regeneration proposals would address issues, needs and opportunities in relation to transportation and community facilities in the town centre, the latter providing a context for establishing future uses for the Victoria Hall and other public buildings.

Somer Valley Partnership met the next day and representatives of B&NES and NRTC were in attendance and an update was given and questions answered including on Planning Issues and the regeneration of town centres

The officer team from Bath & North East Somerset Council will be led by Development & Major Projects and include representation from Planning, Transportation, Property & Policy and Partnerships.

Pending the development of overall regeneration proposals for the town centre, Bath & North East Somerset Council has commissioned urgent repair works to the Victoria Hall. The works are programmed to commence by the beginning of July and should be completed by the end of August and will ensure the building suffers no further short term deterioration.

03

Question from:

Councillor Nigel Roberts

The council's youth service has had a recent inspection by OFSTED/area inspectorate. Please could the executive member give an assessment of how the inspection went?

Answer from:

Councillor Chris Watt

The Ofsted inspection of the Council's Youth Work Services took place during the same period as the Joint Area review of Children's Services (12th May-23rd May). The inspection was well conducted and was a rigorous examination of all aspects of our Youth Work service. The inspection highlighted our strengths and areas for improvement, and acknowledged that we were fully aware of these and taking actions to address them. The inspector has provided headline feedback and preliminary judgements in respect of the areas covered by all such inspections, namely young people's achievement and the quality of youth work

practice; curriculum/resources; leadership and management. We will receive a draft inspection report by 30th June and the final version will be published on 9th September. Until that date the preliminary judgements cannot be detailed in a public document. The Youth service will put together an improvement plan to respond to the Inspection's recommendations.

The inspection report and the improvement plan will be presented to the Lead Member and subsequently to the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Panel.

04

Question from: Councillor Will Sandry

Please can you give tell me if there is any indication that as a result of your decision ("E1795 Charging Policy for Adult Care Community Services") to increase charges users have stopped using Adult Care Community Services? I am only specifically interested in the following three service areas:

- a) Domiciliary Care - (for which you increased the charge by 74%)
- b) Community Transport - (for which you increased the charge by 50%)
- c) Community Meals - (for which you increased the charge by 38%)

I recognise that service users "come and go" therefore please provide data showing the number of service users each month for the three service areas over the last 24 months to support your answer.

Answer from: Councillor Vic Pritchard

Following my decision, made 22nd April 2008, on the Charging Policy for Adult Care Community Services, all service users were written to and assessments undertaken. As a consequence of this work, the change in policy was implemented from 2nd June 2008. Invoices for June will not be sent out until the latter part of July 2008. As a consequence it is too early to make any meaningful assessment of the impact. However, I can confirm that no service user has written to state that they no longer wish to receive a service affected by the changes in the Charging Policy.

At the meeting of the Healthier Communities and Older People Overview & Scrutiny Panel on 17th April 2008 the Panel, in reaching a decision, requested an "ongoing appraisal of the impact of the charges or the impact of the vacancy management". At the Panel's 6th May meeting, it was agreed that the Panel would receive a "Domiciliary Care update including the effect of the home care charges increase" at the 18th November 2008 meeting.

In light of all the above and the amount of work involved for the Adult Social Services & Housing Finance team in providing the detailed information covering a two-year period requested by Cllr Sandry I do not believe it is a good use of public resources to provide the information requested by Cllr Sandry at this time. It will be provided, as far as possible, as part of the update to the 18th November Panel meeting.

