

**(5) PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

Council Procedure Rule 10 - Not more than fifteen minutes allowed for written questions to be put by members of the public 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 Mr. AR Brassington of Cirencester to Councillor Lynden Stowe, Leader of the Council:-

*'Can the Leader tell me -*

1. *What the annual budget was for street cleansing, which includes litter collection and removal of fly tipping, for the last 3 financial years and how much of that was actually spent in each year; together with what the budget is for 2015/16?*
2. *Whether he considers this is sufficient to meet one of the Council's top three priorities as stated in its corporate strategy "to maintain and protect our environment as one of the best places to live, work and visit".'*

Response from Councillor Stowe

'In accordance with our Constitutional requirements, I have asked Councillor Sue Coakley to respond to your questions, as the Cabinet Member with responsibility for street cleansing matters. Her responses are as follows, and she will also deal with any supplementary question(s) that you may have.'

1. The budget figures and actual spend details for the last three complete financial years are set out below, along with the budget figure for the current year. At the current time, I am obviously unable to provide an actual spend figure for 2014/15 as we are still in that financial year.

| <u>Budget</u>      | <u>Actual</u> |
|--------------------|---------------|
| 2014/15 - £852,340 | current year  |
| 2013/14 - £827,221 | £749,663      |
| 2012/13 - £783,410 | £837,734      |
| 2011/12 - £827,880 | £942,258      |

The draft budget for 2015/16 is £846,727.

2. The street cleansing service is managed to ensure planned and reactive cleansing is undertaken as efficiently as possible, in order to maximise the finite resources available. The service does ensure good standards are maintained and efforts are also made to deter littering through education and enforcement action. It should also be remembered that street cleansing is just one element of many that we use to protect our environment.'

- (2) From Mr. M Harris of Cirencester to Councillor Nick Parsons, Deputy Leader of the Council:-

*'In July 2007 you reported to Cabinet that the Corn Hall sale (para 3.2 of the closing report) included Covenants to retain its community use. Community use included under 3.3(ii) "Provision of evening entertainment. This provides fifty-four evenings a year, on Fridays and Saturdays for music events, local bands, private parties etc., six days/evenings a year for larger/original bands and three evenings a week (every week) for local club use."*

*Would you please tell me how much community evening entertainment has taken place at the Corn Hall as provided for by 3.3(ii) of your report since August 2007 to the last reporting date?'*

Response from Councillor Parsons

'A list of the type and range of events that have taken place in the Corn Hall since its sale, as supplied by the developers, is attached. These events have been delivered as a consequence of a number of covenants attached to the sale by the Council to try to ensure the continued provision of an events venue for Cirencester residents. The markets, for example, have been successfully retained and as noted recently in the Wilts and Gloucester Standard the retention and redevelopment of the Corn Hall has been a major success with extremely well attended events on a daily basis.'

N.B. Copy of Events List attached.

Notes:

(i) If any person who has submitted a question is present at the Meeting, he/she will be entitled to ask one supplementary question in respect of each original question. Any supplementary question must arise directly out of either the original question or the answer given thereto.

(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)

**EVENING/COMMUNITY EVENTS 2010 - 2015**

It should be noted that throughout a lot of the period the Corn Hall was operating with three outside portaloos, accessible from the side of the Corn Hall. There was also no fixed bar area or green room, staging and chairs were available.

The Assembly Room, which has its own loos and bar, was used in lieu of the Corn Hall when possible.

No local bands approached us specifically but played at private functions in the Assembly Room.

Corn Hall now has its own loos and bar area.

**Evening Functions in the Corn Hall during 2009 and 2010 included:**

Cirencester College Student Union Prom Night

Cotswold Early Music Festival concert

Cirencester College dance sessions – these did not happen in the end as insufficient people wanted to attend.

Halloween Charity Party

Cotswold Breakthrough Charity Fashion Show

Cirencester Tennis Club Dinner

Other evening events took place in the Assembly Room

**2011**

Corn Hall Evening Zumba classes took place

Large Memorial in Corn Hall

Daytime Gloucestershire County Council – Hate Crime and Keep Safe Conference

Daytime Gingerbread Competition – Breast Cancer UK and Helen Douglas House

Assembly Room made available for Cirencester Chamber of Commerce event

Assembly Room - Local business Smiths Gore held quiz night at Christmas

Assembly Room – Cirencester Society Event

Glos. Rural Community Council Event

The lack of local band evening functions I hope was compensated by reacting to the types of events required, i.e. Charity events, business events and private parties and weddings and the use of the Assembly Room has helped facilitate these. We were actively involved in Heritage Day for past few years, Advent Markets and Christmas Bazaars to compliment outside Christmas Markets (when it was there) and were involved in Sports Relief fund raising in the market.

Local MEP for Lib Dems had a meeting in the Assembly Room earlier in the year and the Home Farm Trust had its annual Christmas Charity Fair in the Corn Hall as well as the Charity Christmas Card Fair.

## 2012

Included Charity Evening Event in Corn Hall

Charity Reeling Ball in Corn Hall

Cotswold Care Hospice Tea Party Sept

The Home Farm Trust and Charity Christmas Card fair have taken place every year and will do so again in 2015. We also have a stand every day in the weekly markets (FOC) supporting Cirencester's Outdoor Pool.

Wine tasting

Book Sales

## 2013/14

Adoption Event run by Glos. Country Council (ran in 2013 and 2014)

Charity Fundraising Event for Katrina Brown Ex Army in need of life saving treatment

Celebration of a Wedding (May)

Book Sales

During some of this time the Assembly Room was out of action whilst renovations continued in the hotel.

## 2014/15

Various events have taken place in the Assembly Room and Corn Hall consisting of a mixture of Charity and Private events. A local band has contacted us recently and will be progressed.

The Corn Hall and Arcade is open 6 days a week with various markets and provides a lively and popular central Cirencester retail experience. The newly opened extension provides more space for busy markets and the soon to open café in this area will provide an interesting intergrated space to enhance the markets. The extension area can also be rented in its entirety for art exhibitions etc. Sunday events are also continuing to happen in 2015, discussions are underway with a Persian Rug supplier and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Vintage & Artisan Fair is planned for Sun March 29<sup>th</sup> 2015. Today we had some Editorial publicity for the Corn Hall in the Wilts and Glos. And also ran an ad for Vintage & Artisan Fair.

(END)