

CABINET MEETING 7th November 2019

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.

1. Robin Kerr (Chairman of Federation Of Bath Residents' Associations) – Peer Review
2. Councillor Shaun Hughes - Mass transport solution for the Somer Valley
3. Councillor Sarah Moore - Purpose built student accommodation
4. Councillor Eleanor Jackson – Preservation of 11 BANES playgrounds

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS - COUNCILLORS

M 01	Question from:	Councillors Vic Pritchard
<p>What are you planning on doing for the air quality in Farrington Gurney / Temple Cloud which has been recorded as one of the worst in B&NES?</p>		
Answer from:		Councillor David Wood
<p><i>In 2018 the concentrations of nitrogen dioxide in certain locations in Temple Cloud and Farrington Gurney were found to be above the national objective standard of 40 micrograms per metre cubed as an annual average. This led to the declaration of an Air Quality Management Area in both areas as required by the Environment Act 1995.</i></p> <p><i>Earlier this year, Community Infrastructure Levy money was successfully applied for to fund a study to identify and quantify the options that, if implemented, would lead to a reduction in the concentrations of nitrogen dioxide to below the objective standard. Each option will be assessed for feasibility, and if deemed to be feasible, the resulting post implementation reduction in concentrations will be quantified. This report is expected to be complete by December this year.</i></p> <p><i>These options will be taken forward, and will form the draft Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP). Then will follow a 12 week public consultation period where members of the public will have their chance to ask questions officers at drop in sessions locally in both locations. Residents of Bath and North East Somerset have actively engaged in Air Quality consultations which have led to the creation of meaningful plans. The results of the consultation will then be fed into the final AQAP, which is anticipated to be in May/June 2020.</i></p> <p><i>The team will continue to review the current monitoring being undertaken at both locations, and if any Councillor or member of the public have any further questions, they can look at previous air quality monitoring results in the 'Annual Status Reports' at this link https://www.bathnes.gov.uk/services/environment/pollution/air-quality/reports or contact the Environmental Monitoring Team environmental_monitoring@bathnes.gov.uk</i></p>		
M 02	Question from:	Councillor Paul Myers
<p>What is the latest update regarding the reversion of the Assembly Rooms to the National Trust and what plans are being developed for the future for the Fashion Museum?</p>		
Answer from:		Councillor Paul Crossley
<p><i>The Fashion Museum is widely acknowledged as one of the top ten museums of its kind in the world. Its collection is designated by government as one of national / international</i></p>		

pre-eminence.

Following notification from the National Trust that it will implement the 10-year break clause in the Assembly Rooms' lease in 2023, work has begun to find a new home for the Fashion Museum. This is an opportunity to move it to a more suitable and more central location. The Museum can continue its thriving partnership with Bath Spa University's School of Fashion and Textiles and also make the collection accessible to other students and researchers.

The Fashion Museum will close its doors, and all room hire activities in the Assembly Rooms cease, at some point in 2022 to allow a programme of dilapidations to be undertaken in advance of the break in the lease in March 2023.

M 03	Question from:	Councillor Paul Myers
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Could you identify where negotiations are at with the National Trust for the transfer to them of all council-owned land on the Bathampton Meadows?

Answer from:	Councillor Richard Samuel
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I have been working closely with National Trust on the proposed community asset transfer of Bathampton Meadows. The Leader of the Council wrote formally to the National Trust on 2nd October 2019 and the Trust is now taking the proposal to their SW Regional Management team and if this is supported it will then go to the National Executive for a decision. Once approval has been given by the National Trust executive the Council will enter into negotiations on the detail of the community asset transfer of Bathampton Meadows.'

M 04	Question from:	Councillor Karen Walker
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As you leave Bath going up the Wellsway on the A367, between the turning to the B3110 and A3062 there is a small stretch of 24 hour bus lane.

I would like to ask the Cabinet Member to consider converting this stretch of 24 hour bus lane to a 'peak time only bus lane' this would help the flow of traffic leaving Bath at this well-known pinch point?

Answer from:	Councillor Joanna Wright
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This bus lane was part of the Greater Bristol Bus Network scheme some years ago and it gives outbound buses (including Park & Ride) priority over traffic queuing back from the A367 / A3062 junction. Wherever possible, we make bus priorities applicable at all times to avoid confusion but more limited restrictions are used in places where, for example, on-street parking or access to premises for loading and unloading is needed at off-peak times. There are no premises fronting the highway here, so no such need arises.