05

Question from:	Councillor Roger Symonds
<p>On several of the Council's allotment sites notice boards have worn out and need replacement, but there is apparently no budget for this work. Yet last year savings were made in the already very poor service that allotment holders in Bath receive from the Council, with the removal of the 'communal' composting areas on some of the allotment sites. Does the Cabinet member agree with me that this shows that the Council treats allotment holders as a very low priority group and that in a budget of over £300M, the inability of the Council to find enough cash to repair and replace notice boards is, to say the least, disappointing? What does the Executive member propose to do about this situation</p>	
Answer from:	Councillor Charles Gerrish
<p><i>Following joint inspections of all allotment sites with representatives of the Allotment Association earlier this year it was identified that there are a number of sites requiring replacement notice boards. We have now ordered 5 new notice boards to address the most urgent need and plan to replace a further 5 notice boards at the end of the summer, once it is possible to fully assess the allotment budget following expenditure on summer grass cutting and vacant plot clearances which account for the majority of allotment management expense.</i></p> <p><i>The allotments service is funded such that tenants are not required to meet the full costs of maintaining the sites. The decision to make savings of £10K p.a. from within the allotments budget was made by my predecessor. This led to the cessation of the communal rubbish and green waste collection service, yielding a saving of £20K. 50% of this saving was used to meet the financial target and 50% was re-allocated to rubbish and green waste removal from vacant plots to address the need for communal collections and to increase the success rate of new tenants.</i></p>	

06

Question from:	Councillor Andy Furse
<p>A table showing Take-up of Meals in Primary Schools, as a percentage of school roll (April 2007) was published in the decision paper E1696 as Appendix 11 of Annex 1. Can the Cabinet member please provide an updated version of this table for April 2008</p>	
Answer from:	Councillor Chris Watt
<p><i>Please see my reply which is included at the end of this document.</i></p>	

07

Question from:	Councillor Paul Crossley
<p>Can the Cabinet member supply figures of how many residents of Bath and North East Somerset will suffer a net loss of income following the Government's</p>	

decision to cut the 10p tax band?	
Answer from:	Councillor Malcolm Hanney
<i>No, as the council does not have access to income tax records. I suggest that the question is referred to our 2 MPs.</i>	

08

Question from:	Councillor Paul Crossley
Can the Cabinet member supply figures for the number of mortgage repossessions in B&NES for the last 12 months and the predicted number for the next 12 months? What steps is the Cabinet member with responsibility for housing taking to address additional responsibilities which may fall to the Council?	
Answer from:	Councillor Vic Pritchard
<p><i>Neither Economic Development nor Housing Services hold information on Mortgage Repossessions either historic or predicted future. In the timescale for response to this question it has not been possible to establish whether any other service in the Council holds such information but this is highly unlikely. It has also not been possible to establish whether the level of information requested from Cllr Crossley is actually available.</i></p> <p><i>Since Christmas 2007 there has been an increase in the number of households making homelessness applications. As yet, an increase in mortgage repossessions does not appear to be a contributory factor. The Council receives a relatively small number of homelessness applications with the cause of homelessness being Mortgage Repossession.</i></p> <p><i>In the last six months there were only two homeless application decisions made where the applicants became homeless through mortgage arrears. Because the new housing database was implemented from October 2007, figures for the six months before are not readily available but two is considered to be average.</i></p> <p><i>Housing Services are anticipating five applications in the next month where properties are being re-possessed due to arrears, these are however mainly due to relationship breakdowns and do not represent a significant change.</i></p> <p><i>In response to the increase in homelessness applications, an action planning meeting was held on 4th June. Additional preventative initiatives are being put in place including:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>o Better housing information to young people, short film being created for schools.</i> <i>o Work more closely with RSL's to prevent eviction.</i> <i>o Further use of discretionary housing payments to prevent homelessness.</i> <i>o Develop some "crash pad" accommodation for young people.</i> <i>o Greater promotion of the private rented sector.</i> <p><i>The Council has, for many years, funded the provision of independent and freely available housing advice from a range of providers including the two Citizens Advice Bureaux in Bath & North East Somerset and SWAN.</i></p>	

