

CABINET MEETING 10th/11th November 2021

STATEMENTS FROM PUBLIC AND COUNCILLORS

1. Graham Pisto - Transport matters and the city's economy
2. Martin Grixoni - Bath business challenges
3. Lynda Lloyd – Blue Badge access to the City Centre
4. Bob Goodman – Environmental Issues
5. David Redgewell – Transport and Planning
6. Cllr Eleanor Jackson – SACRE Syllabus
7. Cllr Vic Pritchard - Access issues in the city centre

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS - COUNCILLORS

M	01	Question from:	Councillor Karen Walker
<p>Can you confirm how many hours per week the Leader and each Cabinet Members are working for B&NES, and on which days of the week? Also, how many days per week was the Leader of the Council working in the Guildhall before this latest 2 week break?</p>			
		Answer from:	Councillor Kevin Guy
<p><i>As Councillors, Cabinet Members are not employees of the Council and have no scheduled working hours. It is not possible to provide specific hours and days worked each week as these vary depending on the work commitments of each role in any given week. All Cabinet members work the hours required to fulfil their responsibilities.</i></p>			
Supplementary Question:			
<p>Transparency & openness is the Liberal Democrats key message to the public & Councillors. Your answer to my question is not clear and far from being transparent. All I am asking is what days & hours do the cabinet members work? I don't feel it is to unreasonable that all councillors and the public should know.</p>			
Answer from: Councillor Kevin Guy			
<i>Refer you to my original answer.</i>			
M	02	Question from:	Councillor Colin Blackburn

Can you tell me if the Council has completed the purchase of the 2 properties on the Sladebrook development that we were advised that the Council was buying?

If yes, did the Cabinet Member get an independent professional survey of the properties done before purchasing? If not why not?

Answer from:

Councillor Richard Samuel

No, the Council has not purchased these units though will do so in due course. The properties will be supplied with a 10-year Local Authority Building Control (LABC) backed warranty. This is a highly regarded warranty that covers both defects and structural integrity. As such a further survey is not considered an effective use of resources.

M 03

Question from:

Councillor Colin Blackburn

I understand that work is being carried out at Grosvenor Place using money received from a Central Government Grant (approx. £1 million project). Was the contract for this work put out to formal tender? If not, why not?

Answer from:

Councillor Richard Samuel

Yes, the building contract work was tendered using an OJEU compliant procurement framework.

M 04

Question from:

Councillor Karen Walker

Why has the Council House Building Programme that is being presented to Cabinet tonight, NOT been through any Scrutiny Panel?

Answer from:

Councillor Tom Davies

This cabinet report allows officers to initiate development work on these eight sites and is in line with the paper taken to the Climate Emergency & Sustainability Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel in September 2019. However, as the report notes no decision has yet been made on how the housing management functions will be provided. This will be subject to a separate report following meaningful cross-party engagement.

M 05

Question from:

Councillor Vic Pritchard

In answer to a previous question about the Cleveland Bridge repair works, you said the following: “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 the detrimental impact on their highway network.”

In April 2021 we were more than 12 months into the COVID-19 pandemic. For a whole year, traffic levels on Bath’s roads were greatly reduced due to people working from home. Please explain why, if initial communications with neighbouring authorities had taken place in 2019, the Cleveland Bridge repair work was not carried out during the COVID -19 lockdown periods to ensure disruption could be kept to a minimum?

Answer from:

Councillor Manda Rigby

Despite the Covid pandemic the project team managed to progress the scheme. The DfT funding for the bridge works were awarded in March 2020, Listed Building Consent was granted in October 2020 and the conditions discharged leading up to the start of the works in 2021.

M 06

Question from:

Councillor Vic Pritchard

In December last year, Cabinet agreed to transfer responsibility for running the world-famous Bath Christmas Market from Visit Bath to the Council. In light of the recent decision first to extend the market and then to cancel it, do you accept that the initial decision to transfer responsibility for running the market to the Council was a mistake and will you commit to reinstate the

destination management company Visit Bath to ensure the market can be held in future?

