

CABINET MEETING 7th February 2018

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.

Public:

1. David Redgewell re: Transport matters
2. Nigel Sherwen (on behalf of The Camden Residents' Association) re: The Camden Residents' Association's Report on Traffic and Poor Air Quality
3. Sian James re: Parking Strategy
4. Fiona Powell re: Parking Strategy
5. Christine Boyd re: Parking Strategy
6. Andrew Lea re: Parking Strategy
7. Annie Kilvington re: Parking Strategy
8. Patrick Rotheram (FOBRA) re: Parking Strategy

Councillors:

1. Councillor Sarah Bevan (as Chair of Resources PDS)
2. Councillor Karen Walker (Ward Councillor Budget requests)
3. Councillor Sarah Bevan (Ward Councillor Budget requests)
4. Councillor Richard Samuel (The Camden Residents' Association's Report on Traffic and Poor Air Quality)
5. Councillor Eleanor Jackson (in support of a letter to the Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment about the proposed reduction of bus services in Westfield)
6. Councillor John Bull (Parking Strategy)
7. Councillor Robin Moss (Budget)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS - COUNCILLORS

M 01	Question from:	Councillor Karen Walker
<p>What measures/ policies does Banes have in place to make sure that any recycling that has been unexpectedly blown out of recycling containers because of a storm is cleaned up?</p> <p>The recycling ends up in hedges, fields and gutters. If retrieved does the recycling/waste end up in landfills or at an extra cost to residents the waste is sorted into correct containers?</p>		
Answer from:		Councillor Bob Goodman
<p><i>Windblown litter in hedges and verges is cleared up by our cleansing crews. The cleansing waste goes to a mechanical biological treatment plant where as much value as possible is recovered from it – but recycling is by far the best option both for cost and for the environment.</i></p> <p><i>We urge residents to make sure their waste is contained so that it cannot blow away, in boxes with lids preferably. Boxes with lids are available to everyone by contacting Council Connect.</i></p>		
M 02	Question from:	Councillor Eleanor Jackson
<p>Why , when the Council is faced with making such drastic cuts (to give 'growth avoidance' its Yorkshire name) are Community Equipment Services throwing out mobility aids such as zimmer frames even when they have been returned unused? A commercially supplied chair lift can be re-sold when no longer needed, so why not a BANES one, thus recouping some of the cost. As it is, they are dumped in a skip and sent to landfill, at a cost to the council, and to the environment. Does this not set a very bad example to the public, who are being encouraged to re-cycle more and waste council tax payer's money?</p>		
Answer from:		Councillor Vic Pritchard
<p><i>I understand that this relates to walking frames and walking aids owned by the Royal United Hospital, which have been returned to the Radstock Community Equipment Store, prior to being delivered back to the RUH. This equipment is not kept inside the Community Equipment Store due to lack of space and at the moment is stacked outside the store. Although it is not being thrown away, it does not look tidy and this is being addressed with the Community Equipment Store and the RUH who are working together to agree a different solution for equipment returned on behalf of the RUH.</i></p> <p><i>All aspects of the Community Equipment Service are currently being reviewed and this issue has been flagged as part of the review. Councillor Jackson's point about recycling equipment is well made and whilst there are some items of equipment that cannot be</i></p>		

recycled because they are either custom-made, for infection control reasons, or because they have worn away, but there are also very many items which can be recycled.

A stocktake of equipment was carried out in all community equipment stores in January 2018, which will now allow a full review of all items to take place and the equipment catalogue to be updated. Some items are no longer appropriate to use and will be disposed of. This will then allow more space for items to be returned during the planned equipment amnesty which will take place at the end of February/March 2018. This amnesty will allow people to return items of equipment that they, or members of their family are no longer using so that they can be cleaned and re-used to support others where possible.

Supplementary Question:

Would you consider donating 20 of these zimmer frames to Radstock in Bloom?

Answer from:

Councillor Vic Pritchard

I will have a conversation with Councillor Jackson on what intentions might be behind this request and then action on it.

M 03

Question from:

Councillor Eleanor Jackson

Several Radstock-Westfield residents want to know, why, when we are making cuts, is so much money being lavished on a new Hope House Surgery in an expensive location, to subsidise a private business?