09

Question from:	Councillor Paul Crossley
What has been the impact on membership numbers and levels of usage of our sports and leisure centres following the Government's recent decision to charge VAT on the sauna and steam facilities they provide?	
Answer from:	Councillor Charles Gerrish
<p><i>In order to offset the effects of the VAT charge on saunas Aquaterra, (the Council's leisure centre management contractor), adjusted their pricing structure in January 2008.</i></p> <p><i>Gym membership prices (ranging from £25 - £44 per month) remained static but no longer included sauna usage. If members wish to include the sauna they pay an additional 17.5% on top on the standard charge. Between January 2008 and April 2008 - 9.1% of new members chose to pay the additional cost</i></p> <p><i>It is not possible to see the full extent of the effect since the VAT charge has been introduced until February 2009 when annual memberships are due to be renewed. All annual memberships prior to Jan 2008 still include Sauna / steam and have had the full VAT expense paid for by Aquaterra.</i></p> <p><i>Overall usage of the sauna / steam has dropped by 4% (casual and memberships) in the first 5 months of 2008 compared to last year.</i></p>	

10

Question from:	Councillor Caroline Roberts
What progress has been made in the Council's investigations into ways it can improve the viability of the district's remaining post offices by making Council services accessible through post offices?	
Answer from:	Councillor Francine Haerberling
<p><i>A report has already been prepared and is just about to go forward for Cabinet consideration as a single Member decision for the Leader, Francine Haerberling, and the portfolio holder for Resources, Malcolm Hanney.</i></p> <p><i>The report will consider actions already taken, work that can be done at a community level to support Post Offices and the opportunities to make any links with Council Connect.</i></p>	
Supplementary Question:	
The Western Daily Press reported in March that the Council had commissioned an urgent review but I have not seen this item on the Forward Plan.	
Answer from:	Councillor Francine Haerberling
<i>The item appeared on the recently published Forward Plan and a decision will be made in the near future about how best to support local Post Offices.</i>	

11

Question from:	Councillor Nigel Roberts
<p>After the traffic calming was installed in Old Fosse Road in 2007, there was concern that the installation was not effective. A study was then commissioned. Please could the executive member say when this study is due to report?</p>	
Answer from:	Councillor Charles Gerrish
<p><i>Speed counts have been ordered for Old Fosse Road and the results should be available in July.</i></p>	

12

Question from:	Councillor Nigel Roberts
<p>Many of the play areas in Bath are owned by Somer Community Housing trust, passed to the trust during the housing transfer. Many are in a poor state of repair, would the executive member support either transfer back to the council or pressing Somer to bring them up to an acceptable standard?</p>	
Answer from:	Councillor Vic Pritchard
<p><i>The issue of both play areas and grass verges transferred to Somer Community Housing Trust (Somer) as part of housing stock transfer in 1999 was on the Agenda for the B&NES/Somer Liaison Committee meeting held on 14 May 2008. Council Membership of the Liaison Committee is: Councillor Steve Hedges, Councillor Colin Barrett and myself.</i></p> <p><i>It is the case that some play areas that are now owned by Somer following housing stock transfer are not near any Somer tenanted properties. This means, in effect, that any maintenance or improvement works done to these play areas are the responsibility of Somer and, therefore, paid for by Somer tenants. In some cases, the tenants paying for the upkeep of play areas and/or grass verges do not live close by and are, therefore, unlikely to gain benefit from them.</i></p> <p><i>However, following transfer of these play areas to Somer, it became unnecessary for the Council to make budget provision for their maintenance and improvement. If the Council were to agree to take back ownership of some play areas it would be necessary for the Council to either make budget provision for maintenance and improvement or to explore other options.</i></p> <p><i>At the May Liaison Committee meeting, it was agreed that it was important to clarify the scale of the problem by identifying all play areas and grass verges in the ownership of Somer but not near Somer tenanted properties. It is intended that this information will be available at the next Liaison Committee meeting on 14th July 2008. Both Somer and Council members of the Liaison Committee agreed at the May meeting that it was important to find a solution to this shared problem that: a) achieves the best possible outcome for local residents, whether or not they are Somer tenants; b) makes best use of resources, whether they be Somer or Council resources; and c) is deliverable.</i></p>	

