

COUNCIL MEETING 10th OCTOBER 2019

REGISTERED SPEAKERS

1. Ian Herve - Microplastics and pollution from artificial pitches
2. Nicolette Boater - Robustness of Climate emergency action plan
3. Lin Patterson - Climate Emergency Watch, B&NES
4. Faye Dicker - JSP hearings and proposed houses in Whitchurch
5. Robin Kerr - Recreation Ground Trust
6. John Branston - Draft Local Plan re HMO plans
7. Caroline Kay - Climate Emergency
8. Wera Hobhouse - Climate Emergency
9. Mark Baptist - Climate Emergency
10. Mary Walsh - Roads/housing in Whitchurch & Keynsham
11. Annabel Tall - Play parks

[Statements supplied in advance are attached]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS - PUBLIC

P 01	Question from:	Nicolette Boater
<p>1. Given that the climate emergency “cannot be tackled without active participation and leadership from all sectors in B&NES and wide and deep community engagement” (section 2.4) and the commitment to “ensuring that the transition to a zero carbon future is a just one” (section 3.5iii),</p> <p>(i) If it hasn't already, when will the “new B&NES Climate Emergency, Environment & Place Partnership” overseeing and enabling the climate emergency work, come into being?</p> <p>(ii) How will the composition of this Partnership Board ensure that the perspectives of less well-affiliated and/or more disadvantaged citizens balance the perspectives of representatives from major and/or better-established delivery partners??</p>		
Answer from:		Councillor Sarah Warren
<p>(i) The new B&NES Climate Emergency, Environment and Place Partnership will develop in stages over the next few months, with the first stage, the appointment of the Board, expected to be completed before the end of 2019.</p> <p>(ii) The Board will be set up to ensure it is capable of delivering the leadership described in the Climate Emergency Progress Report. It will be informed by the work already undertaken relating to the issue of a just transition, which is available on the link given in the Background Papers section of the Progress Report, entitled ‘Climate Emergency Study, Carbon emissions from households and citizens, September 2019 (Centre for Sustainable Energy)’.</p>		
P 02	Question from:	Nicolette Boater
<p>In section 3.2ii(e) it is reported that climate emergency engagement has commenced “with the Community Forums and Parish Liaison Committee”. However whilst the 5 North East Somerset Community Forums have met at least once since the March 2019 Climate Emergency declaration, the Bath City Forum (representing the unparished areas in, and around half the electorate of, B&NES) hasn't, and its future is under review. Given this;</p> <p>(i) What is the impact of this Bath governance deficit on how the Council will “Design the citizen engagement programme, utilising and building on current work with the Community Forums, the Parish Liaison Committee and the parish councils” (section 3.7iv)?</p> <p>(ii) In particular, what priority is being placed on ensuring that the membership and brief of the interim Involve Bath advisory group enables a constructive dialogue with the City of Bath around the Climate Emergency?</p>		
Answer from:		Councillor Dine Romero

(i) The Keynsham Area, Chew Valley, Bathavon North and Somer Valley Forums will receive updates on our work on the climate emergency in November. This builds on the successful session devoted to this topic organised by the Cam Valley Forum. However, it is recognised that we need to build on this to ensure the widest possible engagement on the climate emergency. Involve Bath has been tasked with advising elected members about future arrangements for governance and engagement in the City. We will therefore work closely with Involve Bath, concurrently with the November Area Forums, to identify the best ways of undertaking effective engagement as we work with the communities of Bath on this issue.

(ii) As the question identifies, the structure of the Bath City Forum is currently under review. Whatever the outcomes of this, however, the council is committed to working with the communities of Bath to tackle the climate emergency. As highlighted in the previous question, it is currently establishing a Climate Emergency, Environment and Place Partnership and it is planning a “conference-style” event which will maximise community input and support local activity to tackle the climate emergency.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS - COUNCILLORS

M01	Question from:	Eleanor Jackson
<p>Why, having laid Nelson Ward Drive through Area 2 in the former Radstock railway lands development from the sub -station to the Brunel Shed, is one side being ripped up, wasting money and resources when we have a climate emergency and council austerity cuts? Would it not have been much safer for the public to have a dedicated cycle track given the speeds modern cyclists coming down the incline from Frome, reach?</p>		
Answer from:		Councillor Joanna Wright
<p>The road being taken up is the temporary haul road that was constructed for the development site traffic and is no longer required. The temporary road was a requirement of the planning conditions. As this is development related work all the costs associated with the construction and removal of the access road are being met by the Developer.</p> <p>The adoptable road is currently being constructed to the agreed Section 38 drawing given technical approval in June 2015 by the Highway Authority and meets the design standards applicable at the time the agreements were signed. With the Climate Emergency declaration officers are aware of the need to provide for even more sustainable and environmentally friendly travel and sustainable travel provision is likely to be more prevalent on developments in future.</p>		