

COUNCIL MEETING 21ST SEPTEMBER 2023

STATEMENTS FROM PUBLIC

Public

1. Chad Allen English Ivy
2. Jeff Manning Petition – “Poor service levels for routine services and certain aspects of the estate environment”
(*statement circulated*)
3. Robbie Bentley Public transport issues
4. Gavin Hambrey Urban gulls (*statement circulated*)
5. Matt Cooper Sustainability and health benefits of BathNES council adopting plant-based menus (*statement circulated*)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS - PUBLIC

P	01	Question from:	Chad Allen
Does the CAZ data include pollution from aviation, transport and buses?			
Answer from:			Cllr Sarah Warren
Yes – the CAZ is concerned with total nitrogen dioxide (NO ₂) concentrations for all sources ((traffic, domestic, aviation, industry etc.) There is however no means by which to split out the contributions from individual sources. NO ₂ concentrations are greatest at the roadside – indicative of the significant contributions from traffic.			
P	02	Question from:	Chad Allen
If not, can this information be included in the next annual report?			
Answer from:			Cllr Sarah Warren
There is no means to split out the contributions of NO ₂ to identify its origin. NO ₂ concentrations are highest at the roadside indicative of the overwhelming contribution traffic is likely to have.			
P	03	Question from:	Chad Allen
How many cemeteries does B&NES own?			
Answer from:			Cllr Tim Ball

The council owns seven cemeteries, and we are responsible for the ongoing maintenance of 31 closed cemeteries across the district that are owned by the diocese and or parish.

P	04	Question from:	Tracy Carter
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In February 2023 at full Council, the Council, under the Leadership of Councillor Kevin Guy, voted against a proposed amendment to item 8 Budget and Council Tax for school streets in B&NES. However, the Leadership team clearly stated that they supported measures to protect young people outside of schools. As schools have returned for the new academic year, which schools in B&NES have had the 'no parking' road markings refreshed to ensure dangerous parking does not take place outside of schools?

Answer from:	Cllr Manda Rigby
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At Full Council the Cabinet strongly supported the development of school streets but rejected the motion as alternative funding streams needed to be identified to those proposed by Cllr Wright.

Since budget setting, Cabinet has identified the suitable alternative funding of £200k which is now allocated to the development of school streets. The work is in progress to develop a suitable scheme.

From an enforcement perspective, we have existing legal powers to tackle vehicles that park on yellow school keep clear marking and welcome intelligence from the public and school staff about locations where this may be a regular problem so that our resources can be prioritised, in cooperation with the Police, so that dangerous and anti-social parking around our schools can be addressed. If road markings are faded and worn, they can be reported via Fix My Street at <https://fix.bathnes.gov.uk/>

These reports can be passed to the council's parking team at parking@bathnes.gov.uk

P05	Question from:	Nicolette Boater
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Thankyou Cllr. Wood for your grateful and thoughtful reply to the first of two questions I asked Cabinet a fortnight ago (page 20-21 of the [7.9.23 Cabinet Q&A document](#)).

Your affirmation that the Council understands the importance and urgency of the multiple challenges facing our locality, and recognises the

“synergies” between its two core policies is reassuring. (Though given the uncertain complex world the Council is operating in, and that policy interdependence carries the risk of negative as well as positive tipping points, perhaps fool hardy in ruling out the possibility that the Council’s relative lack of attention as to how it will raise its game in regard to “listening to and working with residents” could be an Achilles’ heel “in regard to the delivery of the Corporate Strategy”.)

I also welcome your recognition of

- “massive opportunity to engage communities early to identify priorities, “co-design” solutions and show imagination and flexibility as we deliver” and your perception of the role of the Area Forums in this, and that
- the Council is integrating Doughnut Economics principles into its core strategies and its forthcoming Local Plan, and working with D.E.A.L. (Doughnut Economics Action Lab) to include local citizens, businesses and community groups to do so.

However this raises the question for me as to whether the Council’s Connecting Communities Fora which have served us well over the years but in my view are now doing so less well, might be redesigned or modified to better enable the more inclusive, respectful and contextual Council-communities conversations so vital to unleashing, nurturing and amplifying the creativity and collaboration the increasing challenges facing our locality demand of us all.

Is this something you, and/or the officers with relevant decision-making authority, would also like to discuss further?

Answer from:	Cllr Dave Wood
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I would like to thank the questioner for her positive response to my answer to her question at cabinet. We regularly review the format and approaches we use for our Area Forums, and I as cabinet member am always happy to hear people’s experiences about how they are working, and ideas they have for their future development.

P06	Question from:	Nicolette Boater
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Thankyou Cllr. Guy for your reply to the second of two questions I asked Cabinet a fortnight ago (page 21-22 of the [7.9.23 Cabinet Q&A document](#)).

And thankyou for acknowledging and apologising on behalf of the Council that I was not credited with the page 3 strapline (“...strong and resilient societies, economies and ecosystems evolve and thrive on diversity, inclusion and connectivity.”) and several other expertise-laden comments I made in the June 2021 ‘[Bath with NES: Ambitious together](#)’ , whereas those from individuals affiliated with anchor institutions or prominent businesses were so named.

Given that

- the report has been published by Council, a lead partner in the Future Ambition Board;
- the report has become a core policy making strategy for our locality;
- the Council’s renewed commitment to treating citizens with “Equality” and “Respect” in its 2023-27 Corporate Strategy; and
- the systemic effects of this lack of recognition on someone who contributed her time and expertise on a voluntary basis;

a. What steps will the Council be taking to ensure that at least the online version of the report is updated with all my contributions attributed to me by name?

and

b. What changes will the Council consider making to its Equality Impact Assessment procedures and proformas to prevent this sort of unconscious bias going unchecked?

Answer from:

Cllr Kevin Guy

- a) I do not think it’s an appropriate use of the resources of the Council or its partners to go back and edit and republish a document published over two years ago on behalf of a partnership grouping.
- b) As this document was produced by a consultancy on behalf of the partnership, I will ask officers to look at how we work with such contractors in future to ensure contributors are happy with how their contributions are to be treated.