13

Question from:	Councillor Adrian Inker
<p>Please could the Cabinet Member provide full details of the underspend in the 2007/08 budget including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The amount; ○ The service areas affected; ○ The reasons why these service areas have underspent; and ○ The impact on service areas of any underspend, including the affect on frontline services. <p>Does the Cabinet member think that the cash generated from such underspends should be returned to reserves, or should it be used to offset the impact of cuts in services resulting from the 2008/09 budget?</p>	
Answer from:	Councillor Malcolm Hanney
<p><i>The total underspend compared to budget (excluding the DSG items) was £896k for 2007/08 which represents just 0.9% of the council 's revenue budget. After taking account of proposed carry forward of under and overspends the net effect is to increase reserves by £1.1m.</i></p> <p><i>Detailed explanations are included in the report, in particular in Appendix 3.</i></p> <p><i>Full Council, in February 2008, agreed the council's reserves strategy - which set out the need to increase reserves to £11.5m over the next 3 years, based on our risk profile. To achieve this, the council planed contributions to reserves of £1.8m in 2008/09, £1.8m in 2009/10 and a further £1.1m in 2010/11.</i></p> <p><i>The 2007/08 underspend and other one-off factors will help the council to meet its prudent reserves target earlier than would otherwise be the case. This will reduce the need for reserves contributions in future years. While the council will continue to face pressures to spend that are in excess of government funding, to the extent that we can reduce the need to contribute to reserves, we will be able to continue to increase council tax by less than government limits while at the same time investing in priority services.</i></p>	
Supplementary Question:	
<p>Thank you for the reply to my question. Can the Cabinet member not agree that given the deterioration in the Council's services, the underspend gives an opportunity to increase front-line budgets?</p>	
Answer from:	Councillor Malcolm Hanney
<p><i>The objective is to ensure that we live within budget on a recurring basis and the use of one-off amounts of money would not be beneficial for the longer term. The underspend is in any case very small in terms of the whole budget. The Council has come through some difficult times and the future now looks good despite the continuing pressures outside our control..</i></p>	

14

Question from:	Councillor Tim Ball
Is the Cabinet member for licensing considering allowing the taxi service any fuel surcharge abilities and if so what are they and how would they work?	
Answer from:	Councillor Charles Gerrish
<p><i>It is the Council's policy to review on an annual basis the tariff that the hackney carriages can charge. The Council has traditionally informed this process by using a formula of adding together half the rate of inflation for vehicles and half the rate of wage increase over a twelve month period. These figures are obtained from the Office of National Statistics and are based on the previous financial year ie April to March.</i></p> <p><i>Each year a report is put before the Cabinet Member for Customer Services (previously the Executive Member and the Housing and Public Protection Committee) and I will make a judgement on the rate of increase having received representations from the hackney carriage trade. The Cabinet Member is not bound by the formula proposed in the report and additional increases have been given in previous years to accommodate higher charges such as insurance, servicing, purchase price, fuel etc. The proposed rate is then advertised in the local newspaper inviting objections from the public.</i></p> <p><i>This process of changing the fare structure only applies to hackney carriages as private hire operators can set their own fares.</i></p> <p><i>The process for this year's review has started and I am due to meet with representatives from the hackney carriage trade on July 1st. Following consultation with the trade a "single member report" will be put before me in September and, if there are no challenges to what is proposed, then the new fares should be in place by October this year.</i></p>	

15

Question from:	Councillor Nicholas Coombes
Does the Cabinet member agree that last week's demonstration of 50 protesters on Bathwick Hill showed a clear public demand for a zebra crossing on the canal bridge? Further, do the many accidents, including a fatality in 2006, show a high level of pedestrian risk in this location?	
Answer from:	Councillor Charles Gerrish
<p><i>Formal pedestrian crossings (i.e. zebras, pelicans, puffins and toucans) require the fulfillment of certain numerical criteria relating to numbers of vehicles passing and pedestrians crossing the point in question. A count to establish these figures has been programmed for early July, after which the figures will be analysed. Although there was, tragically, a fatal pedestrian casualty at this site in September 2006, records show that this was the only accident involving a pedestrian in the vicinity of the central island, within the last 10 years. A recent</i></p>	

safety audit carried out in this location did, however, identify that uphill visibility from the south side of the crossing could be obscured by vehicles parked in a nearby parking bay, therefore investigations are being made into reducing the size of this bay to improve visibility.

