

**(6) MEMBER QUESTIONS**

Council Procedure Rule 11 - Not more than fifteen minutes allowed for written questions to be put by Members on any matter in relation to which the Council has any power or duties or which affects the District.

Questions have been submitted, and responses provided, as follows:-

(1) From Councillor JA Harris to Councillor Chris Hancock, Cabinet Member for Enterprise and Partnerships

*'After years of criticism the Conservative administration has finally removed the hated policy of 24/7 parking charges that it implemented in 2012. Why has the administration done this?'*

Response from Councillor Hancock

'Although we originally intended to charge for Sunday and overnight parking at all car parks across the District, we listened to the views expressed through a public consultation and, instead, introduced this on a pilot basis at one car park only - the Brewery - in January 2012. As a result, the income from the additional charges has enabled the Council to re-invest in new card-enabled pay and display machines in this car park.

Whilst the Council has seen no evidence to suggest that the trial at the Brewery car park has had an adverse impact on any businesses or the public in general, we have been made aware that those living nearby are concerned that the overnight charges have increased demand for on-street parking in their neighbourhood. To counter these concerns, we are removing the overnight charges at the Brewery from 6.00 p.m. to 8.00 a.m. Furthermore, we are launching a £50 per year off-peak 'plus' ticket for all our car parks which will allow the public access both during off-peak periods (8.00 a.m. to 10.00 a.m. and 4.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m.) and also all day on weekends. We believe this will be particularly welcomed by motorists living in areas with no resident parking zones or in streets with high parking demand - as well as bringing benefits to regular shoppers and those who only work on weekends. These changes, and other improvements to parking charges, will start on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2015.'

(2) From Councillor PR Hodgkinson to Councillor Lynden Stowe, Leader of the Council

*'What is the total amount spent by this Council on consultants on any work associated with the Local Plan since May 2011?'*

Response from Councillor Stowe

'In accordance with our Constitutional requirements, I asked Councillor Nick Parsons to respond to your question, as the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Local Plan matters.

Councillor Parsons has advised that the total amount spent to date is £321,593.73. Overall expenditure is approved by the Cabinet, and individual items of spend are published monthly on the Council's website, along with details of our other spending.'

Notes:

- (i) If any Member who has submitted a question is present at the Meeting, he/she will be entitled to ask one supplementary question arising directly out of either the answer given or his/her original question.
  
- (ii) The Member to whom any supplementary question is addressed will try and answer any supplementary question at the Meeting; but if this is not possible, then the Member will answer as much as possible at the Meeting and then provide a full response within five working days. If, for any reason, a full response cannot be provided within those five days, then a holding response will be sent to the questioner, along with the reason for delay and a likely timescale for the full response.

(END)