Answer from:

Councillor Kevin Guy

In December 2020, the decision was taken to close Visit Bath due to financial cost of supporting the Destination Management Organisation which was losing significant amounts of money and as such could no longer be supported. There are no plans to revert back to a loss making model and all destination management for the region is now delivered through a partnership with Visit West.

The staff who previously delivered the Christmas Market for Visit Bath transferred to the Council and have continued to develop the proposals in place for the Bath at Christmas event using their event management experience, skills and knowledge .

M 07

Question from:

Councillor Vic Pritchard

Approximately 403,000 people visited the Bath Christmas Market in 2019, which brought more than £30m to the local economy. How many people is the Council expecting will visit the city for this year's scaled back 'Bath at Christmas' offer and how much money does the Council expect the event will add to the local economy this year?

Answer from:

Councillor Kevin Guy

The Bath at Christmas event is designed to be attractive to the local market to help support local businesses during the festive period. We are showcasing, along with our partners such as the BID and Visit West, the myriad of attractions and activities offered across the city and wider area as a whole to appeal to residents and visitors alike. As this is a new approach to celebrating all the region has to offer at Christmas we have no data on potential numbers of visitors. However, plans are in place to ensure the events are promoted and marketed appropriately and managed safely. Footfall and traffic data will be collected and collated to ensure that we understand the success of the event to help inform plans.

M	08	Question from:	Councillor Vic Pritchard
<p>Has a financial impact assessment been undertaken by the Council to assess the potential negative effects on the local economy, and the Council's finances, that may arise from the decision to cancel this year's Bath Christmas Market? If so, can we see it?</p>			
Answer from:		Councillor Kevin Guy	
<p><i>No financial impact assessment has been conducted. The decision to scale back the market was dictated by market conditions and the inability to procure through statutory processes the necessary levels of support staff to run the market safely. Public safety is the key factor when considering the delivery of any event and as such the decision is based on this in the first instance.</i></p>			
M	09	Question from:	Councillor Vic Pritchard
<p>I note that Pedal Progression have been awarded the contract to deliver cycling provision at Entry Hill. Earlier this year, an online consultation was undertaken by Lemon Gazelle for Entry Hill, the results of which indicated strong support for cycling provision on the site. Of the 1,762 respondents with a Bath and North East Somerset postcode, 962 (54.5%) came specifically from residents with a BA2 postcode. Please publish in full the responses to the consultation from residents with a BA2 postcode.</p>			
Answer from:		Councillor Kevin Guy	
<p><i>The total number of respondents was 1,919. From these there was 1,762 usable postcodes. The full report was published as part of the Cabinet Decision.</i></p> <p>https://democracy.bathnes.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?Id=1418</p> <p>https://democracy.bathnes.gov.uk/documents/s61952/Entry%20Hill%20Consultation%20Report%20Appendix%201.pdf</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>How many people who live specifically in the BA2 postcode area responded to the survey,</i> 			

*An addendum report to main Consultation Report showed that 962 (54.5%) respondents came from the postcodes BA2 1** to BA2 5** and the using this constituency demographic, the preferences reflected the global result.*

The addendum report was published as part of the cabinet decision.

<https://democracy.bathnes.gov.uk/documents/s61953/Entry%20Hill%20Consultation%20Addendum%20Appendix%201a.pdf>

- *Publish responses from BA2 postcode respondents.*

These were published as part of the full report.

The BA2 responses from the Future of Entry Hill Consultation are detailed in the report. If you add 'Strongly Support' and 'Support' together then 'Trails for walking and Running' was the most popular option (73%) with the 'Family Cycle Centre' second at 68%.

A 'Park with a Café' scored 64%. All of these elements are included in the proposals for the bike park. 'Do not support' for golf was 55% which created the biggest reaction of all the options followed by allotments (49%)

M 10

Question from:

Councillor Karen Warrington

Taxi firms in Bath have complained that the Council is currently not accepting new applications for taxi licenses. This is reportedly having a negative impact on business as taxi firms cannot recruit new drivers. Please confirm if this is the case and, if so, explain why new licenses are not currently being accepted, outlining the Council's plan to ensure the service can resume as quickly as possible?