16

Question from:	Councillor Nicholas Coombes
Were Tesco to provide money for a zebra crossing on Bathwick Hill, can the Cabinet member commit that it would be dedicated to this scheme only and that the project would be prioritised?	
Answer from:	Councillor Charles Gerrish
<i>Please refer to my answer to question Q 15</i>	

17

Question from:	Councillor Nicholas Coombes
In recognition of national cycle week, will a member of the Cabinet join me for a cycle ride through the centre of Bath? They will discover a tortuous and confusing designated route of roads, cycle path and pavements.	
Answer from:	Cllr Francine Haerberling
<i>As National Cycle Week is now over and due to prior commitments, I am afraid that no Cabinet member was able to join Cllr Coombes this week. However I would like to refer Cllr Coombes the response to Cabinet Question #19.</i>	

18

Question from:	Councillor Cherry Beath
Can the Cabinet Member update me on the current position with youth work on Foxhill, following my question to him in September last year on the lack of provision for young people in Foxhill? He will recall our subsequent meeting outside The Foxhill Community Centre last year and discussing the urgency of the need for youth workers with the young people in Foxhill, and the Cabinet Member will remember agreeing to look into when youth work would be provided in Foxhill, and to let the Combe Down Councillors know. We are led to believe that there is now a youth worker, working some 8 hours a week in the area, can he confirm what the position is, can he tell me why the Combe Down Councillors have not been informed, and does he consider that 8 hours is sufficient to meet the needs of the young people in Foxhill?	

Answer from:	Councillor Chris Watt
<p><i>We were not able to advertise for new staff members until all displaced staff had been given the opportunity to be redeployed into vacant posts. That process was completed by the end of March and a wide-ranging series of posts were advertised, after the Enhanced Youth Inspection in May. A good response was received and some appointments have been completed recently. A Youth Support Worker has been appointed to the Bath youth work cluster for 10 hours a week of detached work. This will be augmented by a further 10 hours a week of Assistant Youth Support Worker, though this appointment is yet to be made. The work will be led by a Professional full time Area Youth Worker, who will give one day a week to the Odd Down and Foxhill areas. These combined resources will aim to deliver two sessions a week of youth work to the Foxhill area from 1 August.</i></p>	
Supplementary Question:	
<p>The Cabinet member has not answered the question. Can he confirm whether the 8 hours a week can be flexible, because evenings are crucial for young people.</p>	
Answer from:	Councillor Chris Watt
<p><i>The figure of 8 hours is incorrect. The provision is for a professional full-time worker for 1 day a week, supplemented by 10 hours of Assistant Youth support Worker provision. The sessions will be delivered on the basis of the needs of local young people.</i></p>	

19

Question from:	Councillor Roger Symonds
<p>Has the Cabinet member heard of the pilot run by the Council in the London Borough of Kensington and Chelsea which permits cyclists to ride both ways on one way streets? There are some contra-flows in Bath already, but could such an initiative be more widely applied in Bath and North East Somerset to increase cycle routes?</p>	
Answer from:	Councillor Charles Gerrish
<p><i>There are a number of contra-flow cycle routes in Bath such as in James St and Wood St, where cyclists are able to cycle against the general flow traffic. The Bath Package includes measures to improve cycle routes in Bath City Centre which may include proposals for more contra-flow cycle routes on one way systems where safe and practical to do so.</i></p>	

