

## **CABINET MEETING 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2021**

### **STATEMENTS FROM PUBLIC AND COUNCILLORS**

1. Fia Heijltjes (6 years old and accompanied by parent) – Safe Cycling Infrastructure
2. David Redgewell – Planning and transport issues
3. Susan Charles – City Centre Security
4. Shiva Page – Accessibility and Equality issues
5. Martin Grixoni – Recycling and Financial Priorities
6. Alison Herbert – Bath Christmas Market
7. Kathryn Davis – Bath Christmas Market
8. Charlie Williams - Provision for Active Transport in Bath
9. Jeremy Labram – Liveable Neighbourhoods
10. Rachael Hushon – Liveable Neighbourhoods
11. Lynda Lloyd – Liveable Neighbourhoods
12. Patrick Rotheram – Liveable Neighbourhoods
13. Malcolm Baldwin – Low Traffic Neighbourhoods
14. Kari Ericsson – Low Traffic Neighbourhoods

#### **Councillors –**

1. Joanna Wright – Active Travel and Liveable Neighbourhoods
2. Michelle O’Doherty – Chelsea Road Parking

### **QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS - COUNCILLORS**

<b>M</b>	<b>01</b>	<b>Question from:</b>	Councillor Vic Pritchard
Six weeks is typically the minimum period allowed for public consultation. The Council, however, engages in as little as four weeks. When simple changes needed on a bylaw require twelve weeks consultation, why has the Council reduced the period of public consultation so severely?			
<b>Answer from:</b>		Councillor Kevin Guy	
<i>Cabinet has not made a decision to reduce consultation periods.</i>			
<b>M</b>	<b>02</b>	<b>Question from:</b>	Councillor Vic Pritchard
Please provide a breakdown of the Council's recycling rates over the past five years, including current rates.			
<b>Answer from:</b>		Councillor David Wood	
<p><i>The reuse, recycling and composting rates for the last 5 years are as follows:</i></p> <p><i>2016/17 – 54.1%</i></p> <p><i>2017/18 – 54.8%</i></p> <p><i>2018/19 – 58.7%</i></p> <p><i>2019/20 – 56.2%</i></p> <p><i>2020/21 – 60% (subject to verification from DEFRA).</i></p>			

<b>M</b>	<b>03</b>	<b>Question from:</b>	Councillor Vic Pritchard
How many fines has the Council issued, and how many successful prosecutions has the Council had, for fly-tipping over the past 12 months?			
<b>Answer from:</b>		Councillor David Wood	
<p><i>In the last 12 months we have issued 36 Fixed Penalty Notices for Fly Tipping.</i></p> <p><i>There have been no prosecutions for fly tipping in the last 12 months, mainly due to the impact of Covid restrictions on the work of the Enforcement Team. As restrictions are now lifting, investigations are being taken forward.</i></p>			
<b>M</b>	<b>04</b>	<b>Question from:</b>	Councillor Vic Pritchard
How much waste, from both kerbside and from the HWRC, has gone to landfill and how much has been incinerated between 2017 and 2021?			
<b>Answer from:</b>		Councillor David Wood	
<p><i>The figures below are from the kerbside, HWRC and trade waste and are both tonnages directly delivered and as an output of Mechanical Biological Treatment.</i></p>			
		<i>Landfill (tonnes)</i>	<i>Energy from Waste (tonnes)</i>
<i>2017/18</i>		<i>10,842</i>	<i>22,208</i>
<i>2018/19</i>		<i>10,353</i>	<i>20,301</i>

2019/20	9,892	21,978
2020/21	2,400	26,134

**M 05**      **Question from:**      Councillor Vic Pritchard

Please provide the tonnages of recycling waste collected from the kerbside between 2017 and 2021 for the following items: glass, cardboard, paper, plastic and food waste.

