

(5) PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The following questions were submitted on 21 February 2020, i.e. in sufficient time for them to be presented at the Meeting, but after the deadline by which responses could be guaranteed to be provided either in advance of, or at, the Meeting. As such, responses will be provided either at or within five working days of the Council Meeting.

(1) Question from Mr David Fowles of Poulton to Councillor Mark Harris, Cabinet Member for Car Parks and Town and Parish Councils I

'I have been following the plans for improving Cirencester's car parking under your Chairmanship with interest for a few years now.

I would like to ask you to answer the following:

Until recently residents and local businesses were told by both the Leader and you that the Waterloo multi-storey car park plan was well advanced, that there had been detailed discussions with stakeholders and that a design consultation exercise to look at alternative designs had taken place with over 800 responses giving a clear winner.

As you know the local community has expressed major concerns about the proposed car park as being far too big, over dominant in the townscape, in the wrong place and environmentally unfriendly particularly at a time when the CDC has declared a climate emergency.

Could you confirm whether these plans are now going ahead or whether the rumours that a smaller car park with less storeys is now the way forward?

At the same time your administration is proposing today to put up car parking charges across the District by over 20% generating a further £435,000 on top of the £1m already generated.

Since all your plans for car parking appear to be Cirencester based, what plans if any do you have to spend this money to improve car parking elsewhere in the District in the other market towns where you will be putting up charges?'

(2) Question from Mr David Fowles of Poulton to To Councillor Tony Dale, Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Skills and Young People

'At a recent budget consultation meeting held in this Chamber, with the Cirencester Chamber of Commerce of which I am Vice President, I sat next to you as Cllr Joe Harris spoke in glowing terms about your business experience and the exciting plans you have to support the economic development in the Cotswold District.

I was very surprised that you attended the meeting but were not invited to speak to the 35 local businesses who had come to be consulted!

Forgive my ignorance but given you have held your Cabinet post for nearly a year, I am very interested to know what initiatives you have put

in place since coming to power in the Cotswolds generally and Cirencester specifically.

Secondly, could you give me your thoughts on how CDC proposes to help the Cotswolds economy over the three years you have left in your administration?

(END)