

Member Questions for Council - 19th July 2023

Question	Response
<p>Question from Councillor Nikki Ind to Councillor Mike McKeown, Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Sustainability</p> <p>Could I please ask for an update on the current timetable for provision of electric car charging points in Tetbury. I understand that Tetbury is in the 2nd phase of delivery, however as the 2nd largest settlement in the District, we still have no public charging points in Council car parks.</p> <p>In addition, can you please confirm that the District Council still intends to consult with Tetbury Town Council when it comes to the positioning of these chargers.</p> <p>Many thanks.</p>	<p>As an EV owner myself for the past four years I appreciate the importance of charging infrastructure.</p> <p>We have experienced delays in the phase one roll out of EVCPs due to factors outside of the Council's control, however we anticipate new charging points will be installed at Cotswold District Council's offices in Cirencester and at the Rissington Road Car Park in Bourton on the Water in late July which will complete phase 1.</p> <p>We are now reviewing plans for phase 2 which will focus on installing EVCP in the remaining settlements with Council owned public car parks. Tetbury will therefore be a priority location.</p> <p>We are working with the County Council to ensure we coordinate on-street and off-street charging and maximise opportunities to lever in government funding through the Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure fund. I also hope to persuade GCC to work with us on trialling an innovative resident funded gully option to increase access to charging for EV owners without off street parking.</p> <p>We are also working on a scheme to encourage and enable others with parking near residential areas to offer overnight EV charging including village halls, doctors surgeries and business.</p> <p>We do not have a timetable for installations at this stage but I will ensure Tetbury Town Council are consulted and are kept informed as proposals develop.</p>
<p>Question from Councillor Nikki Ind to Councillor Juliet Layton, Cabinet Member for Planning and Regulatory Services</p> <p>When I receive a request to fell a tree, without a</p>	<p>If someone wishes to undertake works (including felling) to a tree, over a certain size threshold, in a Conservation Area, they are obliged to notify the Local Planning Authority (LPA) at least 6 weeks before they wish to carry out the tree works.</p>

<p>Tree Protection Order, but within a Conservation Area, I always make a comment to the Officer regarding requesting the applicant replant a suitable tree as a replacement. I understand the Officer comments that this cannot be enforced, however, given the Climate and Ecological Emergencies declared by this Council, could we not agree to include this in all responses to requests for the felling of trees in the District?</p> <p>Many thanks.</p>	<p>This provides the LPA with the opportunity to serve a Tree Preservation Order if appropriate. The only other alternative open to the LPA is to raise no objections to the works. Unfortunately there is no option, under the relevant legislation, to add any form of condition or to require the applicant to plant a replacement tree. One potential “voluntary” remedy would be to add a non-binding informative to the decision letter (where no objections are raised) suggesting that the applicant plants a suitable replacement tree as a contribution to addressing the climate and ecological emergency.</p>
<p>Question from Councillor Len Wilkins to Councillor Mike McKeown, Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Sustainability</p> <p>CDC’s Rissington Road Car Park was refurbished by this Council and reopened just before Easter this year at a cost of £374,000. The plans showed some 8 recharging points for electric vehicles. At present there seems to be some wire poking out of the ground but no recharging points. When can we expect these charging points to be operational?</p>	<p>The below ground infrastructure for charging points was installed at Rissington Road as part of the car park refurbishment works. The installation of the charging units themselves has been delayed as we are waiting on the Distribution Network Operator Scottish and Southern Electric (SSE) to make the connection. As soon as they do this, the chargepoint supplier will install the charging units and they will be available to the public. SSE have advised connection should be by the end of July.</p> <p>These sort of delays are sadly all too common, both for EV chargers and renewable energy generation and they are largely down to the national government’s woeful planning and under investment in our national and regional grids. This is holding up £100Ms of investment for up to 15 years. I’m working on a community solar farm in my own ward and we can’t get a connection until 2028 due to this.</p> <p>This is very frustrating given the urgency of tackling climate change, which is causing the heat wave currently sweeping southern Europe.</p>
<p>Question from Councillor Len Wilkins to Councillor Juliet Layton, Cabinet Member for Planning and Regulatory Services</p> <p>On 15th July 2020, a group of Bourton residents attended a meeting of Full Council, with one of them asking the Council to address the issue of</p>	<p>Officers have undertaken a substantial range of work on this project, including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • site assessments of completed developments (costs of management; adherence to agreed management plans,; potential for better management and so on); • Parish and Town Council surveys; • discussions with local and national experts in the

<p>paying management fees to upkeep open public spaces.</p> <p>Co-incidentally at the same meeting a motion was put to the Council which called for fairer management of public open space and waste collection on new developments.</p> <p>The motion called for the Council to carry out an evidence based review on the sums being paid for public open space by residents and the levels of service provided. A report was to be produced to Cabinet for April 2021 to allow the Council to ensure that new public open spaces are managed effectively and in a high quality, fair way to all residents. The motion was passed unanimously.</p> <p>Subsequent to this, no further work seems to have been carried out and no report was presented to cabinet.</p> <p>Please could you confirm why this work did not proceed any further?</p>	<p>field;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • analysis of alternative delivery mechanisms for open space management/stewardship; • lobbying to ensure that new and revised national standards for green infrastructure emphasise the importance of management; etc. <p>A report was prepared for Informal Cabinet in early 2021. Subsequent to that, Officers have continued to progress the work, although there were some delays, as the TCPA (Town and Country Planning Association) were also investigating this issue and it was hoped that they would produce some relevant guidance – unfortunately this guidance is focused on larger sites. (There is a robust mechanism in place already for delivering open space management at the strategic site in Cirencester, The Steadings – unfortunately this mechanism would not be appropriate for smaller sites.) Additional more detailed reports have been prepared and meetings held between Officers and with key Members. Informal Cabinet was up-dated with progress and the main conclusions of the project earlier this year.</p> <p>The overall conclusions of the work have been –</p> <p>There is little that the Council can do to address issues on residential developments that have already been occupied due to the current legal position. This is a national issue.</p> <p>Looking to the future, the most effective way forward is likely to be the inclusion (subject to consultation and Member agreement) of a relevant policy in the partial review of the Local Plan. The potential for such a policy was raised during the Issues and Options consultation stage and was supported by the majority of respondents, with a preference for open space management being “controlled” and delivered at a local level.</p>
<p>Councillor Patrick Coleman to Councillor Juliet Layton, Cabinet Member for Planning and Regulatory Services</p>	<p>The current performance is as follows for the past few months. The local targets (Which are higher than the national targets) are 60% for Majors 65% for Minors and 80% for Others which</p>

