

COUNCIL MEETING 21st JULY 2016
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS - COUNCILLORS

M 01	Question from:	Councillor Joe Rayment
Do the political group leaders agree with me that the University of Bath should look again at its plans to cut the provision of foreign language courses for the community in light of the already strained relationships between 'town and gown', and the fact that the university occupies the land on Claverton Down for a peppercorn rent to the Council because it is an asset to the community?"		
Answer from:		All Group Leaders
<p>The Council has a wide range of statutory duties and powers, including a general power of competence, and is always willing to consider how best to influence its partners where there is a demonstrable impact on local wellbeing as expressed through our Corporate Strategy priorities. However, it is not clear that the Council has sufficient locus to form a view on the University of Bath's foreign language teaching provision, or that at present there is a clear impact arising from changes to this provision on the implementation of our Corporate Strategy. It is noted that a petition has been presented to the University on this matter and that individual Group Leaders may wish to make additional remarks from the perspective of community representations made to them.</p> <p>Finally, the Council highly values its joint working with both our Universities and the Group Leaders are committed to continuing to strengthen "town and gown" relationships.</p>		

M 02	Question from:	Councillor Eleanor Jackson
Do B&NES council leaders appreciate the problems of congestion and safety on the A367 running through Westfield, and when are they going to sort the issues around the "hole in the wall" at Westfield Chapel and the safety of the toucan crossing at Elm Tree Avenue?		
Answer from:		Councillor Anthony Clarke
<p>The Council is takes both congestion and safety seriously and is tackling safety on main roads on a priority basis. Route reviews have been carried out across the main road network and statistically the A37, A4 and A36 have higher collision records than the A367.</p> <p>The "hole in the wall issue" is being investigated by the officers as part of the safety audit process and if further works are necessary they will be considered for the 2017/18 work programme.</p>		

M 03	Question from:	Councillor Eleanor Jackson
<p>When is the Cabinet member going to make a decision on the direction of flow of Fortescue Road, and either synchronise the left turn from Westfield with the signs in Westfield, or get those signs removed, and when will the missing Somerset pointy/finger signpost, aged about 125 years old, which was conveniently on the ward boundary, and was lost by BANES Highways, be restored? Westfield Parish Council deplore this cavalier approach to our Somerset heritage</p>		
Answer from:		Councillor Anthony Clarke
<p>Before any decision can be taken on Fortescue Road the impact on the traffic model, bus routes and road geometry needs to be assessed. Such a change would also require a revised Traffic Regulation Order to be completed through the statutory process. Officers will make their recommendations to me later this year and the public would be consulted prior to any changes being implemented.</p> <p>I have asked officers to liaise direct with Cllr Jackson on the missing finger post.</p>		