

Council

Wednesday, 10 November 2021

Additional Information Pack

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**FULL COUNCIL 10 NOVEMBER 2021
QUESTIONS**

Questions were received under the following categories:

<u>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION</u>	
<u>Questions from members of the public</u>	
1.	<p>Question from John Hopkins</p> <p>For Councillor Hiller, Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Commercial Strategy and Investments</p> <p>I am asking this question on behalf of the group of residents campaigning to save the ancient oak tree in Blind Lane, Ringwood, Bretton which is threatened by an insurance claim for alleged subsidence damage to nearby property.</p> <p>Through researching the planning history, we have found out that when the house at 9 Barnard Way was built, planning condition no9 attached to the planning permission prohibited any future attachment of any structures to the rear elevation of the property. Yet subsequently a conservatory was attached to this elevation and the current owner's insurers are now alleging that it is this conservatory that is being damaged by subsidence caused by the tree.</p> <p>So could the relevant cabinet member tell me why the Council wants to remove an ancient and healthy tree to prevent damage to a conservatory that was constructed illegally in contravention of a planning condition? Surely the council cannot be held responsible for alleged damage to a building that should not be there.</p>
2.	<p>Question from Richard Olive</p> <p>For Councillor Simons, Cabinet Member for Cabinet Member for Waste, Street Scene and the Environment</p> <p>I'm Richard Olive and I'm a Company Member of the Peterborough Environment City Trust. Recently I've been carrying out a study on behalf of the PECT Members regarding sustainable water usage in Peterborough. As many of you will no doubt be fully aware the future supplies of sustainable waters are predicted to be a serious consequence of climate change. Peterborough is officially located in a water stressed area. I was pleased to find that the Peterborough Local Plan 2016 to 2036 (adopted 24th Just 2019), Policy LP32: Water Efficiency objective states 'To Minimise impact on the water environment all new dwellings should achieve the Optional Technical Housing Standard of 110 litres per day for water efficiency as described by Building Regulations G2'. (Note the standard requirement is 125 litres per person per day). Upon making further investigations both to the PCC's Building Development and Control Sections I was informed that the water minimisation condition has to be applied at the Outline Planning stage. However, on consulting all planning permissions granted from July 2019 to the present day I was disappointed to find that the condition has only been applied twice. Could the relevant cabinet member please inform me why this policy has not been applied to most of the planning applications over the past two years and, given that new houses have an average lifespan of at least 55 years, how much water will be wasted over the next 55 years due to Peterborough City Council's failure to properly apply its own planning policies?</p>

3.

Question from Colin Hammond

For Councillor Hiller, Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Commercial Strategy and Investments

My house has had a car driven into it twice in less than 3 years. I am sure you would have seen extensive coverage of the incident in the national news websites, local press and ITV Anglia news. This is a result of excessive speeding on Atherstone Avenue and Buckland Close. Thankfully no one was injured in these crashes but who is to say that we will be lucky if it happens again. There are 3 schools in the local vicinity and Buckland Close is used as a thoroughfare by lots of people working at and attending the hospital. There are quite a number of children and adults walking on these roads during the day. We need, as a matter of urgency, some speed calming measures in place. Neighbouring properties have had damage to their walls and cars....and light posts being knocked down by speeding cars. Ideally speed bumps will be the preferred choice. AND....to be selfish...crash barriers/bollards along Buckland close to protect my property as well as keeping my family safe. The emotional stress, inconvenience and financial loss is no fault of our own. As you may have read in the local papers there has been incidents in the last week where a car drove into the wall of another property in Atherstone Ave and also the post box was demolished at the Audley Gate/Thorpe Park Road Junction.

Can the Council help in commencing the process to install speed calming measures to be put in place on these roads?

We also request to move our fencing to the boundary to allow us to have further protective measures for our property (and peace of mind) put in place.

Below are the links to some of the sites that covered the incident. Apologies if they are off their website now.

Peterborough today:

<https://www.peterboroughtoday.co.uk/news/crime/peterborough-house-hit-by-car-for-second-time-in-three-years-leading-to-speed-bump-call-3367666>

ITV news Anglia:

<https://www.itv.com/news/anglia>

BBC news:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-cambridgeshire-58401594>

Peterborough Matters:

<https://www.facebook.com/104692950940399/posts/601292717947084/?d=n>

COUNCIL BUSINESS

Questions on notice to:

- a. The Mayor
- b. To the Leader or Member of the Cabinet
- c. To the Chair of any Committee or Sub-committee

1. **Question from Councillor Qayyum**

Councillor Steve Allen, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing, Culture and Communities

The current administration has on many occasions determined the need to pursue a Housing Revenue Account to facilitate the supply of desperately needed social housing in Peterborough. Can I ask what progress has been made in this direction and why this facility hasn't yet been set up?