**Answer from:**      Councillor David Wood

<i>Material</i>	<i>17/18</i>	<i>18/19</i>	<i>19/20</i>	<i>20/21</i>
<i>Non-recyclable (black bag) waste collected at the kerbside (tonnes)</i>	23,312	19,226	19,858	21,990
<i>Glass (tonnes)</i>	5,275	5,340	5,451	6,998
<i>Card (tonnes)</i>	3,091	2,999	3,518	5,154
<i>Paper (tonnes)</i>	3,640	3,412	3,174	2,678
<i>Plastic (tonnes)</i>	1,703	1,887	1,922	2,359
<i>Food Waste (tonnes)</i>	5,461	6,648	6,959	8,031

<b>M</b>	<b>06</b>	<b>Question from:</b>	Councillor Vic Pritchard
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<b>Answer from:</b>	Councillor David Wood
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<i>Food Waste (tonnes)</i>	<i>5,461</i>	<i>6,648</i>	<i>6,959</i>	<i>8,031</i>

<b>M</b>	<b>07</b>	<b>Question from:</b>	Councillor Vic Pritchard
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In a press release of 9 June 2021, the reason the Council has given for the delay in closing Cleveland Bridge for essential repairs is that "it has taken a little longer to arrange the diversion route". Please explain why the diversion route wasn't confirmed before last week.

<b>Answer from:</b>		Councillor Manda Rigby
<p><i>The Council had worked continually with neighbouring Authorities since 2019 to agree suitable diversion routes. This included using the A350 through Wiltshire. However, in April 2021 Wiltshire Council communicated that they would not now give consent for the A350 to be used as a diversion route due to detrimental impact on their highway network. For such permission not to be forthcoming this late in the day for a major project known so long in advance by a neighbouring authority is unusual. This resulted in the Council having to review the diversion route options with South Gloucestershire Council and Highways England to agree alternatives.</i></p>		
<b>M</b>	<b>08</b>	<b>Question from:</b> Councillor Grant Johnson
<p>Recently, Somerset West and Taunton Council published plans to paint a 62m long stretch of footpath in the Pride and Progress Colours, which include brown and black to reflect ethnic diversity. The painted path will last 15 years without the need for maintenance like coloured zebra crossings.</p> <p>Will the Cabinet member agree that this is a positive way for the Council to show that it is inclusive and welcoming to all groups that have felt marginalised in the past and join me in the wishing all B&amp;NES residents a happy pride month?</p>		
<b>Answer from:</b>		Councillor David Wood
<p><i>This sounds like a positive way to celebrate diversity and we will look into the idea.</i></p>		
<b>M</b>	<b>09</b>	<b>Question from:</b> Councillor Grant Johnson
<p>Following on from the announcement some time ago that plans to build 3 fossil fuel burning gas generators in Midsomer Norton were put on hold by the developer, do we have any insight to what their plans are now and can you give residents any guarantee that this project won't go ahead?</p>		

<b>Answer from:</b>		Councillor Sarah Warren
<p><i>The Council is involved in a positive dialogue with Conrad Energy, who are open to modifying their business plan for the Midsomer Norton site away from gas generators. This constructive dialogue has not yet concluded.</i></p>		
<b>M</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>Question from:</b> Councillor Grant Johnson
<p>Since the start of the year I have received 9 separate notifications of waste and recycling collection problems for my ward of Paulton. These were as follows:</p> <p>14th June - Garden Waste  7th June - Kerbside Recycling  31st May - Kerbside Recycling  24th May - Kerbside Recycling  20th April - Kerbside Recycling  12th April - Kerbside Recycling  8th March - Kerbside Recycling  1st March - Kerbside Recycling  25th January - Kerbside Recycling</p> <p>There has been 24 weeks of collections since the start of the year with 9 of those having problems raised in my ward, representing a 37.5% chance that residents in Paulton are likely to have a collection issue with their waste and recycling. Do you agree that:</p> <p>a) that residents are rightfully angry at this disgraceful level of service?</p>		

- b) the rate of failure in my ward is at an unacceptably high level?
- c) residents are paying, through Council Tax, for a service that clearly isn't being delivered?

I would like to know what is going to be done by this Council to rectify this situation?