Answer from:

Councillor Tim Ball

Since the first lockdown, the Licensing Team have been migrating all of the taxi licensing functions to an online delivery method. The licensing renewal functions for existing licensees were prioritised first to ensure business continuity for existing drivers, vehicle proprietors and operators. Online processes for licence applications relating to new vehicles, operators and drivers are

now complete and are available online <https://www.bathnes.gov.uk/services/business/taxis/driver-vehicle-and-operator-licences/how-do-i-apply-drivers-licence>

M 11

Question from:

Councillor Karen Warrington

The country roads in North East Somerset are badly in need of repair, with potholes making large parts of the road network difficult to drive on. Please provide details of the Council's upcoming programme of road maintenance work to reassure residents living in the rural villages that potholes in these areas are being fixed?

Answer from:

Councillor David Wood

Each year the council publishes its' Highway Maintenance programme, please see the link to the 21/22 programme:

<https://democracy.bathnes.gov.uk/documents/s64630/08z%20Annex%205%20ii%20-%20Highways%20Maintenance%20Capital%20Programme%202021-22.pdf>

In addition, Highway Inspectors undertake proactive inspections of the network and respond to reports of pot holes, making arrangements to repair if necessary.

Supplementary Question

In the up coming budget, can the administration confirm that some rural roads will be put on the programme for repair for next year.

Answer from: Councillor Dave Wood

Yes.

M	12	Question from:	Councillor Paul May
<p>When the Council disposed of its housing stock to a private charity, currently Curo, it had a formal agreement. Does that agreement prevent the Council re-establishing itself as a council housing authority again?</p>			
Answer from:			Councillor Tom Davies
<p><i>A response will be provided within 5 working days.</i></p>			
M	13	Question from:	Councillor Paul May
<p>When the decision to dispose of 117 Newbridge Hill was called-in earlier this year, the Council stated it was stated that it was to provide low-cost housing opportunities for NHS staff at Bath RUH. This now appears not to be the case. If it is to be social housing, can you please re-address the original calculations for scrutiny by councillors? The funding decision was justified for not testing the competitive market by giving the works to ADL at a low valuation. With the power of hindsight, does this represent good value for money, and will the whole costs be scrutinised by committee? Also, will the social housing be provided by Curo ?</p>			
Answer from:			Councillor Richard Samuel
<p><i>Given the high demand for affordable housing in the district tonight's report recommends reconfiguring the scheme to provide seven social rented homes. This does not fundamentally change the business model, merely how the scheme is financed. Instead of the properties being sold on the open market they will be purchased by the Council using a combination of Government funding, borrowing supported by rents and Council subsidy.</i></p> <p><i>The properties will be owned by the Council. However, who provides the housing management functions, such as maintenance, rent collection etc. will be subject to a future decision following meaningful cross-party engagement.</i></p>			

M	14	Question from: Councillor Paul May
<p>Bristol City Council has closed roads just over the border adjacent to Whitchurch Village. It has caused chaos and the parish council is upset that it was not told beforehand. This is the second time in a year that this has happened. Last time we asked for cross-border communications to be reviewed. Buses have now been diverted onto unsuitable roads. Were you aware of these issues beforehand?</p>		
Answer from:		Councillor Manda Rigby
<p><i>The road closures and signed diversion for these works are entirely within Bristol City Council's boundary. However, highway authorities should usually advise each other of any potentially disruptive works near boundaries. It didn't happen in this case but we have since been in contact with Bristol City Council and put in place measures to improve cross-boundary communications. With regards to the bus route, the operator is responsible for identifying suitable alternatives to maintain their service and they do not require the highway authority's approval. They have advised us that they checked the route and deemed it was suitable for buses.</i></p>		
M	15	Question from: Councillor Paul May
<p>The Local Plan Partial Update consultation has now closed. The Council agreed any last-minute changes could be delegated to you and your officers. Are you proposing any changes which might delay the whole process?</p>		
Answer from:		Councillor Tim Ball
<p><i>As this was a formal consultation, the comments received are primarily intended for the Inspector's consideration at the</i></p>		

forthcoming public exam. The need for any minor amendments is currently being considered but no delay to the programme is currently anticipated.

