

COUNCIL

TUESDAY, 19TH JULY, 2022

At 7.00 pm

in the

COUNCIL CHAMBER - TOWN HALL, MAIDENHEAD,

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

PART I

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>PAGE NO</u>
9.	<u>MEMBERS' QUESTIONS</u> Written responses	3 - 6

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a) Councillor Larcombe asked the following question of Councillor Cannon, Cabinet Member for Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime, and Public Protection:

Apparently a further £13k of public money has recently been spent on maintaining a riparian owned ancient ordinary watercourse in Wraysbury. Can you please confirm that this money has been or will be recovered from the riparian owner?

Written Response: The works at the Wraysbury Drain were undertaken upstream of the Wraysbury Dive Centre in order restore some flow of water to the watercourse. This was done by removing woody debris such as tree branches and other vegetation and fallen trees which were causing an obstruction to the flow of water. RBWM is a Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) pursuant to Section 6(7) of The Flood and Water Management Act 2010.

As a Lead Local Flood Authority, the Council is given powers through the Land Drainage Act 1991 and the works at the Wraysbury Drain were undertaken using our powers under the section 6(7) of the Land Drainage Act 1991, allowing us to carry out works to manage local flood risk in the borough. As a result of this work, a small flow of water has been re-established in the channel where there previously had not been any flow.

The Council has additional powers under sections 24 and 25 of the Land Drainage Act 1991 where it can enforce removal of unconsented structures and enforcement of maintenance work by landowners. Further tasks at the Wraysbury Drain are being planned over the next year which will include enforcement where landowners have deliberately obstructed the watercourse. This programme of work will be compiled over the next couple of months.

b) Councillor Larcombe asked the following question of Councillor Carroll, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Children's Services, Health, Mental Health, & Transformation:

What percentage of RBWM primary school children are taught to swim at school?

Written Response: Thank you for your question Councillor Larcombe. All primary schools offer swimming or water safety lessons at some point in the years 1-6 of school. However we cannot confirm the number of children who have taken up the offer. The teaching is designed to enable a pupil to: swim competently, confidently and proficiently over a distance of at least 25 metres and perform safe self-rescue in different water based situations.

The full guidance for schools can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-curriculum-in-england-physical-education-programmes-of-study/national-curriculum-in-england-physical-education-programmes-of-study>

c) Councillor Brar asked the following question of Councillor Haseler, Cabinet Member for Planning, Parking, Highways and Transport:

Despite a petition, signed by over 2000 residents, and two years of engagement with officers and lead members we have still taken no action to provide a pedestrian refuge at the site of a fatality. Why has this obvious and necessary measure not been approved?

Written Response: I recognise and understand the strength of feeling in the community demonstrated by the support for the petition. The tragic loss of life was caused by the driver of the vehicle who was driving under the influence of drugs at excessive speed, reported as being in the region of 70mph.

The petition itself reproduced below, does not ask for a crossing at the site of the accident and the road widening required to deliver it is likely to reduce the width of footway for those walking alongside the main road:

We the undersigned petition the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead to urgently introduce traffic calming measures and upgrade existing crossing point to a controlled crossing at Maidenhead Road near the railway bridge, introduce a new controlled crossing point on Switchback Road adjacent to the shops and reduce speed limit and install cameras/calming measures.

In response to the petition a new zebra crossing has been installed at the shops as requested and the 40mph limit has been reviewed by officers. The professional view of the road safety team is that the setting and rural nature of the road mean that a further reduction in speed limit are not appropriate but proposals are being developed to reinforce the existing 40mph with new traffic calming measures as well as looking at developing the design for an enhanced crossing between Maidenhead Road and Whiteladyes Lane.

d) Councillor Davey asked the following question of Councillor Rayner, Cabinet Member for Business, Corporate & Residents Services, Culture & Heritage, & Windsor:

Why does it feel like all council meetings are moving to Maidenhead and what are the reasons for the change?

Written Response: It is not correct that all council meetings will take place in Maidenhead. Meetings will be held in either Windsor or Maidenhead; the council is pleased to have two great venues in the two major towns and looks forward to both being used for meetings.

A new audio-visual system has recently been installed in the Council Chamber in the Town Hall, Maidenhead. This followed feedback from Members, officers, and residents about the visual and sound quality of in-person meetings that were live-streamed to the council's YouTube page from this venue. This welcome investment and additional functionality will improve the meeting experience for those attending in person in the Council Chamber, virtual participants, and those watching the livestream on YouTube.

Meetings will continue to be held in Windsor including Cabinet and those that are Windsor-focussed such as the Windsor Town Forum and the Windsor and Ascot Development Management Committee.

e) Councillor Davey asked the following question of Councillor Johnson, Leader of the Council:

Why wasn't Councillor Price given a role on an outside body and instead a resident was put forward by the administration, and is this constitutionally sound?

Written Response: Under the constitution, Cabinet has the power to both make and revoke appointments to outside bodies. Unless the outside body's constitution states the council representative must be an elected Member, then Cabinet can choose to appoint a non-councillor if it believes this to be a more appropriate appointment, based on the skills and knowledge of the individual.

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