2. **Question from Councillor Amjad Iqbal**

For Councillor Simons, Cabinet Member for Waste, Street Scene and the Environment

As the shadow Cabinet Member for Waste, Street Scene and the Environment it is both in my and our group's interest to follow and contribute to matters relating to my shadow cabinet post. I note that the Peterborough Integrated Renewables Infrastructure – better known as the PIRI - project was set up nearly 2 years ago to develop a low cost, low carbon-emission, integrated energy system design for electricity, heat and transport, to benefit the Peterborough Community.

What progress has been made with the PIRI Project?

3. **Question from Councillor Shaz Nawaz (1)**

Councillor Steve Allen, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing, Culture and Communities

I appreciate the council is committed to reducing and I hope eliminating rough sleeping. To that extent could you please explain:

1. How many rough sleepers do we have?
2. What efforts have been made to find them housing?
3. What are the main stumbling blocks for find housing for those who continue to sleep rough?

4. **Question from Councillor Haynes (1)**

Councillor Simons, Cabinet Member for Waste, Street Scene and the Environment

Following the recent COP26 conference on climate change, could the relevant cabinet member tell me whether the cabinet is still committed to the Council resolution passed in July 2019 which stated an intention to get both Peterborough City Council and the

	<p>City of Peterborough as a whole to net zero carbon by 2030. Given that the UK Government's commitment is to get to next zero carbon by 2050, could the cabinet member tell me what additional measures Peterborough City Council intends to take to implement to the target 20 years earlier than the Government is proposing?</p>
5.	<p>Question from Councillor Scott Warren</p> <p>For Councillor Bisby, Cabinet Advisor to the Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education, Skills and the University</p> <p>I understand that Ofsted recently carried out a focus visit to Peterborough that concentrated on the quality of our services for our Children in Care. As Corporate Parents, it is important for all members to know the outcome. Could we hear a brief summary of the findings from the visit?</p>
6.	<p>Question from Councillor Imtiaz Ali</p> <p>For Councillor Simons, Cabinet Member for Waste, Street Scene and the Environment</p> <p>Given the challenges we face with respect to climate change and the Government's pledge to reduce carbon emissions by 78% compared to 1990 levels, can you please let me know:</p> <p>a) What is the progress towards improving infrastructure as a Local Council? b) Specifically, do we have a plan to ensure we have sufficient EV charging points fast enough to meet the growing need? c) Can we ensure that free charging continues for taxis? d) How is progress towards allowing residential applicants for "House to Kerb" points being installed? e) When can we expect residents to be informed of how these applications can be made?</p>
7.	<p>Question from Councillor Sandford (1)</p> <p>Councillor Hiller, Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Commercial Strategy and Investments</p> <p>On top of the shortage of lorry drivers leading to scarcity of some essential items in supermarkets, we now hear that bus drivers are being tempted by higher salaries offered by road haulage companies to train as lorry drivers, thus leading to a consequent shortage of bus drivers which has caused our local bus company, Stagecoach, to cut the frequency of most Peterborough bus services. This follows the Covid pandemic when people were asked for a period not to use public transport and when it is now vital to get passenger numbers up again and to restore public confidence in bus services in order for the council and the country to reach its carbon reduction commitments. The cut in services is also likely to lead to buses becoming crowded at peak times, thus leading to increased exposure of passengers to the Coronavirus and a serious additional hazard to public health.</p> <p>So what representations has the Council made to Stagecoach and to the Mayor and the Combined Authority to ensure that normal bus service frequencies are restored as soon as possible?</p>
8.	<p>Question from Councillor Sandra Bond</p>

	<p>Councillor Simons, Cabinet Member for Waste, Street Scene and the Environment</p> <p>A resident has told me that when they enquired recently about what to do with their garden waste following the recent suspension of garden waste collections by the Council, they were told to put the garden waste in their black bin. Given the current financial situation faced by the Council, could the relevant Cabinet member tell me what assessment they have made of the likely financial impact on the Council's budget of the suspension of garden waste collections, both in terms of the cost of putting the additional garden waste through the Council waste incinerator and the loss of income from garden waste collection charges?</p>
9.	<p>Question from Councillor John Fox</p> <p>For Councillor Simons, Cabinet Member for Waste, Street Scene and the Environment</p> <p>Why are the footpaths and cycle paths not being cut back to the true border in the same way they have been in past years?</p> <p>They are a complete mess in some areas, with mud and grass spreading out over them, narrowing the width and making certain prestigious areas look run down and unmaintained.</p> <p>What are the plans to remedy this problem?</p>
10.	<p>Question from Councillor Murphy (1)</p> <p>Councillor Steve Allen, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing, Culture and Communities</p> <p>Can the Cabinet Member tell me:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) How many homeless families and other homeless applicants are there in temporary accommodation and in other accommodation arrangements awaiting permanent accommodation? and b) What is the longest time somebody who has applied as homeless has spent in a temporary accommodation arrangement? and c) What is the longest time for an applicant in temporary accommodation who is currently awaiting a permanent solution?
11.	<p>Question from Councillor Wiggin (1)</p> <p>Councillor Steve Allen, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing, Culture and Communities</p> <p>Could the relevant cabinet member please provide an update on the implementation of an article 4 direction across Peterborough to regulate smaller HMOs?</p>
12.	<p>Question from Councillor Hogg (1)</p> <p>Councillor Simons, Cabinet Member for Waste, Street Scene and the Environment</p>