Supplementary Question:

Councillor Ball you have led the cross party engagement in the LPPU and this has been excellent. Of course, the major worry my communities have is the impending SDS carried out by WECA. Are you prepared to fight for meeting BANES housing needs set by government as opposed to taking unreasonable city expansion needs from Bristol to meet their needs.

Answer from: Councillor Tim Ball

Thank you for the acknowledgement regarding the LPPU. Regarding the impending SDS carried out by WECA, the figures are being worked up and yes, we will fight for BANES housing needs and ensure there is proper consultation on housing

M 16

Question from:

Councillor Paul May

Is the current Adults and Children's Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee effective in terms of cabinet members, officers, elected members and advisors time and costs?

Answer from:

Councillor Kevin Guy

The delivery and effectiveness of Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee functions are not Cabinet functions

Supplementary Question:

Leader as you have experience as the former Cabinet Member for Children's Services I am sure you appreciate that the current joint committee for children and adults is just not working effectively to allow proper scrutiny of over 80% of the councils

expenditure?

If this has to be a council decision at the annual meeting is there any reason why the committee request for the council to consider the principle of two single committees to improve democracy is being withheld?

Answer from: Councillor Kevin Guy

I fully support you. Members put in hours of hard work. We will take this question away and make sure it happens.

M 17

Question from:

Councillor Joanna Wright

The World Health Organisation (WHO) have now set new guidance on air pollution levels due to the well-researched data of the harmful impacts of air pollution on all sections of society including gestating babies. The new WHO limits for air pollution levels should be lowered by 37% to 25 µg/m³. How are B&NES Council going to respond to the new WHO guidelines?

Answer from:

Councillor Sarah Warren

The World Health Organisation (WHO) have issued new Global Air Quality Guidelines relating to nitrogen dioxide and particulate matter for both indoor and outdoor environments. These guidelines, which are not enforceable until adopted by the UK government, suggest that the objective levels for nitrogen dioxide and particulate matter should be lowered, underlining the detrimental impact these pollutants can have on public health. Going forward, the Council will be mindful of these guidelines in its messaging around air quality and will participate in the anticipated public consultation lead by DEFRA in early 2022 on how these guidelines will be enshrined into UK legislation.

M 18

Question from:

Councillor Joanna Wright

In the Liveable Neighbourhoods strategy document signed off by Cabinet a year ago, it was agreed that in all proposals a relevant circulation plan for vehicles would be agreed. Please can you let residents know when officers will be making public the agreed circulation plans?

Answer from:

Councillor Sarah Warren

A response will be provided within 5 working days.

M 19

Question from:

Councillor Joanna Wright

The Local cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) agreed at sign off to put in place a strategic cycle network. When will this strategic cycle network be put in the public domain and added to the LCWIP?

Answer from:

Councillor Sarah Warren

The West of England Combined Authority (WECA) is working on a regional Walking and Cycling investment strategy to guide investment decisions over the next five years, with funding available via the unprecedented £540m allocated to the region through the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement. This will include the development of a strategic cycle network

M 20

Question from:

Councillor Joanna Wright

The Active Travel Fund 2 Upper Bristol Road design was publicly consulted on 23rd June 2021. The signed off design introduced 6 car parking spaces reducing the width of the pavement and narrowing the cycle lane. Who asked for this change and who approved it?

Answer from:		Councillor Sarah Warren
<i>A response will be provided within 5 working days.</i>		
M	21	Question from: Councillor Joanna Wright
<p>On 20 Sept 21 an “E-Cargo Bike Proposal” was submitted to Ashley Beighton and Chris Major by Cllr Wright, In conjunction with ThreeBags Full, Transition Bath and 3SG. To-date no response has been received. Could the Cabinet please confirm that the proposal has been/is being considered by the relevant parties and advise when a response will be made?</p>		
Answer from:		Councillor Sarah Warren
<p><i>Yes, the proposal has been fully considered and has been helpful. A number of aspects of the proposal were already within the scope of the e-cargo bike project as originally proposed (cargo bike infrastructure to pick up and deliver goods across the city, pick-up and drop-off hubs, and engagement on the proposals), other aspects of the proposal have, where possible, now been incorporated within the project (bringing residents, charities, social enterprises and community organisations within scope).</i></p> <p><i>However not all aspects of the proposal can be taken on board as the funding has been provided by central government as mitigation for the impact of the Clean Air Zone primarily on those vehicles affected by charges, which excludes private cars.</i></p> <p><i>We are also committed to exploring the opportunity to amend and improve our existing (free to use) e-cargo bike loan scheme so as to make this more accessible to those businesses, charities, residents and community groups keen to move goods around Bath in different ways themselves.</i></p>		
M	22	Question from: Councillor Joanna Wright