The traffic queue on this stretch of the A367 southbound occurs principally in the evening peak hour and it often extends back over the B3110 junction. This creates a

pinch point for buses - which have to queue in the single lane across the junction to access the bus lane. We will be looking to address this problem in the future, to reduce delays to buses.

At other times of day, traffic flows quite well and we have no evidence that indicates it is impeded by the presence of the bus lane. So we do not propose to change the hours of operation.

M 05	Question from:	Councillor Vic Pritchard
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What is the administration's position on 5G rollout across Bath and North East Somerset? Bearing in mind the concern amongst some residents about the potential negative externalities on health, the petition signed by over 1000 people online and the decision made by neighbouring local authorities in Frome, Glastonbury and Shepton Mallet to not implement any measures that will lead to the introduction of 5G in their locality.

Answer from:	Councillors Paul Crossley
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Public Health England have produced a recent guidance note specifically about 5G technology, and their view is that 5G radio-wave technology will not bring any likely risk to the public's health. There is often in any discussion of a new technology and its possible health risk, the invocation of the precautionary principle. Insofar as this guidance is based on the detailed guidelines on the use of mobile technologies from the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation, which will underpin UK policies, PHE would assert that they are applying the precautionary principle in an appropriate fashion. They also commit to monitor emerging evidence and revising policy in line with new findings.

The Government's latest planning advice on telecommunications is available in the National Planning Policy Framework 2019, Paragraph 116 of which states:

Local planning authorities must determine applications on planning grounds only. They should not seek to prevent competition between different operators, question the need for an electronic communications system, or set health safeguards different from the International Commission guidelines for public exposure. The 3 councils referred to are Town Councils and do not have the powers of a local planning authority, therefore they would only be consultees on any proposals.

As such, if the Council were to refuse planning permission on health grounds when an application was accompanied by the necessary health certification (ICNIRP), the decision would be open to successful challenge at appeal with the possibility of having full costs awarded against the Council.

M 06	Question from:	Councillor Brian Simmons
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Will any of the proposed apartments on the Homebase / Pines Way site be available for social rent by B&NES Council / CURO and will it be a sustainable carbon-neutral building with solar panels / ground heat sources?

Answer from:	Councillor Tim Ball
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Proposals for this site will be considered through the planning process having regard to the Council's planning policies and the views of consultees and other contributors.

M 07 **Question from:** Councillor Paul Myers

Could you explain why the decision was taken to scrap the Bath City Forum and what process with timescales is being followed to consider replacement representation arrangements to address the democratic deficit in Bath when compared to the rest of B&NES which continue to have Forums?

Answer from: Councillor Paul Crossley

No decision has been taken to “scrap” the Bath City Forum. However, given the unparished nature of the City, we believe that Bath requires a bespoke approach to community engagement. We are therefore working with residents, voluntary organisations and community groups - who have come together as “Involve Bath”- to review the Forum’s structure and make recommendations. This group is making good progress and findings will be reported to elected members when ready.

M 08 **Question from:** Councillor Brian Simmons

The Kingsmead Square Car Park generated over £465,000 last year (2018/19), if closed down as being widely suggested in future plans for the area, how do you intend to recoup the lost revenue?

Answer from: Councillor Joanna Wright

There are no current proposals to close this popular short stay location.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS - PUBLIC

P 01 **Question from:** Will Sandry

Facial Recognition Cameras

Does Bath and North East Somerset Council, or any of its partner agencies (if known) operate any facial recognition CCTV systems within the Bath and North East Somerset area?

Answer from: Councillor Neil Butters

Neither Bath and North East Somerset Council, nor any of its known partner agencies, operate any facial recognition CCTV systems within the Bath and North East Somerset area

P 02	Question from:	Will Sandry
<p>Moorland Road Air Quality</p> <p>Please could you provide the data collected thus far from the sampling location on Moorland Road, Bath? If possible, please would you provide a brief commentary to the data?</p>		
Answer from:		Councillor Sarah Warren
<p><i>The annual average nitrogen dioxide concentration data for Moorland Road is: 2018 – 24 µg/m³ and Provisional (Jan-Sept average) 2019 – 23 µg/m³. The 2019 data is provisional as there is not a full calendar year of results available and the data has not been corrected to the continuous analyser (bias correction). Both years results are well below the annual average nitrogen dioxide objective of 40 µg/m³.”</i></p> <p><i>The monitor is located at the building façade of a property on Moorland Road.</i></p>		