Could the Cabinet Member please update the Council on the latest performance information about the determination of planning applications?

we are currently outperforming on all three.

April

Majors 0% (Nil Return)

Minors 96.16%

Others 86.25%

May

Majors 100%

Minors 91.18%

Others 83.15%

June

Majors 100%

Minors 85.37%

Others 83.33%

Quarter I 2023 (April-June)

Majors 100%

Minors 90.10%

Others 84.21%

Last Financial Year 22/23 total for comparison

Majors 92.8%

Minors 78.1%

Others 74.29%

<p>Councillor Gary Selwyn to Councillor Tony Dale, Cabinet Member for Economy and Council Transformation</p> <p>Could the Cabinet Member please update the Council on the take up of season ticket parking permits at the Whiteway Car Park in Cirencester?</p>	<p>There has been a steady increase to the demand for permits at the Whiteway Car Park, at present there are 9 permits following marketing campaigns.</p> <p>Permits are renewed on a rolling basis throughout the year, and therefore as permits are renewed holders are able to make decisions to swap to alternative car parks such as the Whiteway.</p>
<p>Councillor Daryl Corps to Councillor Tony Dale, Cabinet Member for Economy and Council Transformation</p> <p>Since 2022 it has been possible to pay for parking in Cotswold District Council car parks by the paybyphoneapp, website and credit and debit card. This is great for those who are willing or able to do so.</p> <p>There are many people who do not have a smartphone or are unsure of how to pay on a website or are frankly scared of using their debit or credit card on a machine in public, or simply don't use credit cards. This is particularly true of the elderly and vulnerable.</p> <p>Can I ask Cllr Dale if he would explore the possibility of cash payment for these more vulnerable members of the Cotswolds to be reinstated. Surely we have a duty about care for all residents and visitors to the Cotswolds, not just the tech savvy few.</p>	<p>Consideration could be given, however the customer feedback around the availability of cash payments and paying by card and phone is minimal.</p> <p>The Parking Enforcement Officers are looking out for customers at machines to assist however they confirm the need to do so is very low and research shows that 95-98% of the UK population have mobile phones with most of those being smartphones, so hardly a tech savvy few?</p> <p>Everyone paid by card during and after the pandemic, which included all ages and abilities.</p> <p>Over 20 Councils in Britain have already gone cashless (June 2023) including Conservative-led Gloucestershire County Council and by taking this step, the Council will make more than £30k in savings to fund services whilst avoiding charges arising from vandalism.</p> <p>We continue to examine the routes to help those who have absolutely no alternative and I have asked the team to look at how we might use local shops to accept cash where this is feasible.</p>
<p>Councillor Tony Slater to Councillor Tony Dale, Cabinet Member for Economy and Council Transformation</p> <p>I originally asked a question about the financial viability of the Rugby Club car park as a member of the public last year. Since then a report has been</p>	<p>There has been a steady increase to the demand for permits at the Whiteway Car Park, following a number of marketing campaigns. At present there are 9 permits. Permits are renewed on a rolling basis throughout the year, and therefore as permits are renewed holders are able to make decisions to swap to alternative car parks such as the Whiteway.</p>

<p>completed in January of this year outlining a strategy for the rugby Club Car park. I would like to know if the recommended changes to the season ticket prices for the Rugby Club car park had generated any additional customers and if so how many to date? Secondly has the additional income covered the costs of the ongoing maintenance of the carpark and/or contributed to the ordinal build costs'</p>	<p>There are no known ongoing maintenance costs for this site. The total income for the permits is £2,250.</p>
<p>Councillor Andrew Maclean to Councillor Mike McKeown, Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Sustainability</p> <p>Please can you give us an update on whether you will be recruiting a replacement Sustainable Transport Lead following the departure of Hannah Fountain and, if so, what progress has been made.</p>	<p>Thank you for your question. Indeed, following the departure of Hannah Fountain, we are actively moving forward with plans to ensure the role of Sustainable Transport Lead remains filled. The council understands and acknowledges the critical nature of this role, especially in view of the stark reality that transport stands as the second largest source of CO2 emissions in both the Cotswolds and the UK.</p> <p>Thus, it gives me great pleasure to inform you that we have already embarked on the recruitment process for a new Sustainable Transport Lead on a two-year fixed contract. The advert for this role closed on Sunday, the 2nd of July, and we are in the process of scheduling interviews for the week commencing the 17th of July.</p> <p>The role of the Sustainable Transport Lead is vital in our collective endeavour to reduce our carbon footprint. This will be achieved through a comprehensive strategy encompassing improved public transport, promoting active travel, reducing unnecessary travel, and encouraging the transition away from burning fossil fuels by supporting the adoption of electric vehicles (EVs).</p> <p>I look forward to welcoming our new recruit and am confident that with the council's support, they will be successful in spearheading sustainable transport initiatives to build a greener, healthier, and more sustainable Cotswolds.</p>