At a Zoom meeting on 17 Sept 21 attended by Ashley Beighton, Paul Thompson, Cathryn Brown, Cllr Wright and Stephen Paul, the Council Officers indicated that they favoured allocating the £700k grant from government for an 'only mile' e-cargo bike scheme by means of what they called a 'delivery subsidy scheme'. Please advise the latest status of the proposed 'delivery subsidy scheme'?

Answer from:

Councillor Sarah Warren

The current proposal being developed is to pilot a delivery subsidy scheme. If this pilot proves successful, then the scheme may be extended. In preparation for this pilot, which is scheduled to commence at the end of January 2022, the following activities have recently been undertaken:

- The CAZ behaviour change team has met with Bath's commercial e-cargo delivery service operators and their existing customers to understand what the key drivers were for them in switching to this method of delivery. We will then start contacting other potential 'early adopters' to highlight how this service could support their development. The learning gathered during these discussions will help to further inform and refine our proposals ahead of broader engagement with all other stakeholders.*
- Developed a comprehensive communications strategy for the project to be rolled out as appropriate.*
- Developed a comprehensive framework of operator acceptance criteria to ensure that the proposed service is effective and efficient, with high customer satisfaction and providing good employment opportunities during the pilot and beyond.*
- Working with a eCommerce delivery company to investigate the potential for smart lockers to be installed around the CAZ to help decarbonise deliveries whilst providing free and flexible mini-distribution hubs for city centre businesses, organisations, and residents.*

We know that WECA proposes an Urban Freight Programme, which complements our scheme. It intends to begin a trial in the new year of e-cargo bikes on campus sites across the city, with a second tranche of support measures following on later in the year which will include a scheme for shared/community use of e-cargo bikes, encouraging more tradespeople to use e-cargo bikes when carrying out maintenance and servicing, and examining at how e-cargo bikes can be used for parcel returns etc. We will be liaising with all the stakeholders regularly to ensure a sustainable and enduring legacy for e-cargo bikes in Bath.

M 23	Question from:	Councillor Joanna Wright
<p>In February 2020, the Prime Minister announced the bus services across the country would be transformed with simpler fares, thousands of new buses, improved routes and higher frequencies. As Cabinet Lead on Transport and as B&NES is the Highway Authority how will you be leading on the real need for “improved bus routes” that would allow the many buses stuck in congested traffic on B&NES’s highways to make quicker more efficient journeys?</p>		
Answer from:		Councillor Manda Rigby
<p><i>The Government published its National Bus Strategy (NBS) under the title of Bus Back Better in March 2021 and gave a commitment to spend £3 billion over the lifetime of this parliament to support buses. In response, the West of England Combined Authority and North Somerset Council published a joint Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) on 28 October 2021. That sets out what needs to be done to bring bus services up to the standard aspired to in the NBS. It includes targets to improve bus journey times and punctuality. Alongside it, a bid was submitted to Government for funding to deliver the improvements.</i></p> <p><i>In the recent Budget, it was announced that the West of England CA would receive £540 million capital funding for transport schemes over the next 5 years. Full details have not been provided yet but it is anticipated that a good proportion will be for bus-related schemes.</i></p> <p><i>B&NES has worked with the West of England CA to identify the key locations for investment in bus priority measures in its area, and to plan a programme of implementation – subject to funding. The outline programme is shown in the BSIP, which can be viewed at https://www.westofengland-ca.gov.uk/what-we-do/transport/bus/</i></p>		
M 24	Question from:	Councillor Joanna Wright

What is the level of CO2 emissions generated by surface transport in the B&NES per year? Knowing this number please can you confirm the percentage B&NES will have to reduce surface transport by, to hit its 2030 Climate Emergency target?