Question from:	Councillors Roger Symonds and Cherry Beath
<p>Following the meeting on Combe Down with Councillor Beath, can the Cabinet member tell us what progress has been made on the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 20 mph speed limits in Hawthorne Grove, Sedgemoor Road and Southstoke Road; 2. The promised bus shelter at Hadley Arms; 3. The removal of yellow lines in Combe Down village; 4. The pedestrian refuge in Bradford Road; 5. The tidying and cleaning of Pope's Walk; 6. The promised improvements to The Firs, now that Combe Road has been re-opened; 7. The pathway build-out at the junction of Southstoke Road and Bradford Road? 	
Answer from:	Councillor Charles Gerrish
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Design work on a 20mph Zone in Hawthorne Grove is expected to be completed this year. Currently there are no proposals to introduce 20mph speed limits on Sedgemoor Rd and Southstoke Rd. 20mph Speed Limits need to be self enforcing and the cost of introducing traffic calming to reduce speeds to 20mph is unlikely to be cost effective.</i> 2. <i>An answer to this question has already been provided to Cllr Beath and installation is anticipated shortly within the supplier's agreed timescales.</i> 3. <i>A Traffic Regulation Order was advertised in March 2008 for a number of parking restrictions in various roads in Bear Flat, Combe Down and Widcombe in Bath. Objections were received to the advertised order. A report (E1819) was published on 20th June for decision by the Cabinet Member for Customer Services on or after 28th June.</i> 4. <i>Work began in April and we estimate completion in Sept subject to agreement on the timescales for electrical supplies</i> 5. <i>A meeting will be arranged with Public Rights of Way Team to discuss frequency of cutting at Popes Walk. In the interim period we have arranged for Popes Walk to be cut and tidied on Tuesday 24th June.</i> 6. <i>We are discussing resurfacing improvements next week with the Combe Down Stone Mines Project management. We will also review the other improvements suggested and consider how they relate to the other priorities contained within the agreed capital programme. We will ensure Ward Councillors are kept up to date with progress.</i> 7. <i>Work on the build out is planned to proceed at the same time as the pedestrian refuge in Bradford Road. (See answer to Q4 above).</i> 	
Supplementary Question:	Councillor Roger Symonds
<p>Thank you to the Cabinet member for coming to Combe Down to see the issues. Can he explain why, following their petition, when the residents of Sedgemoor and Southstoke Roads had been promised a 20mph zone from the Bath South Local Budget, the promise has been broken?</p>	

Answer from:	Councillor Charles Gerrish
<p><i>The issue of advisory speed limit signs has been investigated and I am advised that their use is unlawful. However the Council is liaising with the Police to establish whether a mandatory 20 mph can be implemented. It is likely that in addition to signage extensive traffic calming may be required in order to maintain a 20mph speed limit.</i></p>	

21

Question from:	Councillor Cherry Beath
<p>Can the Cabinet member give an update on the current position regarding the Old Labour Exchange on James Street West following on from meetings that were held with the Genesis Trust and Somer regarding their interest in the buildin?</p>	
Answer from:	Councillor Malcolm Hanney
<p><i>These premises are due to be put on the market, but this is subject to a short delay while further internal discussions regarding various options for this building are considered.</i> <i>Upon any marketing of the premises the Council will consider all offers, including those from Somer and the Genesis Trust.</i></p>	
Supplementary Question:	
<p>Thank you to the Cabinet member for his reply. Can he tell us the contents of the internal discussions and what options are being considered?</p>	
Answer from:	Councillor Malcolm Hanney
<p>No</p>	

22

Question from:	Councillor Loraine Brinkhurst
<p>What plans are the Council making to celebrate the Beijing handover of the Olympics on 24th August?</p>	
Answer from:	Councillor David Hawkins
<p><i>The Council has applied for the London 2012 flag to be flown from the Guildhall mast. A discussion has taken place with the Abbey over a cacophony of bells which could be extended to the other churches in the City. Officers are exploring</i></p>	

a dance event in Bath including the Chinese Community in traditional and contemporary dance in the Abbey Yard and in other locations in the centre of the City – there may even be a pig called ‘Olympian’.