	<p>The council recently launched a campaign to increase the use of food waste bins throughout the city, can the cabinet member for Cabinet Member for Waste, Street Scene and the Environment please inform full council on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) What the usage is in terms of the amount of food waste collected? b) What the percentage of households using the bins before and after the campaign is? c) What was the cost of the campaign?
13.	<p>Question from Councillor Howell</p> <p>Councillor Steve Allen, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing, Culture and Communities</p> <p>Would the cabinet member join me in congratulating our city's Speedway team, Peterborough Panthers, on becoming 2021 Premiership Champions, their first league title since 2006?</p>
14.	<p>Question from Councillor Sandford (2)</p> <p>Councillor Fitzgerald, Leader of the Council</p> <p>Does the leader of the Council recognise that live streaming of council meetings and committees is an important way of engaging the public in the important debates and decisions of Peterborough City Council?</p> <p>We were until recently live streaming on Facebook and YouTube all full council, cabinet and committee meetings. Can the Leader explain why live streaming has now stopped with the exception of full council meetings and can he explore whether a small capital investment in some new recording equipment could enable live streaming to be restarted?</p>
15.	<p>Question from Councillor Wiggin (2)</p> <p>Councillor Irene Walsh, Cabinet Member for Integrated Adult Social Care, Health and Public Health</p> <p>Green highlighter pens shaped like syringes have been used by the council to promote vaccine take up in the 12-16 age bracket. This has upset parents who are concerned that they resemble drug paraphernalia. Could the relevant cabinet member confirm how much this cost, how many complaints were received, and what processes are in place for ensuring that marketing and advertising from the council is appropriate?</p>
16.	<p>Question from Councillor Imtiaz Ali</p> <p>Councillor Hiller, Cabinet Member for Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Commercial Strategy and Investments</p> <p>With residents raising issues about local companies (particularly car garages) occupying residential streets and taking up parking spaces, what can residents do to ensure they have priority parking on the streets where they live? Is there any support the council can give to residents, short of implementing a parking permit scheme which ends up costing residents to park on their own street?</p>
17.	<p>Question from Councillor Hogg (2)</p>

	<p>Councillor Steve Allen, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing, Culture and Communities</p> <p>Following on from my question from June’s Full Council, can the Deputy Leader please update us on the progress being made on the plans for the relocation of the City Market and the progress of consultation with Market Stall holders?</p>
18.	<p>Question from Councillor Shaz Nawaz (2)</p> <p>Councillor Simons, Cabinet Member for Waste, Street Scene and the Environment</p> <p>We have installed public EV charging points in the city but are still below the UK average. What efforts are being made to get us to the UK average?</p>
19.	<p>Question from Councillor Haynes (2)</p> <p>Councillor Simons, Cabinet Member for Waste, Street Scene and the Environment</p> <p>The Cabinet recently announced that three parks in Peterborough have been awarded Green Flag status but then the following day announced that there will be no further applications for Green Flag status in future years in Peterborough, as the budget is being cut. A Council press release claimed that no longer applying for Green Flag status will save the Council over £60,000 a year. Can the relevant cabinet member give me a breakdown of these costs please?</p>
20.	<p>Question from Councillor Murphy (2)</p> <p>Councillor Steve Allen, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing, Culture and Communities</p> <p>Earlier this year we corresponded about derelict, unused and misused garages and agreed that these sites could be put to better use, perhaps in order to build new dwellings. I requested that an action plan be prepared for corporate management team and would like to know how this has been progressed bearing in mind that specific sites have been identified and when will new build works will start.</p>

	<p><u>Questions on notice to:</u></p> <p>d. The Combined Authority Representatives</p>
1.	<p>Question from Councillor Murphy</p> <p>Councillor Fitzgerald, Combined Authority Board Representative</p> <p>What is the Combined Authority’s vision for transport in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and when do you expect an agreed vision and the plan to be prepared to deliver this?</p>
2.	<p>Question from Councillor Wiggin</p> <p>Councillor Fitzgerald, Combined Authority Board Representative</p> <p>In light of recent cuts to bus services by Stagecoach in Peterborough, could the combined authority representatives provide an update on progress in implementing bus franchising across Cambridgeshire and confirm what representations that have made to push for this to happen faster?</p>

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