Answer from:

Councillor Manda Rigby

“Of the 766,876 tonnes of CO₂ emitted within the district each year 29% are as a result of transport. This equates to 216,110 t/CO₂e/yr. The Synthesis of Evidence that accompanied the Climate Emergency Outline Plan shows the deployment scale for the main measures to reduce energy demand on the Stretch pathway. This indicates that the scale of action required to become carbon neutral in transport terms equates to a 25% reduction in car use kilometres per person per year or a modal shift creating a 7% reduction in car travel. The numbers serve to indicate the scale of action needed and are likely to change as local information is gathered.”

Source: <https://democracy.bathnes.gov.uk/documents/s58689/Appendix%20-%20Synthesis%20of%20Evidence.pdf> (2019)

M 25

Question from:

Councillor Joanna Wright

At the recent B&NES Standards Committee meeting dated 12th October 2021, I asked that the committee support me in putting in place a new code of conduct that asked that all Cllrs declare all property owned inside and outside of B&NES. The Liberal Democrat led Standards committee did not agree to move forward on Councillors declaring second homes as they claimed, “it would breach their human rights”. Do you agree that it is a breach of your human right to declare if you have a second home outside of B&NES?

Answer from:

Councillor Kevin Guy

The Standards Committee made a decision based upon a detailed officers report, informed discussion and debate. The draft minutes record that the Monitoring Officer explained that councillors had rights as individuals and that your proposal could impinge on their human right to a private and family life. I am prepared to accept the Monitoring Officers advice and the

Standards Committee decision.

M 26

Question from:

Councillor Joanna Wright

Please can you confirm the amount paid to Virgin Care for the contract with the school nurse service to run the Covid vaccination programmes in schools? Can you give full information on how this Virgin Care contract was overridden so that parents can use the National Booking Service to arrange Covid-19 vaccinations for under 16s?

Answer from:

Councillor Dine Romero

The work to deliver COVID vaccinations to 12-15 year olds within schools is not part of the community services contract commissioned by Bath and North East Somerset Council and NHS BSW CCG. It is commissioned by NHS England and is delivered by the immunisations team from our children's community services contract (not by school's nurses). We are delivering the vaccination programme within schools as per our contract arrangement and in line with other service providers across the country. The offer from the national booking service runs alongside the school's vaccination programme as an additional option for any parents who may wish to get their child vaccinated outside of the school setting or at a time outside of school hours.

M 27

Question from:

Councillor Joanna Wright

Trees play a vital role in addressing the climate emergency as they remove emissions from the air around us. Trees and woodlands absorb CO₂, provide oxygen, cool urban areas, provide habitats for wildlife and give people opportunities to engage with nature. The recent donation of trees for local residents from the Parks Dept is a great success and a much boost to the Ecological Emergency. Please can you confirm how many trees will be needed to be planted to offset the CO₂ emissions from the carbon output of surface transport in B&NES and what percentage of B&NES will be needed to plant that many trees?

Answer from:	Councillor David Wood	
<p>Tree planting is a priority for the Council and is one of the many methods the Council is using to tackle the climate emergency. The amount of carbon trees store varies over time, as do transport emissions, so an exact comparison would not be accurate. Transport emissions make up approximately 29% of the district's carbon footprint. Further detail we've previously published on this can be found here: : https://democracy.bathnes.gov.uk/documents/s58689/Appendix%20-%20Synthesis%20of%20Evidence.pdf</p> <p>Planting trees in a specified proportion of the district would not equate to a linear quantity of carbon sequestration. The right tree needs to be planted in the right place to ensure that there is a net positive benefit to sequestering carbon by planting trees on that specific piece of land. It is unfortunately too simplistic for us to say that planting a certain number of trees would offset a certain proportion of transport emissions as there are so many dependencies.</p> <p>Thank you for your support of our tree planting initiatives as one of our climate emergency actions. We will be announcing more in due course.</p>		
M 28	Question from:	Councillor Joanna Wright
<p>Plans are being finalised for the design of a mountain bike park on the current site of Entry Hill Golf Course. One of the key documents supporting any planning permission for the project will be the Transport Study.</p> <p>What assumptions are being made for the distance travelled by visitors and modes of travel to the proposed mountain bike park within the Transport Study, and what evidence are these assumptions based on?</p>		
Answer from:	Councillor David Wood	
<p><i>A response will be provided within 5 working days.</i></p>		