**Answer from:**

Councillor David Wood

*The vast majority of our residents are hugely appreciative of the work that our waste and recycling crews have continued to do throughout the pandemic - carrying out 135,000 refuse and recycling collections every week throughout the district, collecting significantly increased tonnages of waste throughout the lockdown periods, which shows no sign of letting up now that many people continue to work from home. I express my personal thanks for those staff who have been working above and beyond to ensure that the vast majority of collections are being completed on time and to high standards.*

*We are sorry that some residents of Paulton have experienced delays in their collections, the properties impacted by these notifications was 1.2% of the total number of refuse and recycling collections that would have taken place in Paulton during those 24 weeks.*

*There is now a national shortage of LGV drivers, a problem being experience by local authorities and waste collection companies throughout the country and we are not alone in the region in suffering from a shortage of staff. We are working to address the skills deficit by creating even more training opportunities for drivers now that driving schools are back open for business.*

*Our waste collection services remain amongst the highest achieving in the country with top quartile performance, recycling 60% of waste this year and we thank our residents for their support in helping with this achievement, and for the support that they show to our hard working crews.*

**M 11**

**Question from:**

Councillor Grant Johnson

I have recently been contacted by a local resident who is horrified at the shortage of 'M4(3) Category 3: Wheelchair User



Dwellings' in our council authority.

Can you please inform me of the following:

a) are we aware of how many Cat 3 dwellings there are available across social housing providers in B&NES?

b) is there a register of those individuals with specific needs who might require a Cat 3 dwelling?

**Answer from:**

Councillor Tom Davies

***a) are we aware of how many Cat 3 dwellings there are available across social housing providers in B&NES?***

*We do not hold that information.*

***b) is there a register of those individuals with specific needs who might require a Cat 3 dwelling?***

*There is no cross-tenure list of individuals held by the Council.*

*However, the Homesearch scheme, the Council's housing allocation scheme, does identify individuals requiring wheelchair accessible housing. All wheelchair accessible properties are prioritised to wheelchair users when any property is advertised through Homesearch. In addition if the property is new build, and therefore more time is available, the Occupational Therapy team will be engaged at an early stage to ensure suitable clients can be considered, and if necessary further and bespoke adaptations can be considered if required.*

**M**

**12**

**Question from:**

Councillor Grant Johnson

Is the Cabinet aware of the CPRE's guide to 'Quiet Lanes' and will they be actively looking in to this as a strategy to run

alongside their 'Liveable Neighbourhoods' schemes so that rural communities benefit from the funding available, just as much as our urban areas do?

**Answer from:**

Councillor Sarah Warren

*I am aware of this excellent publication from the CPRE and actively support proposals for quiet lanes, which are founded on similar principles to liveable neighbourhoods. Members representing rural communities are welcome to submit bids for quiet lanes, road closures or modal filters under the liveable neighbourhoods' programme. To date, we have received a small number of applications from Members representing rural communities, including Charlcombe, Publow & Whitchurch and Queen Charlton. The next deadline for applications is 5th August 2021.*

**M 13**

**Question from:**

Councillor Grant Johnson

Will the cabinet member agree with me that encouraging residents to take up walking and cycling as an alternative to driving will be a positive step to fighting the climate emergency? Will they therefore acknowledge my recent campaigning to get further funding for cycling connections between rural communities and key national cycle networks and make commitments to improving the infrastructure in all areas of Bath and North East Somerset?

**Answer from:**

Councillor Sarah Warren

*I whole-heartly agree that encouraging residents to take up walking and cycling as an alternative to driving will play a major role in tackling the climate emergency and would like to join you in urging Somer Valley residents to take this step, which will not only benefit the environment, but their own health as well. In the 2021/22 transport capital programme we have allocated funds to commission a cycling and walking masterplan for inter-urban routes and will be undertaking feasibility work on a new off-road cycle route between Charlton Road and Silver Street, Midsomer Norton. We are also working closely with WECA, which has commissioned a bus, walking, cycling and wheeling study for the A37 and A367 corridors. This study will include investigation of a new walking and cycle route along the former Midsomer Norton to Bristol railway corridor, links to adjoining communities, such as Paulton and improvements to national cycle route 24 between Radstock and Bath. A strategic outline business case for*

*improvements on both corridors is due in November 2021 and WECA has indicated considerable funding to support identified schemes. This work will deliver high quality cycle routes which will create step change in the attractiveness of cycling for residents in our rural communities.*

**M 14**

**Question from:**

Councillor Vic Pritchard

How long does the Council intend to continue to require members of the public to book time slots to visit the Household Waste Recycling Centres?

**Answer from:**

Councillor David Wood

*A public consultation into the booking system was carried out in February this year and the system proved overwhelmingly popular. A report is being prepared for the Cabinet Member by officers with recommendations on the future of the booking system based on the public consultation feedback. This report is due in July.*