23

Question from:	Councillor Andrew Furse
<p>Can the Cabinet member for major projects assure the residents of Bath that there are no delays to the Bath Western Riverside project, that the duration presented at the planning stage of 10 to 12 years remains the case and that the start on site dates of summer 2008 is also correct? Can he also assure residents that the current house building slow down reported nationally will not affect the need to develop Bath Western Riverside?</p>	
Answer from:	Councillor David Hawkins
<p><i>Date of commencement on the Bath Western Riverside site is likely to be later than anticipated at the time of Development Control Committee in November 2007; and although the Development and Major Projects and the Local Planning Authority are working towards completing the legal agreements as soon as possible, an estimated build duration of 10 to 12 years remains realistic at this stage. Furthermore, the slow down in the housing market nationally is not considered to negate the need to develop Bath Western Riverside.</i></p>	
Supplementary Question:	
<p>Can the Cabinet member confirm or deny the rumours that the English Heritage contribution is in doubt?</p>	
Answer from:	Councillor David Hawkins
<p><i>Answer provided on 02-July:</i> <i>To date the project has not received a definite commitment from English Partnerships, however the project continues to work with EP to establish what may be possible in respect of a funding contribution towards Bath Western Riverside.</i></p>	

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Question from:	Councillor Andrew Furse
<p>Can the Cabinet member confirm that the waste site will move from its present location on the Upper Bristol Road by the end of December 2011 as planned, and will the Cabinet member name the location of the new site set aside for recycling?</p>	
Answer from:	Councillor David Hawkins

It is planned to relocate the waste site by the end of 2011. Arrangements for the sale of the waste site, including timing and payment for the site will be controlled through the Development Agreement (DA) between Crest and the Council and will be subject to the delegated approval of the Chief Property Officer to the Council, to ensure that the site is transferred at "best value". The DA is still under negotiation and is not yet signed. The Council is pursuing arrangements for alternative provision of the Household Recycling Centre in Bath but I am unable to name the preferred site as this is currently subject to commercial negotiations.

Supplementary Question:

Can he confirm that the provision of household recycling will be provided within walking distance?

Answer from:

Councillor David Hawkins

We are endeavouring to ensure this but it is subject to commercial discussions.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS - PUBLIC

There were none

Cabinet Question #06 – Reply from Councillor Chris Watt

B&NES Primary Schools served by Catering Services - Meals Take-Up April 2008

Production kitchens	School Roll 2007-8	Take-up April 2008	Change on April 2007		Take-up April 2007
Batheaston Primary	217	47.42%	+	5.4%	44.98%
Bathwick St Mary	225	68.11%	-	16.1%	81.18%
Bishop Sutton	132	50.95%	+	14.0%	44.71%
Castle County	211	28.52%	-	8.8%	31.26%
Chandag Juniors	270	37.19%	+	6.9%	34.79%
Chew Magna Primary	104	51.84%	-	0.1%	51.91%
Chew Stoke Primary	172	56.98%	+	0.1%	56.90%
Clutton Primary	120	49.31%	+	11.9%	44.06%
East Harptree Primary	67	84.20%	+	3.4%	81.42%
Farmborough	93	38.26%	+	15.1%	33.25%
Freshford	137	48.11%	+	3.4%	46.52%
Keynsham Primary					42.79%
Longvernal Primary	85	33.53%	+	14.3%	29.33%
Midsomer Norton	303	17.44%	+	4.6%	16.68%
Moorlands Infants	157	44.21%	+	7.2%	41.24%
Moorlands Junior	223	26.61%	+	7.3%	24.80%
Newbridge Primary	457	39.44%			
Newbridge Infants					50.88%
Newbridge Juniors					33.28%
Oldfield Park Infants	165	36.36%	+	11.6%	32.59%
Oldfield Park Juniors	244	27.24%	+	28.6%	21.19%
Paulton Infants	175	35.52%	+	1.8%	34.90%
Pensford Primary	78	45.73%	-	7.6%	49.49%
Saltford Primary	347	34.39%	+	12.1%	30.69%
Southdown Junior	134	45.66%	+	13.2%	40.35%
St John's Primary Keynsham	211	31.24%	+	41.5%	22.07%
St John's Primary MSN+A56	397	33.96%	+	5.5%	32.19%
St Keyna Primary	140	41.13%			
St Martin's Garden	237	43.57%	-	7.3%	47.00%
St Mary's Primary Bath	205	45.53%	+	13.7%	40.05%
St Mary's Primary Timsbury	192	44.27%	+	19.8%	36.94%
St Michael's Juniors	192	43.66%	-	2.2%	44.65%
St Nicholas Primary	199	35.34%	+	9.5%	32.26%
St Saviour's Infants	148	44.96%	+	4.6%	43.00%
St Saviour's Juniors	182	26.87%	-	7.8%	29.16%
Westfield Primary	360	23.29%	+	12.9%	20.62%
Weston All Saints Primary	354	30.65%	-	13.7%	35.52%