M	29	Question from:	Councillor Joanna Wright
<p>As the design and location of the Entry Hill Golf Course amenity is unique, and no equivalent or relevant historical data exists, will the council agree to commission a specific survey of potential users within an agreed 'cyclable' radius, i.e. 5 miles, to gather data to compare with assumptions made in the Transport Study?</p>			
Answer from:			Councillor David Wood
<p><i>A response will be provided within 5 working days.</i></p>			
M	30	Question from:	Councillor Joanna Wright
<p>B&NES councillors unanimously declared an Ecological Emergency in 2020 and committed to prevent further damage to our natural environment and the ecosystems that exist within it from human activity.</p> <p>Please can the Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Resources outline how he intends to ensure that the removal of trees in any development is not at the discretion of the Developer but follows agreed Council guidelines that ensures the right diagnosis is in place for any felled trees and that any newly agreed planted trees are suitable to restore the urban tree canopy cover within an agreed timeline?</p> <p>In particular can the council ensure that trees which are diagnosed with disease by developer's consultants are inspected by the Tree Officer to ensure that the diagnosis is correct and the felling absolutely necessary and that the replanting is correctly put in place?</p>			
Answer from:			Councillor Richard Samuel
<p><i>Any planning applications for land are governed by the council's policies in place at the time of application including those relating to tree removal or replacement.</i></p>			

M	31	Question from:	Councillor Joanna Wright
<p>Sir David Attenborough recently stated “Is this how our story is due to end? A tale of the smartest species doomed by that all too realistic human characteristic of failing to see the bigger picture in pursuit of short-term goals?”.</p> <p>The Deputy Leader for Economic Development and Resources recently gave free parking on Saturdays in council-owned car parks in Keynsham High Street, so that residents can shop-local. How do the Deputy Leaders make sense of this short-term goal, when the Council has declared a climate emergency and is calling for a reduction in fossil fuel surface transport?</p>			
Answer from:			Councillors Richard Samuel and Sarah Warren
<p><i>Free parking has been offered due to the exceptional circumstances presented by the public realm improvements presently under way in Keynsham High Street. This is not a long term solution but a short term measure over three Saturdays in December to support businesses who have been hard hit by Covid-19 and the construction works in the high street. While the council encourages active travel, walking and cycling, it hopes that the free parking encourages visits to Keynsham town centre and increased footfall on the high street during the Christmas period. By encouraging residents to shop local we can help sustain our local centres and high streets in the long term.</i></p>			

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS - PUBLIC

P 01	Question from:	David Redgewell
<p>What progress is the Leader of the Council (Councillor Kevin Guy) making with Mayor Malvin Rees of Bristol City Council, Councillor Toby Savage (Leader of South Gloucestershire Council) and Councillor Dan Davis (Leader of North Somerset Council) in arranging a joint committee's meeting of the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority with Mayor Dan Norris?</p>		
Answer from:		Councillor Kevin Guy
<p><i>I have met with Mayor Dan Norris to explore ways forward. We anticipate meetings will be held in December, although final arrangements are still to be confirmed.</i></p>		
P 02	Question from:	David Redgewell
<p>What progress is being made by Bath and North Somerset Council with Bristol City Council and South Gloucestershire Council in setting up a governance review at the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority with Mayor Dan Norris to look at setting up a full integrated transport authority and for North Somerset Council to join the combined authority?</p>		
Answer from:		Councillor Kevin Guy
<p><i>I have had positive discussions with Mayor Norris as well as the UAs. I'm confident progress will be made to address the questions raised.</i></p>		