

CABINET MEETING 16th January 2020

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. Councillor Duncan Hounsell – Agenda item 15 ‘Mead Lane Moorings’
2. Phil Harding (Chair of Planning, Saltford Parish Council & Chairman of Saltford Environment Group) - Agenda item 15 ‘Mead Lane Moorings’
3. Laura Darling - Agenda item 15 ‘Mead Lane Moorings’
4. Alice Young - Agenda item 15 ‘Mead Lane Moorings’
5. Peter Denmead - Agenda item 15 ‘Mead Lane Moorings’

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS - COUNCILLORS

M	01	Question from:	Councillor Paul May		
Can you supply a summary of the recycling and black sack collection rates for 2018 and 2019?					
Answer from:			Councillor David Wood		
<i>Recycling and black sack collection rates for the last 2 financial years (2017/18 and 2018/19) are below:</i>					
		2018-19 financial year		2017-18 financial year	
Stat		tonnage	%	tonnage	%
<i>Total Dry Recycled</i>		<i>30485.72</i>	<i>36.18%</i>	<i>30956.46</i>	<i>35.72%</i>
<i>Total Reuse</i>		<i>121.6305</i>	<i>0.14%</i>	<i>140.0311</i>	<i>0.16%</i>
<i>Total Composted</i>		<i>19419</i>	<i>23.05%</i>	<i>17872.42</i>	<i>20.62%</i>
<i>Total Energy Recovery</i>		<i>21594.24</i>	<i>25.63%</i>	<i>24401.31</i>	<i>28.16%</i>
<i>Total Disposed to Landfill post treatment</i>		<i>12637.39</i>	<i>15.00%</i>	<i>13293.39</i>	<i>15.34%</i>
Total waste		84257.98		86663.61	
Recycling, reuse and composting rate			59.37%		56.50%
Recovery rate			85.00%		84.66%
Landfill rate			15.00%		15.34%

<i>Residual household waste per household (kg) - N191</i>	371.35		416.21	
<i>Percentage of household waste sent for reuse, recycling & composting - N192</i>		58.21%		55.51%
<i>Percentage of MW land filled - N193</i>		12.34%		12.57%

State performance statistics are compiled for financial years only so they are nationally comparable and audited by the Environment Agency. Audited figures are usually available from September of the previous year. Provisional figures are available from June.

Supplementary Question:

You have recently stated that we are in the top 20 local authorities in the country with recycling. Could you also let us know where are we in the country in terms of the unit cost?

Answer from: Councillor David Wood

I do not have exact technical details with me so I will provide an answer within 5 clear working days.

M 02 Question from: Councillor Paul May

Can you confirm what proposals are being considered regarding the waste recycling centres, their locations and opening arrangements?

Answer from: Councillor David Wood

We are reviewing our strategy for recycling centres provision across the district in light of the closure of the Midland Road site (currently anticipated to be summer 2023) which will make way for much needed new housing as detailed in our adopted local plan. No decisions on future provision have been taken as yet.

Supplementary Question:

Can you give us an assurance that Welton recycling centre will not be closed?

Answer from:

Councillor David Wood

There are no current plans for closure of any recycling centres for this financial year. We will be exploring options for future years so for those reasons I cannot give you an assurance around this issue.

M 03**Question from:**

Councillor Paul May

Having needed some fly-tipping action near my home I was delighted by the officer support. Can you confirm that the 3GS litter contract which was entered into by the previous council has been performance reported to the relevant scrutiny committee after 6 months as promised at the time of that approval?

Answer from:

Councillor David Wood

The performance information was reported to scrutiny on 13th January 2020 - this meeting was delayed from 18 November 2019.

<https://democracy.bathnes.gov.uk/documents/s59644/Litter%20report.pdf>

M 04**Question from:**

Councillor Vic Pritchard

Could you please explain how members of the public engage with the Council's tree planting scheme if they are interested in getting involved and helping to contribute to it?

Answer from:

Councillor David Wood

If agreed, the preparation of the Tree and Woodland Plan will begin in the Spring this year and a key part of the project will be working

with local communities to follow up on contact that has already been made and identifying new tree planting opportunities. Whilst the Plan will not be completed before the Autumn/early Winter (in time for the Autumn planting season), opportunities for community involvement, potentially including raising funds and action during the year will be identified by working with Parks and other partners.