Answer from:

Councillor Charles Gerrish

*The Hope House surgery will **not** be subsidised by the Council. The question seems to be based on a misunderstanding. The surgery is to purchase the land at an independently agreed value and is being funded by NHS England. The achievement of national funding for a £5M new facility of this nature is a major benefit for the local community. The existing provision has poor access and the surgery have indicated that they will find it difficult, if not impossible, to offer the range of services now demanded from the existing site with no potential for extending the existing site. The surgery will incur its own costs of development and will manage the construction. Once complete running costs will be attributed to each party in an equitable manner.*

There is a strong business case for this facility which has been accepted by NHS England and the CCG, with about 80% of the net capital costs being met by the NHS, and the remainder (relating to B&NES services) funded mainly from receipts in the B&NES capital programme. The business case reflects local needs, an expanding population, new ways of working arising for the Your Care Your Way initiative with new models of care and the opportunity for a more integrated service that includes children's centre and health visitor provision. The planned shared facility will also help put the local Council services that will be a part of this, including the library, on a more financially sustainable basis with shared overheads. This approach also reflects the

thinking in the national One Public Estate programme.

The Council is only to pay for its share of the facilities and there will be a single member decision detailing this, scheduled for February. The decision will be timed to coincide with the completion of due diligence work and will indicate that the project is ready to move into delivery phase. This decision will take forward the provisional approval contained in the draft capital programme.

Supplementary Question:

I am most concerned about future of Radstock Library. What will happen with it – will it be moved over to a community group?

Answer from:

Councillor Karen Warrington on behalf of Councillor Charles Gerrish

We are looking at the number of different options and we didn't take anything of the table at the moment.

M 04

Question from:

Councillor Richard Samuel

In the light of the recent decision by the Heritage Lottery Fund to refuse grant funding to the Cleveland Pools Trust, and given the fact that the premises are owned by the Council and is on the national buildings at risk register, can the Cabinet member say what action he now intends to take to restore this important local heritage asset?

Answer from:

Councillor Charles Gerrish

Thank you for your interest in this project and the work you've done at a local level. I believe you are now aware that the HLF are encouraging the Trust to resubmit and we have met with them to offer our support. We have also been directly in contact with HLF. You may have seen in the budget monitor report that £75K is being moved in the capital programme to fully approved to enable progress on a new bid.

As you know the Trust had put a large amount of work into their original submission and I believe that they are now looking in more detail at site access for construction, future operating arrangements together with the draft lease so that the bid can be updated and hopefully become successful.

A lot had been achieved over the last year including planning permission, agreement of boundary works, detailed project planning, local engagement and agreement of funding mechanisms. The lease is also substantially complete albeit HLF may now require further changes so it can align with their proposed funding agreement which we will need to see.

The Cabinet remains supportive of the Trust and is hoping their bid will be successful this time.

Supplementary Question:

Will the Cabinet member answer the questions put to him in an email of 25th January 2018 which for clarity are as follows:-

Will he:

1. Release the funding already sitting in the Council's budget for this project.
2. Appoint a Project Manager to lead for the Council in pulling together this project
3. Make a public statement on the Council's position following the bid's refusal indicating full support for the project
4. Ensure that legals in respect of leases and wayleaves are now dealt with more expeditiously than has previously been the case
5. Establish a high level steering group to oversee this project?

Having said that I do welcome an answer from Councillor Gerrish.

Answer from:

Councillor Charles Gerrish

The answers to lot of questions Councillor Samuel raised were dealt with the Cleveland Pools Trust. We are releasing money as per Budget report and recommendations. The HLF sign off was required to release that money though the Council moved £75k to enable progress on a new bid.

In terms of the lease – we are still awaiting response from the HLF lawyers. The Council has consistently supported the project and I am personally totally in support of the scheme.

M 05**Question from:**

Councillor Dine Romero

What is the Cabinet's plan for providing housing that is affordable for the average wage earner in Bath and North East Somerset?

Answer from:

Councillor Paul Myers

The Council is committed to securing affordable housing across Bath and North East Somerset by using its own capital funds and applying for external grants. We have allocated £7.2m of funding between 2015 and 2018, and have also just successfully bid for £12.5m of funding under the Housing Infrastructure 'Marginal Viability' fund to improve deliverability and viability of future phases at Bath Western Riverside. This will have a positive impact on the ability of the scheme to deliver affordable housing. WECA is also spearheading a push for housing funding for the West of England, some of which will be targeted at improving future affordable housing delivery in the EZ.