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Dining Centres	School Roll 2007-8	Take-up April 2008	Change on April 2007	Take-up April 2007
Bathampton Primary	116	37.86%	+ 11.8%	33.86%
Bathford Primary	159	29.73%	+ 4.7%	28.39%
Cameley	121	27.55%	- 12.2%	31.36%
Camerton	48	65.28%	+ 14.2%	57.14%
Chandag Infants	179	32.77%	+ 9.1%	30.05%
Farrington Gurney	69	23.55%	- 7.2%	25.38%
High Littleton Primary	133	31.72%	+ 13.9%	27.85%
Marksbury	91	81.23%	+ 4.8%	77.49%
Paulton Juniors	233	26.47%	+ 37.8%	19.20%
Peasedown St John	408	16.83%	- 17.5%	20.40%
Shoscombe	89	33.33%	+ 32.5%	25.16%
Southdown Infants	111	37.99%	+	
St Andrews Primary	165	24.29%	+ 15.3%	21.06%
St John's Infants	109	36.93%	+ 5.7%	34.92%
St John's Primary Bath	161	25.05%	+ 5.1%	23.84%
St Julian's Wellow	100	32.08%	- 8.5%	35.08%
St Mary's Primary Writhlington	84	27.88%	- 21.0%	35.27%
St Philip's Primary	273	18.62%	+ 5.3%	17.67%
St Stephen's Primary	417	28.98%	- 2.6%	29.74%
Stanton Drew	49	30.61%	- 19.5%	38.02%
Swainswick Primary	81	50.72%	- 6.8%	54.41%
Temple Primary	124	21.44%	- 14.1%	24.95%
Trinity	120	28.13%	- 5.8%	29.85%
Twerton Infants	148	46.85%	+ 24.9%	37.49%
Ubley	67	58.58%	- 0.3%	58.78%
Welton	171	34.21%	+ 22.7%	27.88%
Whitchurch Primary	190	22.81%	+ 8.1%	21.10%
Widcombe Infants	184	51.54%	+ 24.1%	41.53%

	Paid meal take-up	FSM take-up	Total take-up	Paid meals	Free meals	Total meals
2006-7	30.4%	77.5%	35.0%	581,409	163,375	744,784
2007-8	30.4%	75.6%	34.8%	581,865	157,485	739,350

This analysis provides a snapshot of meals provided in April 2008 and 2007. The average change per school was an increase of nearly 4% for these months.

However, the total number of school meals provided was 5,434 (0.7%) less in 2007-8 than in 2006-7, and this total is still 10% down on the 2005-6 numbers.

Demand fell markedly in 2006-7 but started to recover in October 2007 when there was national publicity about healthy school meals. The increase in demand was sustained despite the price increase in January 2008.

The take-up figures shown in this report reflect pupil paid meals and FSM (free school meals). The report issued in November included sales at some schools of adult meals, and thus there are minor variances in the April 2007 figures between this and the November report.

Healthy eating in schools is being actively promoted currently, through the Council's School Food Forum, in association with the Primary Care Trust, the Soil Association and the School Food Trust.