Supplementary Question:

Would you consider supplying the trees to the public for planting?

Answer from:

Councillor David Wood

There is a lot of support from the public on this initiative which is reflected in number of different ways. Some people offer part of their land, others their time, and another offer trees, or to pay for trees. The role of the Council in this project is to lead in helping people reach the target of planting 100,000 trees , and there is a good will from the community to reach this target.

M

05

Question from:

Councillor Karen Warrington

Given that a number of Parish Councils have declared a Climate Emergency what is this Administration doing to offer on-going practical advice and help so that Parish and Town Councils can encourage residents, given that the website is somewhat generic?

Answer from:

Councillor Sarah Warren

Parish Liaison received a presentation on the climate emergency in July 2019. The parish toolkit, which is circulated to all clerks, has been kept updated with information about what parishes can do to address the climate emergency in their area.

We have also been working with a number of parish councillors to encourage and support local action, including gathering information on best practice from both within our area and from elsewhere. As a result, we have now created a specialist, dedicated Climate Emergency Toolkit for Parishes, available on our website, which will be kept regularly updated, linked below

https://www.bathnes.gov.uk/sites/default/files/siteimages/Environment/Sustainability/parish_toolkit_climate_and_nature_emergency.pdf

Supplementary Question:

Are there any plans to provide leadership in advising the public on change of behaviour importance? Otherwise, the targets agreed by the Council in March last year would not be met.

Answer from:

Councillor Sarah Warren

I will work on plans for communication and community engagement in terms of Climate Emergency, which you will hear in due course.

M 06**Question from:**

Councillor Paul May

Can you provide a breakdown of the sums of money that were spent in NES and Bath on highways works in 2018/19 and the breakdown proposed in 2020/2021?

Answer from:

Councillor Joanna Wright

The 2018/19 capital works budget was £12.2m, just over £5m was spent in Bath and £7.1m in NES this is detailed in Table A below . The 2020/21 budget is draft and still subject to approval. Once the budget has been approved I will arrange for the information to be provided to you.

<i>Table A</i>	<i>Total £000</i>	<i>Bath £000</i>	<i>NES £000</i>
<i>Other capital projects</i>	<i>£1,254</i>	<i>£920</i>	<i>£334</i>
<i>Transport Improvement Programme</i>	<i>£3,175</i>	<i>£1,299</i>	<i>£1,876</i>
<i>Highways Maintenance Block</i>	<i>£7,784</i>	<i>£2,808</i>	<i>£4,976</i>
<i>2018/19 Highways Capital Expenditure Total</i>	<i>£12,213</i>	<i>£5,027</i>	<i>£7,186</i>

M	07	Question from:	Councillor Paul Myers
<p>Given the concerns raised by local residents on the list of consultees for the recent Midsomer Norton Silver Street Road Closure Traffic Regulation Order (TRO), can the Cabinet Member please provide assurance that in future efforts will be made to ensure that relevant local organisations, in this case such as the Midsomer Norton Journal, Town Council and Somer Valley Chamber, will be notified in future?</p>			
Answer from:			Councillors Joanna Wright and Neil Butters
<p><i>When a notice for a Temporary Traffic Regulation Order such as a forthcoming road closure is due to be advertised the Council sends an email to all councillors and all town and parish councils. I can confirm that such an email regarding the closure of Silver Street was sent on 15th October 2019 and this included Midsomer Norton Town Council.</i></p> <p><i>Our distribution list of other organisations to notify includes the emergency services and bus operators as well as other locally interested organisations. I have asked the officers to add the Somer Valley Chamber of Commerce and the Midsomer Norton Journal to that list so they also receive these notifications in future.</i></p>			
M	08	Question from:	Councillor Paul May
<p>Can you confirm that investment will continue into the council owned retail properties to maintain and improve long term revenue for the Council?</p>			
Answer from:			Councillor Richard Samuel
<p><i>The Council continues to invest in its retail properties across the City. Over the next two years we anticipate there will be in excess of £1 million invested in cyclical repairs and maintenance. The surplus generated from our commercial estate this financial year is expected to be approximately £17 million, which pays for many of the front-line services we deliver. In addition, we continue to invest in a range of public realm schemes to enhance the environment for people to visit our High Streets. The performance of the retail estate remains strong, with void levels at under around 3%.</i></p>			