In addition to using our own funding and accessing external grants, the Council also uses the existing Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) to

determine the type of affordable housing secured through Core Strategy affordable housing policy. The SPD prioritises the delivery of social rented homes. However around 25% of affordable housing is required to be delivered as intermediate housing, usually homes for low cost market sale such as shared ownership. Out of the 547 affordable homes forecast to deliver between April 2015 and March 2018, 145 are intermediate homes. There is a further pipeline of 288 intermediate homes secured through planning permissions yet to be delivered.

Housing supply is an integral part of the delivery of the Council's aspirations for a vibrant and economically sustainable Enterprise Zone, and this includes delivery of affordable homes targeted to meet the needs of lower wage earners in the city. Through the planning system recent permissions in the City for innovative affordable housing delivery supports this aim:

- 51 Discounted market rent homes as part of the L&G purpose built private rent scheme at Roseberry Place
- 5 Discounted market sale 'Micro Homes' at Banglo, Lower Bristol Road
- 13 Discounted market sale flats at Midland Road

These homes are available to people earning less than £60,000, who have a local connection to B&NES, who are not property owners and who cannot meet their housing need in the local area because house prices are too high compared to their income.

Supplementary Question:

How many houses across BANES will be marketed to the rate that is affordable to those earning the average local wage which is far less than £60k per annum?

Answer from:

Councillor Paul Myers

I will provide an answer to you in 5 clear working days.

M 06

Question from:

Councillor Will Sandry

With regard to the preparation of the Local Plan, are projections are being made around the growth in numbers of employees of Bath's two Universities, as well as the growth in student numbers? What consideration is being given to the future housing needs of these employees?

Answer from:

Councillor Bob Goodman

The Local Plan will set out a strategy and identify sites to meet requirements for additional housing and economic & job growth. The Local Plan will to deliver the West of England Joint Spatial Plan (JSP). Evidence underpinning the JSP has considered and establishes a strategic housing requirement for B&NES and job growth across the West of England. This includes considering the relationship between housing and jobs (homes/workers to support economic growth). At a local level and within the context of economic projections underpinning the JSP work is being undertaken to inform preparation of the Local Plan to assess economic and job growth in B&NES across the

range of economic sectors represented in the District, including the education sector. The role of the Universities in this growth is also being researched. This work is being undertaken alongside consideration of information on the growth of student numbers (based on both the Universities 5 year growth plans and in the longer term). The scope of the new Local Plan, and the evidence needed for its preparation, will be considered by the LDF Steering Group and a programme of meetings is in the process of being arranged.

M 07 **Question from:** Councillor Richard Samuel

Could the Cabinet member please state the weekly tonnages for recyclable and non-recyclable waste deposited by residents at the recycling centres from 1st Sept 2017 to 31st January 2018?

Answer from: Councillor Bob Goodman

The table below shows monthly tonnages for the period in question. Weekly information is not readily available. September to December are actual tonnages, whereas January data is an estimate only and will not be verified for at least a month as we record materials going out of the sites, not materials coming in and there is obviously a time lag in various receptacles filling up.

The figures reduce over the winter period as less garden waste, soil and rubble is brought to us.

Recycling Centre	Sep-17	Oct-17	Nov-17	Dec-17	Jan-18
Total Reuse & Recycling	1462	1399	1204	701	860
Total Disposed (landfill)	443	448	482	468	429
Total Energy from Waste (wood only)	140	139	123	92	124
Total Recycling Centre Waste (all of the above)	2045	1986	1809	1261	1413

Supplementary Question:

Could I expand my question and now ask for total waste figures which covers street cleaning, domestic waste, fly tip rubbish and recycling centre for the same period?

Answer from: Councillor Bob Goodman

I will provide an answer to you in 5 clear working days.

M 08 **Question from:** Councillor Richard Samuel

Could the Cabinet member please outline the current contractual arrangements for the

reprocessing of plastic recyclable material collected by the Council and the annual income accruing?

Answer from:

Councillor Bob Goodman

Mixed plastics and cans are currently taken to Jayplas in Derbyshire for processing and recycling. The income achieved is based on a variable £ per tonne market rate as published in LetsRecycle – an independent industry provider website. We forecast an income of £46k p.a. for both materials combined for the coming year, based on market rates. These rates are based on the quality of the recyclables collected and kerb side collection is recognised as the best way of improving the quality of the recyclable materials and as a consequence they command a greater price.

We annually publish details of the reprocessing and recycling destinations of waste that is sent for reuse, recycling or recovery in our end-user register document available on our website

M 09

Question from:

Councillor Dine Romero

What resources or assistance does the Council provide to Curo to maintain shared open spaces?

Answer from:

Councillor Bob Goodman

Curo, like any other registered housing provider is responsible for maintenance of open spaces within their ownership. We do not have shared open spaces. Curo very quickly let the Council know if there are issues on land near their properties which is not their responsibility. Our teams talk to each other to resolve problems. Curo have their own contracts with service providers to maintain their land. They do not contract this work to the Council.

Supplementary Question:

I am surprised that there was no money to help Curo with shared open spaces. Could Councillor Goodman reconsider, or perhaps consider, whether there should be some assistance to deal with problems which may not necessarily arise from Curo owned properties?

Answer from:

Councillor Bob Goodman

Curo knew what they had to deal with so it is their responsibility.

M 10

Question from:

Councillor Dine Romero

How far does the government's £272,000 pothole grant go towards addressing the current list of repairs needed? What will be the shortfall?

Answer from:

Councillor Mark Shelford

The total capital budget for the Highway Maintenance Programme in 2018/19 is

£6.746m, of which the government's additional pothole grant is only one element. In addition, the Council has regularly invested additional capital into the resurfacing programme as preventative maintenance stops potholes forming in the first place. For 2018/19, an additional £808k of the Council's own capital has been included in the draft budget. Furthermore, in addition to the Department for Transport's annual maintenance block grant the Council has successfully secured £632k from the Government's Incentive fund and £2m to resurface the Keynsham bypass. Officers inspect our highways on a programmed basis and prioritise works on a risk assessment basis and work is undertaken when required.

M 11	Question from:	Councillor Paul Crossley
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In light of the Council's support for action on single use disposable packaging (November 2017), can the Leader of Council take steps to ensure that single use disposable packaging is not used in Council-owned outlets and that biodegradable alternatives are used in Council buildings (e.g. water cooler cups)?

Answer from:	Councillor Tim Warren
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Yes. There is now a cross-departmental team working on identifying opportunities to work with Council-owned outlets to avoid single use plastic packaging and single use plastics in general, where practical alternatives are available that are truly either compostable or recyclable. This work includes finding alternatives to single use plastic cups in Council buildings as quickly as possible, whilst plastic straws have already been withdrawn from the staff cafes in Keynsham Civic Centre and Lewis House. GLL will be replacing plastic drinking straws with paper ones and switching to compostable cups and lids. Heritage Services already have plumbed in filtered water dispensers at their venues, rather than bottled water. In addition, I wrote to the Secretary of State for the Environment last November following the Council Motion on this subject and the Council continues to lobby government to take more rapid action that will enable us to do more at the local level, such as on deposit return schemes and charges for non-recyclable, disposal cups and bottles. Officers are also developing support both for local businesses and local voluntary organisations to enable them to take more action in the community.

M 12	Question from:	Councillor Paul Crossley
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Will the Cabinet consider, in its budget this year, reaching agreement with a number of Bath based sports clubs who have been in discussion with Parks on the Asset Transfer, on a long term lease at a peppercorn rent, of the playing pitches at Lansdown North?

The pitches concerned are opposite the poultry farm and between the rugby pitch and the houses next to the P&R. This transfer would increase community resilience in allowing a number of clubs to increase their sporting activity and training capacity. This would help in meeting well-being targets. It would enable them to manage the asset on a long term agreement. It would save the Council the cost of maintaining these pitches (approx. £5kpa).

Answer from:	Councillor Charles Gerrish
<p><i>The Council is currently assessing a number of options for the future use and operation of all 3 sites at Lansdown Playing Fields. The aim is to improve the facilities and ensure they are delivering the objectives of the Councils Fit for Life Strategy to get more people, more active, more often while also ensuring their financial sustainability into the future. Asset transfer and long leases are being considered as well as partnership working models and 3rd party investment to ensure the Council and local residents get the maximum benefit from the site.</i></p>	
Supplementary Question:	
<p>Will Councillor Gerrish agree to meet with me and members from various residents' groups in couple of weeks' time (date to be confirmed) to discuss how they would view an asset transfer and the benefits for Council's Budget?</p>	
Answer from:	Councillor Charles Gerrish
<p><i>I am always happy to meet with residents' groups.</i></p>	