M 09	Question from:	Councillor Michael Evans
<p>In Midsomer Norton the Town Council is trying to make the Catholic Church Garden, or Garden of Friendship, into a place where residents can sit and enjoy nature. To achieve this, an entrance to the garden is needed from the Sainsbury's car park which borders the garden on two sides. This would be the reinstatement of a formerly existing entrance. B&NES now owns the car park and Property Services have refused to co-operate to allow this entrance to be created. Could the relevant Cabinet Member please revisit this issue with a view to achieving the improvement in the town for residents which the much easier access would provide?</p>		
Answer from:		Councillor Richard Samuel
<p><i>This Council received a request from the Midsomer Norton Town Council for permission to construct a gate from the churchyard (where they have a garden of friendship) through the fence of the Hollies in to the car park. The location for the gate currently has two parking spaces in front of it. After reviewing the various leasehold documents between the Council as freeholder and the tenants of the retail shopping units at the Hollies it was explained to the Town Council, that due to obligations in the leases to maintain all the existing parking spaces it would be difficult to comply with this request as it would mean losing at least one but probably two spaces, to allow for visibility and that it may not be possible to reprovide these spaces elsewhere in the car park. Furthermore, the request gave rise to concerns for ensuring public safety as it would be difficult to protect the public when using the gate to enter the car park from the garden of friendship. There has been no further communication with the Town Council on this matter.</i></p> <p><i>If the Town Council is still keen to pursue this request, further work could be undertaken to see if this request could be accommodated by providing the lost spaces elsewhere and introducing protective safety measures for members of the public entering the car park at this area. If alternative spaces cannot be created, the Council could also approach the commercial tenants to see if they would object to this proposal being accommodated.</i></p>		
Supplementary Question:		
I am the Chair of the Midsomer Norton Town Council, and the Town Council would like to proceed with this proposal.		
Answer from:	Councillor Richard Samuel	

<i>I am very happy to come to Midsomer Norton, meet with you, consider the details on this matter, and find the resolution</i>		
M	10	Question from: Councillor Karen Warrington
Following the statement to Council a few months ago by the Bath Preservation Trust regarding glazing in historic buildings can the Cabinet Member responsible give an update on progress?		
Answer from:		Councillors Tim Ball and Sarah Warren
<i>I can advise that a meeting is scheduled for 21st January with Bath Preservation Trust and Cllrs Richard Samuel, Sarah Warren, Tim Ball and the Director of Development & Public Protection. We welcome the on-going contribution from the Trust and will feed their views in relation to glazing in historic buildings into our planned review of the 'parent' Supplementary Planning Document " Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Guidance for Listed Buildings and Undesignated Historic Buildings" through the Council's cross party Local Development Framework Steering Group which supports our wider planning policy review.</i>		
Supplementary Question:		
What will happen after that meeting? Who will be informed? I think there are quite a lot of people who would like to hear the outcome of that meeting		
Answer from:		Councillor Tim Ball
<i>The outcome of that meeting will be communicated to Planning Department, and to you as it and when it happens.</i>		
M	11	Question from: Councillors Paul Myers
Given that the Guildhall has been at the heart of the community for 350 years, will the residents of Bath and North East Somerset be given the opportunity to give their views on any future proposals, prior and in addition to any statutory planning process requirements?		

Answer from:

Councillors Richard Samuel and Tim Ball

There are no plans to sell the Guildhall the report in the media before Christmas was entirely incorrect. Subsequent reports made a correction to that effect. The Council's aim is to invest in the Guildhall to make it a more vibrant, publicly accessible centre for civic and cultural activities and festivals and events, while maintaining it as the political hub for the District. As part of this, discussions will be held with current users as well as organisations who do not currently use the facilities to help the Council develop its plans.